



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION



## Partnering for Food-Safe Schools: *The Action Guide*

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## Division of Adolescent and School Health

Address: <http://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dash/>

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National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion  
**Adolescent and School Health**  
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**Spotlight**

2001 National Leadership Conference

17% of high school students carried a weapon in the past month.

- YRBSS - Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System
- Federal Activities Addressing Violence in Schools
- Programs That Work
- School Health Program Guidelines
- National & State YRBSS Data
- School Health Index
- School Health Programs At-a-Glance
- SABSS - School Health Policies and Programs Study

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Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion  
Division of Adolescent and School Health

- Mission: to prevent the most serious health risk behaviors among children, adolescents, and young adults

[www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dash](http://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dash)

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## National Food Safety Initiative 'From Farm to Table'

### Primary DASH objective:

- To promote and incorporate food safety into existing school health programs
- How?
  - **Building partnerships**



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## Why food safety in schools?

- Approximately 1/3 of the U.S. population attends, works for, or has children in schools\*
- Most students and staff eat meals and snacks throughout the school environment every day
- In 1998, 43% of all food preparation and food service workers were 16-24 years old\*\*
- Young children are more at-risk for foodborne illness

\* ACS, 1998    \*\* US Bureau of Labor Statistics, CPS 1998

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**AMERICA'S HOTTEST NEW THEME PARK**

Littleton Remembers  
The Long Air War Ahead



**Killer Bacteria**

Because of overuse, many antibiotics are powerless against deadly microbes. This boy survived—but many others may not



Digital Content  
A New for Security  
Pat B. Punc

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

WASHINGTON

**Feds buy bad beef for low bid**

E. coli outbreak results from School Lunch Program supply system

By Elliot Jaeger and Scott Montgomery  
WASHINGTON BUREAU

**A** bacteria got up in the deadly war with E. coli bacteria, what happened last October in this dusty little town would seem a minor skirmish. Twelve children got sick but no one died. Although state officials are convinced meat in a school lunch caused the outbreak, the source was never conclusively determined, and the supplier denies any fault. Today, five months later, the E. coli O157:H7 outbreak is remembered much like a bad summer storm that briefly threatened and then

out of business, not helping them stay in business," said Droney, whose six-year-old son died of E. coli poisoning in 1993. Every public school in Georgia, about 1,600 in all—and some 25 private schools—were meat and other food purchased by the U.S. Agriculture Department for the federal School Lunch Program. Annette Denise Hopwood, who oversees the program for the state Department of Education, said the food bought by the Agriculture Department makes up about 15 percent of food served in students at a typical school. The same plants that sell food to the federal program also sell to grocery stores, restaurants and other institutions, so the food is reaching much more people than

is thought to have been infected the contact with one of the schoolchildren. "I'm shocked," said Alan Almaguer, father of one of the children victims of the outbreak, who said about the 12-mile, "It's like the government is taking of this." "It didn't matter. I was reading child into a danger zone," Almaguer said. Almaguer's son was one of four from who had to be hospitalized in Seattle Children's Hospital over 200 miles away as their condition worsened. "I can't tell you how close my son came to dying," he said. The parents' dismay was echoed by Robert Van Slyke, Droney's spokesman.

**School Food Safety in the News...**

United States General Accounting Office  
GAO  
Report to the Ranking Minority Member, Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, U.S. Senate

February 2000

**SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAMS**

Few Outbreaks of Foodborne Illness Reported

GAO  
Accountability • Integrity • Publicity

GAO/RCED-00-33

ensure the wholesomeness of food bought for school lunches. The law goes on to say that "contracts for the purchase of commodities shall not be entered into unless previous inspection and receipt of samples of the commodities are made by the State or the local health officials in Washington state are convinced that the school lunch caused the outbreak. "Obtained through links you to the fact sheet is available at: [www.gao.gov](http://www.gao.gov)

**Enabling the Nation's Schools to Prevent Foodborne Illness through 'Food-Safe School' Programs**

- DASH strategies:
  - Monitor school food safety policies and practices through the School Health Policies and Practices Survey
  - Synthesize research into the *Food-Safe School Action Guide* and disseminate
  - Enable states and national organizations to implement 'Food-Safe School' programs
  - Evaluate and continuously improve those programs

Academy for Educational Development (AED) @American Association of School Administrators (AASA) @American Commodity Distribution Association (ACDA) @American Dietetic Association (ADA) @American Nurses Foundation @American School Food Service Association (ASFS) @American School Health Association (ASHA) @Arkansas Department of Education @Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) @California Department of Education @CDC - Division of Bacterial and Mycotic Diseases (BMD) @CDC - Division of Adolescent and School Health (DASH) @CDC - Division of Nutrition and Physical Activity (DNPA) @CDC - Food Safety Activity Office (FSAO) @CDC - Food Safety Inspection Service, Washington DC @CDC - National Center for Infectious Diseases (NCID) @CDC - Office of the Director/ Office of Communications (OD/OC) @ Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) @Education development Center (EDC) @FDA - Division of Federal-State Relations @FDA - Food Safety Initiative (FSI) @Food Marketing Institute (FMI) @International Food Information Council (IFIC) @JMHC Communication @Kids First Program (Rhode Island) @National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) @National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) @National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) @National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) @National Cattlemen's Beef Association @National Center for School Health Nursing @National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) @National Food Service Management Institute (NFSMI) @National School Boards Association (NSBA) @ORCA @PRO International @Rhode Island Department of Education @Rhode Island Department of Health @Safe Taste, Our Priority (S.T.O.P.) @Soap and Detergent Association @University of Rhode Island Cooperative Extension @University of Rhode Island Department of Education @ University of Rhode Island Department of Health

