

# Evaluation of Local Wellness Policies (LWPs) and WellSAT 2.0

## Frequently Asked Questions

1) What if we are working to support LWP *implementation*, but not working on improving the written LWP? Do you still want us to send the LWP?

Yes, please send these LWPs to Evaluation as part of the Strategy 10 evaluation. If a Contractor is working to help *implement* an LWP, the Contractor should still be familiar with that LWP, including its strengths and weaknesses. Also, for evaluation purposes, we want to better understand what policies you are working to help implement, including the quality of that LWP. Because the Contractor determines if and how to actually use the recommendations provided by the Evaluation team, receiving recommendations and a scorecard does not require you to then work on improving written policies.

2) Will the Evaluation team provide ongoing support and technical assistance for how to encourage districts/schools to implement the WellSAT 2.0 recommendations?

For Contractors seeking support in how to promote LWP development, implementation and evaluation with their partner districts/schools, this is a planning and implementation question within the purview of the AzNN leadership team, rather than the Evaluation team. The AzNN School Health Subcommittee provides an ideal venue to bring this question.

3) What role does Arizona Department of Education (ADE) have in WellSAT?

Like the AzNN Evaluation Team, the ADE makes the distinction between comprehensive wellness planning and actual assessment of written LWPs, and the ADE supports both.

- If you visit the ADE website at <http://www.azed.gov/health-nutrition/wellness-policy/get-started/> and scroll down to the last paragraph, you'll find a section entitled "Evaluating Your Local Wellness Policy" that includes a link to the WellSAT site.
- In 2013, the ADE scheduled a series of WellSAT trainings (see <https://www.azed.gov/health-nutrition/files/2012/08/local-wellsat-policy-memo-3-signed-copy.pdf>).

It is still to be determined how we will be able to leverage capacity between ADE and SNAP-Ed.

4) Is there something from ADE or USDA to make the LWP topic more visible and of higher priority for districts? In other words, where is the pressure and motivation for schools to work on this? There is no incentive to use these tools, and top-down motivation would help districts to see the value in letting the SNAP-Ed program take them up on the offer to provide assistance.

Bring questions and messages to the AzNN, in particular the AzNN School Health Subcommittee.

5) How do we assess for LWP implementation?

If you are working in Strategy 12, stay tuned for a January 2016 training on implementation. If you are working in Strategies 10 or 11, FY17 will be the year in which we focus on evaluation of implementation.

6) Since our work is being evaluated by a WellSAT 2.0 score, will we be penalized if scores do not increase despite our best efforts? And what if we are only working on implementation but not written LWPs, so we would not expect scores to increase?

In terms of consequences, we are collecting process indicators (SART) in addition to WellSAT 2.0 scores to be sure that contractors are active. ***The goal is not to penalize anyone who is actively working on the strategies. The goal is to understand what is going on if there is no shift so that we can seek to address challenges.***

To understand this, we look at the process indicators to see if contractors are active in the strategy. If, despite the best effort of contractors, change is not happening on the policy side, then that is something that AzNN should be made aware of, and perhaps provide impetus for better guidance. WellSAT 2.0 scoring helps us to understand if the strategy is working, so that we can identify barriers as well as successes.

The Evaluation team will also look at implementation next year. We stagger that purposefully so that we don't overwhelm contractors with evaluation duties.