

The World Health Organization's

**INFORMATION SERIES ON SCHOOL HEALTH**

# Local Action

## Creating Health

## Promoting Schools

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World Health Organization



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# MODEL CHARTER FOR A HEALTH-PROMOTING SCHOOL

Our school, *(insert name)* \_\_\_\_\_, through all our activities and structures, aims to assist students, families, staff and community members in experiencing physical, emotional and social well-being. We plan to do this by inviting individuals and local organizations to work with us in making our community more healthy.

To become a Health-Promoting School, we are committed to work jointly toward:

- **engaging health and education officials, teachers, students, parents, and community leaders in efforts to promote health**
- **providing a safe, healthy environment, both physical and psychosocial**
- **providing effective skills-based health education**
- **providing access to health services**
- **implementing school policies and practices that support health**
- **striving to improve the health of the community**

We intend to plan and coordinate these key features with school/community projects and outreach; health promotion programmes for staff; nutrition and food safety programmes; opportunities for physical education and recreation; and programmes for counselling, social support, and mental health promotion. In this way we are joining with schools around the world that are encouraged by the WHO Global School Health Initiative, and especially with other schools in the (district, province or nation), to become Health-Promoting Schools.

**Name**

**Role, Organisation**

**Signed by:**

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**Date**

Adapted from Regional Guidelines: Development of Health-Promoting Schools – A Framework for Action, WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific, and from Promoting Health through Schools: The World Health Organization's Global School Health Initiative, WHO/HPR/HEP/96.4.



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*Creating health in the school setting means more than preventing or treating disease. In a Health-Promoting School, health is created by students, teachers, parents, and other community members who are:*

- *Caring for themselves and others*
- *Making decisions about and taking control of conditions and circumstances that affect health*
- *Creating social conditions that enable people to be healthy*
- *Improving students' understanding of health concepts and how to apply them*

Adapted from the Ottawa Charter, the First International Conference on Health Promotion, Ottawa, 1986

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To increase the number of schools that are truly "health promoting", the World Health Organization (WHO) has launched the Global School Health Initiative and an Information Series on School Health to assist schools, policy-makers, community leaders, teachers, parents and students as they develop Health-Promoting Schools. **Local Action: Creating Health-Promoting Schools** draws on the experiences, writings and guidance of teachers, programme managers and health professionals around the world. Their interest in sharing their experiences with others and their willingness to contribute have made this publication possible.

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