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[www.FoodSafeSchools.org](http://www.FoodSafeSchools.org)

- One-stop gateway for school food safety information and resources
- Links to NCFSS 50+ member organizations' websites



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# Monitoring School Food Safety Policies and Practices

- Sample information:
  - 77.1% of elementary schools, 65.9% of middle/high schools, and 70.2% of senior high schools taught about food safety in at least one required health education class or course\*



\* Source: Fact Sheet: Food Service; From CDC's School Health Policies and Programs Study 2000

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## Food-Safe Schools Action Guide

Using the Coordinated School Health Framework for Foodborne Illness Prevention

**DRAFT**  
For Review Purposes Only

Prepared for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Prepared by  
 Macro



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## 'Food-Safe School' Framework



## The Food-Safe School Action Guide:

- Utilizes the coordinated school health program approach
- Contains separate components for each target audience
  - Provides specific, customized recommendations for what each audience might do to ensure a 'Food-Safe School'

## **The *Food-Safe School Action Guide* contains...**

- Tangible recommendations and resources for improving a schools food safety practices
- Key food safety messages appropriate to each audience
- Resource lists, fact sheets, and web links
- Solutions for possible barriers and obstacles
- Success stories/vignettes
- Ideas for collaboration
- Ideas for involving the entire school and members of the community

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## **CDC-Funded 'Food-Safe Schools' Development Team**

- American Nurse Foundation
- American School Food Service Association
- National Environmental Health Association
- National Association of County and City Health Officials
- Rhode Island Department of Health and Department of Education
- ORC Macro International

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## **'Bottom-up Approach' for Development:**

- Literature review
- Expert panel
- In-depth interviews
- Focus groups
- Case studies
- Pilot testing

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## **What will schools ultimately receive as part of the *Food-Safe Schools Action Guide*?**

- User's guide with operational strategies
- Continuously-updated website with links to databases and other downloadable resources
- Continuous e-mail updates with new program-related information
- CD-ROM training module[s]
- 'Food-Safe Schools' promotional materials for special audiences
  - e.g. school administrators

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## Enabling States to Implement 'Food-Safe Schools' Programs in Schools

- CDC funds CA,RI,SD, WI, and WV to:
  - Form a state multidisciplinary advisory committee to develop and oversee implementation of a state plan to implement 'Food-Safe Schools' programs
  - Hire a state school food safety specialist within the department of education, health, or other state-level agency
  - Develop a state-specific model 'Food-Safe Schools' program based upon CDC's recommendations and resources outlined in the *Action Guide*

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## Enabling States to Implement 'Food-Safe Schools' Programs in Schools

Continued:

- Implement 'Food-Safe Schools' programs in schools
- Provide training and technical assistance to school staff on food safety
- Strengthen collaboration among key stakeholders at the state and local levels
- Monitor and continuously improve school food safety programs

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# Building State Infrastructure for 'Food-Safe School' Programs

CDC / DASH Cooperative Agreement

State School Food Safety Coalition

State School Food Safety  
Specialist/Coordinator

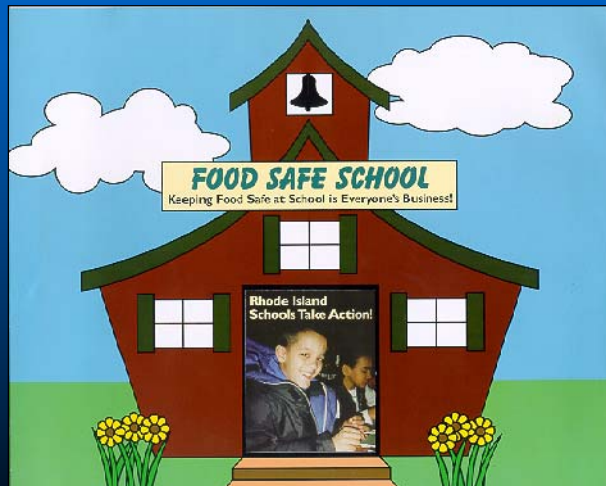
Department  
of Health

Department  
of Education

Department of  
Agriculture and  
Cooperative  
Extension

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## Rhode Island's Model 'Food-Safe Schools' Program



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## **Enabling National Organizations to Implement 'Food-Safe Schools' Programs**

- CDC funds 4 NGOs:
  - American School Food Service Association (ASFSA)
  - The National Environmental Health Association (NEHA)
  - The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO)
  - The American Nurse Foundation (ANF)

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## **Enabling National Organizations to Implement 'Food-Safe Schools' Programs**

- NGOs programs include:
  - Collaborating with CDC, USDA, FDA and other National Coalition for Food-Safe School members to promote and support 'Food-Safe Schools' programs
  - Strengthening their capacity to provide continuous technical assistance to state and local members

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## **Enabling National Organizations to Implement 'Food-Safe Schools' Programs**

### **Continued:**

- Conducting training activities for state and local members
- Developing audience-specific resources

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## **NGO 'Food-Safe Schools' Activities**

- **Examples:**
  - NEHA is collaborating with USDA's National Agriculture Library to build a web-based database of available school food safety educational materials (450+ items to date)
  - ANF has developed a training program for schools nurses to strengthen their capacity to prevent, detect and respond to foodborne illness in schools

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## Other Ongoing CDC 'Food-Safe School' Activities:

- Publish journal articles and disseminate
- Disseminate CDC's *Food-Safe Schools Action Guide* containing recommendations and resources for schools on how to ensure 'Food-Safe Schools'
- Developing School Health Guidelines to Prevent Foodborne Illness
- Promoting school-based handwashing to prevent infectious disease through the *Healthy Kids...Healthy Schools: It's a SNAP!* program

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## Questions and Answers



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