

Trying Hard School District Sample Narrative (for RMC training purposes)

D. K-12 TOBACCO PREVENTION GRANT NARRATIVE

Existing Policies and Gaps Sections

1. Existing Policies and Programs

For the past two years, the Trying Hard School District has been working toward the development of a comprehensive pre-K – 12 coordinated school health program. Even in the absence of funding for district health programs, we have taken steps to begin building an infrastructure and policies that promote student health. The commitment to improve the health of our youth is evident with support of our Superintendent and School Board, and continues through our Principals, Teachers, and other school personnel (see sections A, B, and C of our proposal and our letters of collaboration).

Our accomplishments to date include:

- Trying Hard Wellness Advisory Committee formed to develop district wellness policy in March, 2007.
- Wellness policy implemented with Board approval in June, 2008.
- Strong support from local health department staff and other community leaders (see advisory team membership) to strengthen our partnership.
- Health education offered through physical education classes in 7th grade.
- Some nutrition education offered in 9th grade science class.
- Health fair, attended by 95 school children and 50 adults, conducted in 2007.
- Walking club established by teachers at Trying Hard Middle School during the Spring.

We are proud of our initial steps, and are fully aware that these accomplishments do not represent the development of a coordinated school health program. Our efforts are still fragmented, and we do not yet have a coordinating structure in place to connect all of our district health efforts.

2. Gaps in Existing Policies and Programs

- Our wellness policy currently addresses student nutrition issues, but it could be strengthened to address physical activity, tobacco prevention and safety issues as well.
- There is no coordination between elementary, middle and high school related to health education scope and sequence.
- Our health fair was a stand-alone event, and if repeated, we would like to have it connected to the health education curriculum, food services, and staff wellness. We'd also like to add a family component.
- We have no way to coordinate and sustain staff wellness efforts, even though there was interest in a walking club two years ago.