

About the Promoting Adolescent Student Health “PASH” Program

Funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) Division of Adolescent and School Health (DASH) and administered through the [Office of Student Health Services](#), Promoting Adolescent Student Health (PASH) is a five-year grant (formerly known as [Project ARREST](#)) that works to reduce youth risk behaviors that lead to unintended pregnancy, STIs, and HIV via three core strategies:

1. Sexual Health Education- Helps adolescents acquire the knowledge and skills to prevent HIV, STIs, and unintended pregnancy
2. Sexual Health Services- Increase students access to key preventive key Sexual Health Services
3. Safe and Supportive Environments - Focuses on factors within school and family environments that act as protective factors and reduce risk of HIV, STIs, and unintended pregnancy

The current grant cycle started in SY 2018-19 and provides access to evidence-based curriculum, technical assistance, workshops, and professional development to students, teachers, staff and parents on topics such as HIV/ AIDS prevention, safer sex, LGBTQ+ support, healthy relationships, parent/child communication and peer mediation. PASH program staff work closely with health teachers, nurses, school climate personnel, and external partner organizations such as the Mazzone Center and ACCESS Matters Health Resource Centers to provide additional workshops, sexual health services, and counseling.

Biennially (odd years), the Office of research and evaluation administers the [Youth Risk Behavior Survey \(YRBS\)](#) as part of the PASH grant. The survey covers six topic areas, including:

- Behaviors that contribute to unintentional injuries and violence
- Sexual behaviors related to unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV infection
- Alcohol and other drug use
- Tobacco use
- Unhealthy dietary behaviors
- Inadequate physical activity

As part of the CDC grant, The Office of Research and Evaluation also administers the School Health Policies and Practices Study (SHPPS). Part of a system of surveys, this study assesses school health policies and practices in states, large urban school districts, and territories. Profiles surveys are conducted biennially (even years) by education and health agencies among middle and high school principals and lead health education teachers. Profiles monitors the current status of

- School health education requirements and content
- Physical education and physical activity
- Practices related to bullying and sexual harassment
- School health policies related to tobacco-use prevention and nutrition
- School-based health services
- Family engagement and community involvement
- School health coordination