Develop a School Water Access Plan

Once the assessment of the school's water policies and practices has been completed, the next step is to develop a drinking water access plan. The purpose of developing a plan is to

- Identify strengths and opportunities for improvement in providing access to and consumption of drinking water.

- Develop a list of recommended actions to address policy and practice needs for providing access to and consumption of drinking water.

- Rank the list of actions so that the top priorities are addressed first.

Using Appendix 1, read and respond to the two planning questions to identify strengths and areas for improvement, develop a list of recommended actions, and rank the list of actions. These priority actions can then be used to create goals and objectives for implementation.

Planning Question 1

On the basis of the results from the School Drinking Water Needs Assessment, what are the strengths and areas for improvement in providing access to and consumption of drinking water?

As guided in Appendix 1, make a list of the strengths and weaknesses from the needs assessment process. Examples of weaknesses could include the following:

- Water fountains do not work properly or are inadequate in number or location to meet students' needs.

- School's water has been tested, but results are not communicated to parents, students, or school staff.

- School does not allow students to bring refillable bottles to school.

- Students or parents have a negative impression of tap water taste or quality.

Planning Question 2

What are the recommended actions to address the identified weaknesses?

On the basis of the weaknesses identified in Planning Question 1, make a list of recommended actions to improve drinking water access in the template provided in Appendix 1, and select at least one priority action from the list. Although the number of priority actions will vary for each school, it is recommended to identify between one and three priority actions. Examples could include the following:

- Work with facilities staff to ensure that water fountains are cleaned regularly and working properly.

- Form a student committee to help implement a drinking water campaign at school.

- Develop a capital improvement plan to secure funds to install new water access points.

- Revise the district wellness policy to allow students to carry water bottles with them at school.

- Consider revising school policies (e.g. disciplinary code) to allow refillable bottles.

Creating Goals and Objectives

Use the Goals and Objectives Template provided in Appendix 1 to identify goals and objectives for each of the priority actions that were identified. Remember to develop specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, and time-phased (SMART) objectives, and identify an individual or group of individuals who will be responsible for helping to implement each of the objectives.

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