Establishing Your Priorities

It is important to assess what programs and policies you have in place before you can make plans for new initiatives. There are many assessment tools that can help you with this process including the CDC School Health Index and the Rudd Center's WellSAT programs. Both of these are on-line and free to use.

Texas Action for Healthy Kids developed this abbreviated format to help SHACs and Districts determine priorities. What is most important to your parents? What do you have in place? Celebrate your great work and then decide how you would like to proceed on weaker areas.

First review the list of possible policies and programs and if you have a concern that is not listed, add that to the list. (This can be done before everyone fills out the form or each person can add their issues when they fill out the form.)

STEP 1:
In the first column you will decide if this topic is a serious issue for your students and your district. The higher the number the more seriously you feel this is something important to have in place.

STEP 2 Part I:
The second column is where you identify if there is a policy or program in place. Maybe it is being discussed but not there yet. Or maybe there is something in place but not being implemented.

STEP 2 Part II:
This is where you decide if this is something you feel should be worked on immediately. If you are very concerned and feel it should be addressed now, you would strongly agree. If you feel this is something that could wait until a later time, score accordingly.

STEP 3:
Your over all score will help you rank priorities. If multiple people are scoring, you will need to average the scores for each category. The maximum score is 23. Any categories with a 20 or above should be considered priority areas of interest.

NOTES: This is where you can make notes about each category. Is it in place? Is this something that the school administration is opposed to? Has it been tried before unsuccessfully? These comments can help you decide if you have multiple high priorities.