



# Rhode Island

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in partnership with ASCD, developed the Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child (WSCC) framework to highlight the need for schools to address all aspects of children’s physical, mental, and social well-being to help them learn and thrive. In 2019, Child Trends, the Institute for Health Research and Policy at the University of Illinois at Chicago, and EMT Associates, Inc. released the [first comprehensive analysis](#) of state statutes and regulations that address key topic areas in each of the WSCC’s 10 components as of September 2017. This updated profile documents the landscape of selected school health policies in Rhode Island as of September 2019 and describes how those policies have changed since 2017. The profile also newly incorporates information about whether states have non-codified policies on topics for which they do not have codified statutes or regulations. The full set of topic areas, along with applicable statutory and regulatory language, is available through the National Association of State Boards of Education’s (NASBE) [State Policy Database on School Health](#). The national summary report and profiles for each state can be found on the [Child Trends website](#).

## Policy Churn in Rhode Island Statutes and Regulations, 2017 to 2019



	Rhode Island	National
Community Involvement	0%	11%
Counseling, Psychological, and Social Services	0%	22%
Employee Wellness	0%	0%
Family Engagement	12%	11%
Health Education	0%	3%
Health Services	0%	2%
Nutrition Environment and Services	18%	3%
Physical Education and Activity	0%	2%
Physical Environment	0%	13%
Social and Emotional Climate	15%	10%
WSCC Reference	0%	0%

\*Orange shading indicates more churn in state policy than national average

# Rhode Island's approach to selected topic areas by domain

## Overall Coverage of the WSCC

	SY 17-18	SY 19-20	Change
<b>Coverage of WSCC</b>	Addresses coordinated school health	Addresses coordinated school health	no change
<b>State-Level Wellness Councils</b>	Not addressed	Not addressed	no change
<b>School-Level Wellness Councils</b>	Not addressed	Not addressed	no change
<b>District Wellness Policies</b>	Required	Required	no change

## Health Education

	SY 17-18	SY 19-20	Change
<b>Discussion of LGB Topics in Health Education</b>	NA	Not addressed or law specifically allows for inclusion of LGB topics	topic was not coded for 2017
<b>National HE Standards</b>	Referenced	Referenced	no change
<b>Bullying Prevention (within Health Education)</b>	Not addressed	Non-codified policy only	no change
<b>Healthy Eating/Nutrition Curriculum</b>	Required in all grade levels	Required in all grade levels	no change
<b>Mental and Emotional Health Curriculum</b>	Required in all grade levels	Required in all grade levels	no change
<b>Personal Health and Wellness Curriculum</b>	Required in all grade levels	Required in all grade levels	no change
<b>Suicide Prevention (within Health Education)</b>	Required in all grade levels	Required in all grade levels	no change
<b>Violence Prevention (within Health Education)</b>	Required in all grade levels	Required in all grade levels	no change

## Physical Education and Physical Activity

	SY 17-18	SY 19-20	Change
<b>Adaptive PE Requirements</b>	Addresses inclusivity of PE activity	Addresses inclusivity of PE activity	no change
<b>PE Exemptions for Academics</b>	Not addressed	Not addressed	no change
<b>PE Exemptions for Illness</b>	Not addressed	Not addressed	no change
<b>PE Exemptions for Disabilities</b>	Not addressed	Not addressed	no change
<b>PE Substitutions</b>	Not addressed	Not addressed	no change
<b>District Waivers from PE Requirements</b>	Not addressed	Not addressed	no change
<b>Physical Activity Throughout Day</b>	Required	Required	no change
<b>National PE Standards (SHAPE America)</b>	Referenced	Referenced	no change
<b>Time for PE -- Elementary</b>	Recommends Meeting, or Requires Less than, National Standards	Recommends Meeting, or Requires Less than, National Standards	no change
<b>Time for PE -- Middle</b>	Recommends Meeting, or Requires Less than, National Standards	Recommends Meeting, or Requires Less than, National Standards	no change
<b>Time for PE -- High</b>	Recommends Meeting, or Requires Less than, National Standards	Recommends Meeting, or Requires Less than, National Standards	no change
<b>Recess</b>	Requires daily recess	Requires daily recess	no change
<b>Sport Participation Fees</b>	Not addressed	Not addressed	no change

