

# Education Partners



Education partners include all educational institutions (primary, secondary, and post-secondary).

Which parts of the 2024-2026 State Health Plan relate to education partners?

**100%** of the **Priority Areas**

**13** of the **17 Goals**



**26**

**Recommendations**

Educational institutions can play a direct role in meeting the needs of communities and students, and in training future public health and healthcare professionals.

# Education Partners

**Are you an education partner looking to help us create a Healthy Tennessee?**

Potential actions may include updating student curriculum, enhancing pre-professional training, providing supports to students and caregivers. Here are some initial steps you can take:

**1**

Use this packet to see what State Health Plan recommendations apply specifically to education partners!

**2**

**Stay up to date on State Health Plan** actions and resources by subscribing to the State Health Plan **newsletter**!

**3**

**Share your good work with us!** Are you working on one of the below priorities? Let us know and your work could be featured in an upcoming State Health Plan newsletter or update! Share your story **here**!

**4**

**Connect with your local County Health Council** and engage in the Community of Practice, a structured space seeking to share best practices, build skills, and foster connections among community members and County Health Councils. Learn more **here**!

**5**

**Engage with the Health Disparities Advisory Council** by registering for meetings and signing up for newsletters with opportunities for learning, funding, and networking. Learn more **here**!



# Education Partner

Framework  
Section

## Nutrition Security

**Goal 1.1.** Reduce child and adult food insecurity while supporting programs and policies that increase access to nutritious food.

Priority  
Area

1.1.1. Support programs that offer nutrition supports, including education on food preparation, and align with the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans.

1.1.3. Reduce weight-associated stigma by ensuring healthy living education for children and guardians focuses on how to establish a healthy relationship with food, eating, physical activity, and self-image without emphasizing weight change.

## Maternal and Infant Health

**Goal 2.2.** Reduce pregnancy-related mortality while supporting programs and policies that address maternal health disparities.

Goal

2.2.1. Increase awareness of maternal warning signs through public and partner education.

2.2.4. Educate providers on best practices for integrating doulas into the medical care team before, during and after pregnancy, including education on financial assistance options for patients in need.

Recommendations



# Education Partners

## Nutrition Security

**Goal 1.1.** Reduce childhood food insecurity while supporting programs and policies that increase access to nutritious food.

1.1.1. Support programs that offer nutrition supports, including education on food preparation, and align with the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans.

1.1.3. Reduce weight-associated stigma by ensuring healthy living education for children and guardians focuses on how to establish a healthy relationship with food, eating, physical activity, and self-image without emphasizing weight change.

## Maternal and Infant Health

**Goal 2.2.** Reduce pregnancy-related mortality while supporting programs and policies that address maternal health disparities.

2.2.1. Increase awareness of maternal warning signs through public and partner education.

2.2.4. Educate providers on best practices for integrating doulas into the medical care team before, during and after pregnancy, including education on financial assistance options for patients in need.



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## Nutrition Security

### Goal 3.1. Reduce food insecurity among adults and older adults.

3.1.1. Increase understanding and collaboration between existing nutrition programs and resources to improve referral services between entities, limit food and resource waste, and increase impact.

3.1.2. Reduce enrollment barriers to government supported nutrition programs (e.g., SNAP) within eligible populations through public and partner education and outreach while increasing awareness of online shopping/delivery for beneficiaries.

3.1.4. Examine how intergenerational programming and supports can increase nutrition security across all ages including through education on food preparation. (e.g., school-based programs assisting in meeting needs of both children and grandparents raising grandchildren).

### Goal 3.2. Increase accessibility of nutritious foods.

3.2.1. Support programs that reduce hunger for all (children, families, college students, older adults, working adults) including mobile food pantries while expanding transportation services to grocery stores, food pantries, and congregate meal settings.

3.2.2. Explore opportunities to pair grocery support services with existing services including higher education events, career fairs, home health visits, and senior center activities.

3.2.4. Examine methods that support a sustainable food system, increasing access to nutritious foods while limiting food waste and supporting local farmers.



# Education Partners

## Chronic Conditions

**Goal 4.1.** Improve care coordination among adults living with multiple chronic conditions.

4.1.3. Expand cross-professional training among health providers (e.g., primary care physicians, specialists, dentists, pharmacists) to incorporate chronic care management in additional settings.

**Goal 4.2.** Support programs and policies that reduce the risk of cardiovascular disease while promoting care for individuals living with cardiovascular disease.

4.2.1. Increase awareness on methods to improve overall cardiovascular health through the implementation of behavior modification strategies (e.g., medication adherence, tobacco and alcohol cessation, healthy diet, increased physical activity).

4.2.2. Increase access to and promotion of self-management education and lifestyle change programs that support living well with cardiovascular disease.

**Goal 4.3.** Support programs and policies that reduce the risk of Type II Diabetes while promoting care for individuals living with Type II Diabetes.

4.3.1. Increase awareness on methods to reduce risk of diabetes, including through increasing accessibility to lifestyle change programs (e.g., Diabetes Prevention Program).

4.3.2. Increase access to and promotion of self-management education and behavioral modification strategies that support living well with Type II Diabetes.



# Education Partners

## Older Adults

**Goal 5.1.** Support and empower formal and informal caregivers of older adults.

5.1.1. Increase access to, awareness and use of evidence-informed interventions, services, support groups and peer-driven support for caregivers to enhance their health and well-being.

5.1.2. Educate providers and health professionals on the importance of identifying informal caregivers and methods for addressing caregiver burden (physical, mental and financial strain) including referral to supports such as respite services.

**Goal 5.2.** Promote brain health across the lifespan while supporting individuals living with dementia.

5.2.1. Increase awareness on how to identify and prevent abuse, neglect, and exploitation (e.g., financial fraud) of older adults, specifically those experiencing cognitive decline.

5.2.3. Expand designated age-friendly health systems, age-friendly public health systems, and age-friendly livable communities across the state.



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## Transportation

**Goal 6.1.** Support programs and policies that increase access to convenient and affordable transportation for Tennessee residents and visitors.

6.1.1. Promote existing public transportation available in all counties through TDOT.





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## Cancer Screenings

**Goal 7.1.** Increase the percentage of Tennesseans receiving their recommended breast cancer screening and colorectal cancer screening.

7.1.1. Increase non-digital and digital outreach, education, and promotion on the importance of early cancer detection and screening and the availability of financial resources for uninsured and underinsured patients in various languages.

## Workforce

**Goal 8.1.** Improve the oral health of Tennesseans through broadening access to high-quality, low-cost dental care.

8.1.1. Promote adult oral health benefits available through TennCare, including increasing the number of dental providers who accept TennCare dental benefits, and expand efforts to insure persons without dental coverage.

8.1.3. Raise awareness of the importance of oral health to overall health.

8.1.4. Increase the number of dental providers in Tennessee through expanding dental student externship rotations to rural areas, increasing Tennessee dental school capacity, and promoting educational loan repayment programs for dental providers that practice in high need areas.



# Education Partners

## Workforce

**Goal 8.2.** Enhance and strengthen Tennessee's health professional workforce, including community health workers, nurses, and supportive care staff.

8.2.2. Support employers in promoting community benefits during recruitment and retention activities to demonstrate opportunities to “make your life where you make your living.”

8.2.3. Explore opportunities to pair loan repayment programs with additional supports to encourage providers to stay past the completion of loan repayment.

