

## **Preventing Youth Vaping in Schools TEAMS Program Request for Applications**

Thank you for your interest in the Preventing Youth Vaping in Schools through Training, Education, Assistance, Mentorship, & Support (TEAMS) Program, developed by the American Academy of Pediatrics. This project is a partnership between the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (MDHSS), the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors (NACDD), the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), and the Missouri Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics (MO AAP). The project aims to strengthen school capacity to prevent and reduce youth vaping through assessment, action planning, training, and mentorship using AAP's Training, Education, Assistance, Mentorship, & Support (TEAMS) Program as the foundation. MO AAP is currently accepting applications from Missouri schools/school districts interested in elevating tobacco and vaping prevention efforts in schools.

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### **TEAMS Overview**

Through the TEAMS Program, MO AAP will provide training, resources, and technical assistance to schools/school districts interested in strengthening their policies, practices, and infrastructure related to vaping and tobacco prevention and other school health services.

Each participating school district will assemble a 3-8 member team to include:

- At least one school district health services representative (e.g. health services director, or lead nurse)
- At least one school administrator or principal
- At least one health department or agency representative
- At least one community healthcare provider, ideally a physician (e. g. community pediatrician, a hospital-based), health department-based physician or Nurse Practitioner, Behavioral Health provider, or other physician with appropriate background

Using the AAP TEAMS model, schools/school district teams will be guided through a process to:

- Assess their district's school health services policies, practices, and infrastructure, including vaping and tobacco prevention;
- Engage partners to support improvements in school health services, including vaping and tobacco prevention;
- Identify and prioritize key areas for improvement and develop a strategic action plan; and
- Implement their action plan and evaluate the resulting changes.

## Program Offerings

Participating schools/school districts will gain access to the extensive resources and expertise available through the TEAMS Program and project partners including customized training, technical assistance, and resources based on individualized needs and interests. The TEAMS Program provides an excellent opportunity to strengthen local partnerships and to actively engage with other schools/school districts from across the state of Missouri for mutual support and shared learning.

Program offerings are summarized below:

Program Components	Examples
In-Person Immersive Training and Online Training	Training sessions and full cohort calls will include working with partners, assessing and prioritizing critical health services issues, strategic action planning, program evaluation, key school health topics, and successful program models. Sessions will be customized based on the needs and interests of the cohort. All schools/school district team members are encouraged to join the sessions to share lessons learned and brainstorm solutions to challenges. Each training and full cohort call will include peer-to-peer sharing and learning time.
<a href="#">Health services Assessment Tool for Schools (HATS)</a>	The <a href="#">AAP's HATS</a> allows schools/school districts to assess policies, practices, infrastructure, and other components of school health services, including vaping and tobacco prevention.
Resources	Multiple tools and templates to support school health services improvements, including a webpage and toolkit with national and Missouri-specific resources.
Networking and Partnerships	Inter-and-cross disciplinary networking opportunities and facilitation of relationships with local, state, and national partners.
Individual Technical Assistance	May include capacity-building assistance on specific school health services (including vaping and tobacco prevention) topics, coaching, policy development assistance, implementation support, or other needed help.

## Tentative Program Timeline

Date	Time Commitment	Activity
May 21 <sup>st</sup> , 2026	1 to 2pm CST	Orientation
September 2026	60-90 minutes	Session 2: Full Cohort Call/ Re-Orientation – Forming a Team, Identifying Issues
October 2026	1.5 days	Session 3: In-Person Immersive Training**
December 2026	---	Deadline for team action plan submission
January 2027- June 2027	---	Implementation of action plan
January 2027	1 hour	Session 4: Full Cohort Call (Topic TBD)
March 2027	1 hour	<b>Session 5: Full Cohort Call (Topic TBD)</b>
May 2027	90 minutes	Session 6: Full Cohort Call – Evaluation, Sustainability, & Celebrating Successes

**\*\* Travel to the In-Person Immersive Training will be reimbursed by NACDD. Instructions will be provided to participating schools when planning travel.**

## Topic Areas

Teams may choose to work on many areas related to elevating vaping and tobacco prevention efforts. Teams will select an area of focus based on the needs and circumstances in their district. Examples include:

