

# PREVENTING CHRONIC DISEASE

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### *SHI: School Health Index:* Implementing Changes in the Third Edition

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PEER REVIEWED

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's *SHI: School Health Index: A Self-Assessment and Planning Guide* is designed to help schools assess and improve their physical activity, healthy eating, tobacco use, and unintentional injury and violence prevention policies and programs in the context of a coordinated school health program.

In addition to reviewing the history, purposes, and structure of the *School Health Index*, contributors to the guide describe the process of developing the third edition and identify changes that have been made to the new edition, which will be released in 2004. Changes include the addition of items for assessing a school's injury prevention policies and programs and the revision of other items based on feedback from public health practitioners. The third edition also will feature a new interactive on-line version that allows users to tailor the *School Health Index* according to health and safety topics — physical activity, nutrition, tobacco-use prevention, and injury and violence prevention, for example.

The presenters share information collected from education agencies, health departments, schools, and other programs across the nation about how they used the *School Health Index*, including descriptions of innovative strategies for promoting its use and increasing its impact.

Contributors to the guide will continue their interactive tradition by encouraging *School Health Index* users to share their experiences in using or promoting the *School Health Index*, as well as to suggest ideas for improving the guide or maximizing its effectiveness.

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