

Nevada's Cancer Plan: A Guide for Schools

Healthy schools build healthy communities for Nevada's future.

Schools are central to the health and wellbeing of Nevada's children and families. In addition to providing education, schools help shape lifelong habits and serve as trusted hubs for health information and community support. By promoting healthy environments, sharing accurate information and connecting families with resources, Nevada's schools can help reduce cancer risk and support the goals of the 2026–2030 Nevada Cancer Plan.

Healthy students and staff create stronger learning environments. Access to preventive care, health education, and early detection resources can reduce absenteeism, improve student engagement, and foster long-term wellness for both students and school personnel.

How you can nurture a culture of health:



Prevention: Healthy habits start early.

When students learn and practice healthy behaviors early, those patterns often continue into adulthood. Cancer prevention efforts in schools help build healthy habits, improve health knowledge, and reduce exposure to risk factors.

- Support efforts and campaigns to increase HPV vaccination among Nevada youth, including at back-to-school vaccine events.
- Expand access to free, safe, and appealing water sources and healthy foods in cafeterias, vending machines, and school events and eliminate access to sugar-sweetened drinks.
- Promote physical activity through daily recess, active classroom breaks, walking clubs, and safe walking/biking programs.
- Strengthen evidence-based school wellness policies to improve nutrition and physical activity, including universal school lunches, physical education, and playgrounds designed to foster moderate-to-vigorous physical activity.
- Enforce smoke, vape, and tobacco-free policies on school campuses, offer prevention education, and promote cessation support programs for students and staff.
- Encourage sun safety among students and staff by providing access to sunscreen, promoting hats, sunglasses, and protective clothing, and incorporating shaded areas on playgrounds and outdoor spaces.
- Test school buildings for radon and address mitigation needs promptly.



Cancer screening and diagnosis: The best cancer screening is the one that gets done.

Schools can support early detection and improve health outcomes by connecting students, families and staff with accessible cancer screening information, resources and services.

- Support ongoing health education for students to learn how the body works, what cancer is, and why screening is important once they are adults.
- Share age-appropriate information about recommended cancer screenings for students' families and staff, including breast, colorectal, cervical, lung, and skin cancer.
- Partner with local clinics, health organizations, or nonprofits to host on-site screening and wellness events for staff or families.
- Promote flexible scheduling for staff to attend medical appointments and encourage families to seek preventive care.
- Use school newsletters, websites, bulletin boards, and social media to share evidence-based information about cancer prevention and screening, and resources available in the community.



Cancer care, caregiving, and survivorship: Supporting survivors and their caregivers shows compassion and fosters resilience.

Cancer survivorship doesn't end when treatment does, and many employees continue to face physical, emotional, and financial challenges long after their diagnosis.

- Provide policies and support for staff undergoing treatment or caring for a family member with cancer, including flexible work arrangements and leave policies.
- Make available resources connecting staff, students, and families to cancer support services such as counseling, financial assistance, or social services.
- Encourage peer support and provide age-appropriate resources for students who know someone diagnosed with cancer.
- Ensure school health services are prepared to accommodate students or staff returning to school after treatment, with any necessary accommodations for physical, emotional, or cognitive needs.
- Offer health insurance plans that cover cancer-related support and services for employees during and after treatment.

Read the full 2026-2030 Nevada Cancer Plan at
nevadacancercoalition.org/cancer-plan