- Developing or revising school health services to support vaping and tobacco use prevention efforts policies and practices
- Strengthening infrastructure and practices to successfully implement or enhance a comprehensive tobacco-free campus policy that includes e-cigarettes
- Implementing prevention education for all students in grades K-12
- Expand vaping and tobacco prevention offerings
- Strengthening referrals, linkages, and care coordination with community providers, including youth cessation support
- Offering and promoting cessation with the entire campus community
- Implementing a supportive discipline framework instead of suspension or other punitive measures
- Implementing a more effective staffing structure
- Securing additional resources for vaping and tobacco prevention provision
- Increasing alignment with national school health performance measures

## Participation Requirements

The TEAMS Program requires a commitment from May 2026- May 2027. Schools/school district teams that are selected to participate agree to:

- Assemble a team of the schools/school district health services, administrator or principal, local health department representative, and local physician or behavioral health professional
- Hold monthly meetings (virtually or in-person) with the assembled team
- Complete the [AAP's Health services Assessment Tool for Schools](#)
- Develop and implement a strategic action plan for improving school health services, including vaping and tobacco use prevention
- Actively participate in all training sessions and full cohort calls
- Participate in check-in calls with MO AAP as needed
- Communicate regularly with partners and decision-makers
- Complete evaluation surveys and activities
- Submit a final progress/ evaluation report at the conclusion of the program.

**\*\*A total stipend of \$3,100 will be provided to all school/school districts that complete the participation requirements. The stipend will be given in two installments. A \$600 stipend will be given at the completion of the virtual orientation call, and second stipend of \$2,500 will be given after the completion of the AAP's Health services Assessment Tool for Schools and strategic action plan.**

## Application Instructions

Missouri Schools/School Districts are invited to apply to participate in the project by submitting a TEAMS program application.

The TEAMS Program application should be completed by the schools/school district's school health services representative, who will be the team's primary contact.

As part of the application process, schools/school districts must identify partners willing to work collaboratively and commit to the program's participation requirements outlined in this guidance. It is strongly recommended these partners participate in completing the TEAMS Program application.

The complete application **must be submitted by 11:59pm CST on May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

Applicants will be notified of an acceptance decision by **May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026**. An orientation webinar for accepted applicants is scheduled for May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2026 from 1 to 2pm CST. All team members should protect time on their calendars to attend this orientation webinar.

**You must apply through the following link:**

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MOVapingTEAMSProject>

## Review Process

Up to 10 schools/school district teams will be selected to participate in the 2026-2027 cohort. Applications will be reviewed by MO AAP, National American Academy of Pediatrics, The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, and the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors. Reviewers are seeking coverage across the state among rural and urban elementary/middle/high school interdisciplinary teams. In addition, reviewers will evaluate applications based on the qualifications of identified team members, the ability to articulate the importance and role of school health services (including vaping and tobacco prevention), and the ability to implement changes.

## Summary of Key Upcoming Dates

- Application due date: 11:59pm CST Friday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026
- Notification of acceptance decision: Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026
- Orientation Webinar: Thursday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2026 from 1 to 2pm CST
- Session 1 Re-orientation, Forming a Team, Identifying Issues Full Cohort Call: September 2026, exact date TBD
- Session 2 In-person Immersive Training (Jefferson City, MO): October 2026 (Exact date TBD)

**For More Information and questions regarding the TEAMS Program or the application process should be directed to:**

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## Quotes from Previous TEAMS Program Participants:

*"We are doing exciting work that would not have ordinarily taken place."*

*"The networking is fantastic!!"*

*"WOW do we have policy gaps. We knew we did, but completing the assessment tool was very eye-opening."*

*"The in-person training was terrific, and as I sit home and recall how much we accomplished in a short amount of time, I am grateful that we could all get together"*

*"The assessment tool has given me a way to show my administration and school community what school nurses are doing on a daily basis."*

*"Having a team to work with and to turn to for help is so fantastic. We can better connect kids with services and are seeing a real impact."*

[Click Here](#) to hear from past TEAMS participants and their experiences.