## Social and Emotional Climate

	SY 17-18	SY 19-20	Change
Hazing Policy	Required	Required	no change
Dating Violence Policy	Required	Required	no change
Limits on Exclusionary Discipline	Requires limits on use of suspension and expulsion	Requires limits on use of suspension and expulsion	no change
Alternatives to Exclusionary Discipline	Required	Required	no change
School Resource Officer Training	Not addressed	Required	more supportive/prescriptive
Limits on Referrals to Law Enforcement	Requires referral for any offense in violation of criminal code	Requires referral for any offense in violation of criminal code	no change
Equitable Discipline Practices	Monitoring and remediation required	Monitoring and remediation required	no change
Multi-tiered Positive Behavior Supports	Required	Required	no change
School climate surveys	NA	Required	topic was not coded for 2017
Social-Emotional Learning or Character Development	Not addressed	Non-codified policy only	no change
Professional Development for Cultural Competency	Not addressed	Required	more supportive/prescriptive
Chronic Absenteeism Early Warning Systems	Not addressed or limited to transfer to law enforcement	Not addressed or limited to transfer to law enforcement	no change
Bullying, Harassment, and Intimidation Policy	Includes all components of U.S. Department of Education recommendations	Includes all components of U.S. Department of Education recommendations	no change
Professional Development for Bullying Prevention	Encouraged	Required	more supportive/prescriptive

## Counseling, Psychological and Social Services

	SY 17-18	SY 19-20	Change
School-based or School-linked Mental Health Services	Required	Required	no change
Professional Development for Trauma	Not addressed	Not addressed	no change
Professional Development for Mental Health	Not addressed	Not addressed	no change
Early Identification and Referral	Encouraged or Required	Encouraged or Required	no change
Professional Development for Suicide Prevention	Not addressed	Not addressed	no change
Suicide Prevention Policy	Not addressed	Non-codified policy only	no change
School Counseling - Elementary	Required	Required	no change
School Counseling - Secondary	Required	Required	no change

## Employee Wellness

	SY 17-18	SY 19-20	Change
Staff Wellness Programs	Required	Required	no change

## Physical Environment

	SY 17-18	SY 19-20	Change
<b>Emergency Operations Plans</b>	Required, with regular reviews and updates	Required, with regular reviews and updates	no change
<b>Threat assessment</b>	NA	Required	topic was not coded for 2017
<b>Security and safety assessments</b>	NA	Encouraged	topic was not coded for 2017
<b>Multi-hazard Practice Drills</b>	Required, with required or encouraged interagency coordination	Required, with required or encouraged interagency coordination	no change
<b>Alcohol and Drug Use Intervention Programs</b>	Required	Required	no change
<b>Corporal Punishment</b>	Prohibited	Prohibited	no change
<b>Restraint and Seclusion</b>	Limits use and includes comprehensive protections	Limits use and includes comprehensive protections	no change
<b>Tobacco and Vaping Policies</b>	NA	Addresses vaping	topic was not coded for 2017

## Health Services

	SY 17-18	SY 19-20	Change
<b>School-based Health Services</b>	Addresses on-campus health centers or clinics	Addresses on-campus health centers or clinics	no change
<b>School Nurse Availability</b>	Addressed, but nurse availability limited	Addressed, but nurse availability limited	no change
<b>Healthy School Start Times</b>	NA	Not addressed	topic was not coded for 2017
<b>Preventive Health Screenings - Elementary</b>	Required	Required	no change
<b>Preventive Health Screenings - Middle</b>	Required	Required	no change
<b>Preventive Health Screenings - High</b>	Required	Required	no change
<b>Vaccination Waivers</b>	Allowed for religious or moral reasons	Allowed for religious or moral reasons	no change
<b>Referrals to Community Health Providers</b>	Addressed	Addressed	no change

## Family Engagement

	SY 17-18	SY 19-20	Change
<b>Family Engagement Plans</b>	Required	Required	no change
<b>Professional Development on Family Engagement</b>	Not addressed	Encouraged	more supportive/prescriptive
<b>Family Engagement in Local Governance</b>	Required	Required	no change
<b>Family Engagement in Policymaking on School Discipline</b>	Not addressed	Not addressed	no change

## Nutrition Environment and Services

	SY 17-18	SY 19-20	Change
<b>USDA School Nutritional Standards</b>	Required	Required	no change
<b>Unhealthy Marketing Restrictions</b>	Not addressed	Restricted to foods that meet Smart Snack standards	more supportive/prescriptive
<b>Strategies to Increase Breakfast</b>	Not addressed	Not addressed	no change
<b>Access to Potable Water Throughout Day</b>	Not addressed	Not addressed	no change
<b>Competitive Food (Outside of School Meals)</b>	Meets federal Smart Snacks standards in all grades	Meets federal Smart Snacks standards in all grades	no change
<b>Unpaid Meal Charge Policy</b>	Not addressed	Not addressed	no change

## Community Involvement

	SY 17-18	SY 19-20	Change
<b>Community Involvement in Local Governance</b>	Required	Required	no change
<b>School-Community Interagency Partnerships</b>	Required	Required	no change
<b>Community Use of Public School Facilities</b>	Not addressed	Not addressed	no change