

School Health Advisory Council Self-Assessment

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Background:

In 2005, the 79th Legislature adopted [Texas Health and Safety Code Section 1001.0711](#). This section directed the Executive Commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission to establish the Texas Health Advisory Committee (TSHAC) by rule. The purpose of TSHAC is to provide a leadership role for the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) in the support for and delivery of coordinated school health programs and school health services. In 2007, the 80th Legislature expanded TSHAC’s responsibilities to assess the effectiveness and develop recommendations for coordinated health programs provided by schools. [Texas Administrative Code, RULE §37.350](#) lists the rules and responsibilities of TSHAC.

The SHAC Self-Assessment Tool was developed by TSHAC to support continuing growth of district SHACs. It is important for a SHAC to assess how well it works. To assist SHACs in their self-assessment, TSHAC created the SHAC Self-Assessment tool with questions to help evaluate how well the SHAC is functioning. Questions are divided into four categories:

- 1) Organization of SHAC
- 2) Goals and Activities
- 3) SHAC Members Knowledge and Awareness
- 4) SHAC Support

The SHAC Self-Assessment is intended to be a helpful tool and resource for SHACs, the self-assessment is not required for SHACs to conduct. However, TSHAC encourages SHACs to conduct periodic self-assessments to assess whether the SHAC is meeting objectives, how objectives will be accomplished, and if objectives meet the target date.

SHACs are encouraged to include the results of the self-assessment in their annual report to the school board.

Assessment Tool:

Organization of the SHAC:	Yes	Partially/Maybe	No	Comments/Note

1	Are the SHAC membership representatives of the local community population? E.g. The SHAC is comprised of key school representatives (students, teachers, administrators, and counselors), key community representatives (parents, faith communities, health organizations, and businesses), race/ethnic groups, and economic groups representative of the community.				
2	Are SHAC member roles and responsibilities clearly defined?				
3	Have members received sufficient orientation to their roles and the function of SHAC?				
4	Are members willing to devote the necessary time to their SHAC role?				
5	Do SHAC members understand the availability of resources for the SHAC?				
6	Is the structure of the SHAC clearly defined? For example, subcommittees and defining leadership roles and responsibilities.				
7	Is an elected chairperson providing positive and productive leadership?				
8	Are procedures established and utilized for conducting business? For example, there must be more than half of SHAC members present at the meeting to discuss or vote on any issues.				
9	Have bylaws been established?				
10	Is the SHAC meeting at least four times per year?				
11	Are at least 50% of SHAC members attending meetings?				
12	Does the SHAC have knowledge of the techniques for managing controversy and how to utilize them?				

	Goals and Activities:	Yes	Partially/Maybe	No	Comments/Note
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13	Does the SHAC have Vision and Mission Statements?				
14	Has the SHAC conducted an assessment with the district staff? If no, move to question 15. If yes, answer the following questions.				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Were needs identified? 				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Were goals set based on identified needs? 				
15	Do SHAC plans and activities focus on the goals and objectives set by the SHAC and have completion dates been set?				
16	Are plans made to reach goals and objectives by the targeted completion dates?				
17	Does the SHAC implement activities to support coordinated school health programming?				
18	Does the SHAC address all ten components of the Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child model ?				
19	Has an understanding of coordinated school health and its value to the community developed as a result of SHAC activities?				
20	Are regular reports submitted to district staff or the school board? Was the state-required annual report presented to the board?				

SHAC Members Knowledge and Awareness:		Yes	Partially/Maybe	No	Comments/Note
21	Are SHAC members updated on the status of school health programs for the schools in their district?				
22	Is the role of the school district liaison clearly defined to SHAC members?				
23	Are the school board and school administration knowledgeable about and supportive of school health?				

24	Are SHAC members aware of the values and attitudes of the school/community including special interest groups?				
25	Are school health issues and processes available for community and student input on SHAC activities, as well as processes for communication to the community from the SHAC?				
26	Are SHAC members aware of the current local and state legislative mandates and historical perspectives?				
27	Are SHAC members aware of state and national developments in school health?				

SHAC Support:		Yes	Partially/Maybe	No	Comments/Note
28	Does the school board and school administration recognize and support the SHAC's role in improving/promoting school health? For example, do district personnel or board members seek advice from the SHAC and act on SHAC recommendations?				
29	Do schools and the community recognize the SHAC as a valuable asset in promoting the health of students and school personnel?				
30	Does the SHAC and its members receive recognition for their contributions in school publications, news releases, or other communication channels?				

Resources:

Texas Action for Healthy Kids SHAC resources

<https://www.txshacnetwork.com/resources/web-site-resources>

It's Time Texas SHAC resources and toolkit

itstimetexas.org/shac

Texas Education Agency CSH Requirements and Approved Programs

tea.texas.gov/texas-schools/health-safety-discipline/coordinated-school-health

Texas School Health Advisory Council

dshs.texas.gov/texas-school-health/texas-school-health-advisory-committee-tshac/school-health-advisory-councils

If you have any questions, or would like additional information on the TSHAC, visit

dshs.texas.gov/schoolhealth/tshac/ or contact the School Health Program at

SchoolHealth@dshs.texas.gov.

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