



# WHO guideline on school health services

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# Contents

<b>Foreword</b>	<b>vii</b>
<b>Acknowledgements</b>	<b>ix</b>
<b>Abbreviations and acronyms</b>	<b>xi</b>
<b>Glossary</b>	<b>xiii</b>
<b>Executive summary</b>	<b>xv</b>
<b>1. Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 Child and adolescent health burden and needs	2
1.2 SHS in the context of school health and HPS	6
1.3 The need for guidance on SHS	8
1.4 Target audience of the WHO guideline on SHS	9
1.5 Objective and scope of the WHO guideline on SHS	9
<b>2. Guideline development process</b>	<b>11</b>
2.1 Governance and management structures	12
2.2 Declarations of interest and management of conflicts of interest	12
2.3 Collaboration with external partners	12
2.4 Managing group processes and decision-making	13
2.5 Confidentiality	13
<b>3. Methods</b>	<b>14</b>
3.1 Key Questions	15
3.2 Health areas and types of SHS activity	15
3.3 Overview of guideline development methodology	16
3.4 Systematic overview and systematic reviews of the effectiveness and acceptability of comprehensive SHS	17
3.5 Development of menu and compendium of interventions	22
<b>4. Recommendation</b>	<b>25</b>
4.1 Recommendation, rationale and implementation considerations	26
4.2 Summary of evidence	27
4.3 Evidence-to-decision process	30

<b>5. Menu and compendium of interventions</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>5.1</b> Rationale for the menu and compendium of interventions	<b>34</b>
<b>5.2</b> Full wording of the interventions	<b>38</b>
<b>5.3</b> Final intervention categorization and WHO sources of the interventions	<b>45</b>
<b>6. Implementation of the WHO guideline on SHS</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>6.1</b> Dissemination of the WHO guideline on SHS	<b>47</b>
<b>6.2</b> National adaptation of the WHO guideline on SHS	<b>48</b>
<b>6.3</b> Further guidance and research needed	<b>56</b>
<b>6.4</b> Updating the WHO guideline on SHS	<b>57</b>
<b>References</b>	<b>58</b>
<b>Annex</b> GRADE methodologist, Guideline Development Group and External Review Group: affiliations, areas of expertise, and conflict of interest management	<b>71</b>

#### Web Annexes (in press)

<b>Web Annex A.</b>	Compendium of interventions with WHO evidence
<b>Web Annex B.</b>	Brief exploratory review of school health services globally: methodology and select findings
<b>Web Annex C.</b>	Systematic overview of systematic reviews of comprehensive school health services: methodology and select findings
<b>Web Annex D.</b>	Systematic reviews of the effectiveness and acceptability of comprehensive school health services: methodology
<b>Web Annex E.</b>	Systematic reviews of the effectiveness and acceptability of comprehensive school health services: evidence summaries
<b>Web Annex F.</b>	Systematic reviews of the effectiveness and acceptability of comprehensive school health services: GRADE evidence profiles and evidence-to-decision table
<b>Web Annex G.</b>	Survey of expert opinion on school health services: methodology and select findings
<b>Web Annex H.</b>	Menu of interventions with WHO sources

## Tables, figures and boxes

<b>Table 1.</b>	Overview of global standards for HPS	<b>7</b>
<b>Table 2.</b>	Population, intervention and comparator for the systematic reviews of effectiveness and acceptability of SHS	<b>18</b>
<b>Table 3.</b>	Critical and important outcomes for the systematic review of the effectiveness of SHS	<b>19</b>
<b>Table 4.</b>	Critical and important outcomes for the systematic review of the acceptability of SHS	<b>20</b>
<b>Table 5.</b>	SHS recommendation evidence-to-decision table: questions, judgements by GDG subgroup and rationales	<b>30</b>
<b>Table 6.</b>	SHS guideline menu of interventions by health area, type of health service activity and GDG categorization	<b>35</b>
<b>Table 7.</b>	Full wording of the 87 interventions categorized as essential or suitable within SHS, by location	<b>38</b>
<b>Table 8.</b>	Number of interventions by WHO source and GDG categorization as essential, suitable or unsuitable within SHS, by location	<b>45</b>
<b>Table 9.</b>	Simplified example of how the guideline and its menu and compendium of interventions can be used when considering interventions for inclusion within a national SHS programme	<b>54</b>
<b>Table A.1.</b>	GRADE methodologist	<b>71</b>
<b>Table A.2.</b>	Guideline Development Group	<b>72</b>
<b>Table A.3.</b>	External Review Group	<b>73</b>
<b>Fig. 1.</b>	Global estimates of top-five causes of death for school-age children and adolescents, by sex and age group, 2016	<b>3</b>
<b>Fig. 2.</b>	Global estimates of top-five causes of YLD for school-age children and adolescents, by sex and age group, 2016	<b>4</b>
<b>Fig. 3.</b>	Overview of global standards for HPS	<b>7</b>
<b>Fig. 4.</b>	Methodology used to develop the SHS guideline recommendation and menu of interventions	<b>16</b>
<b>Fig. 5.</b>	An organizational model of SHS	<b>49</b>
<b>Fig. 6.</b>	Steps in setting intervention priorities for national SHS	<b>51</b>

<b>BOX 1.</b>	Key highlights from global reviews of national SHS programmes	<b>8</b>
<b>BOX 2.</b>	Key terms in this guideline	<b>10</b>
<b>BOX 3.</b>	Understanding the WHO sources of interventions	<b>24</b>
<b>BOX 4.</b>	Recommendation, rationale, summary of evidence-to-decision judgements and implementation considerations	<b>26</b>
<b>BOX 5.</b>	Interventions that are unsuitable for inclusion within SHS	<b>44</b>
<b>BOX 6.</b>	Use of digital technology to support dissemination and implementation of the guideline	<b>47</b>
<b>BOX 7.</b>	Resources for prioritizing interventions within national SHS programming	<b>50</b>
<b>BOX 8.</b>	How SHS can increase health equity	<b>52</b>
<b>BOX 9.</b>	Hypothetical example of how to use the menu and compendium of interventions while developing national SHS programming	<b>53</b>
<b>BOX 10.</b>	A selection of WHO resources for more in-depth guidance on evidence-based interventions	<b>55</b>

# Foreword

Schools are essential for young people to acquire knowledge, socioemotional skills including self-regulation and resilience, and critical thinking skills that provide the foundation for a healthy future. Access to education and safe and supportive school environments have been linked to better health outcomes. In turn, good health is linked to reduced drop-out rates and greater educational attainment, educational performance, employment and productivity.

WHO has long recognized the link between health and education and the potential for schools to play a central role in safeguarding student health and well-being. In 1995, WHO launched the Global School Health Initiative, which aimed to strengthen approaches to health promotion in schools. Among those approaches, pairing children with health services occupies an important place.

Many health conditions can be better managed or prevented if detected early. The school environment and school health services provide an opportunity for timely interventions across a range of conditions, including anxiety and depression, behavioural disorders, diabetes, overweight, obesity and undernutrition.

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