

BUCKEYE BEST HEALTHY SCHOOLS

What is the Buckeye Best Healthy School Award?

The Buckeye Best Healthy School Awards Program is designed to recognize those schools whose policies and practices reflect a high priority on healthy outcomes for children. The program is sponsored by the Ohio Department of Health in partnership with the American Cancer Society – Ohio Division as part of the Ohio Department of Health's Healthy Ohioans campaign. This survey has been designed to measure progress over time. Each fall the Buckeye Best Healthy School Awards Program will accept applications and rank schools based upon their progress to achieve a "gold" standard in the areas of tobacco, nutrition and physical activity.

Why should our school apply for this award?

Research has shown that (1) unhealthy behaviors that lead to poor health outcomes are established during youth and extend into adulthood and (2) health and learning are intertwined. Youth who eat nutritious meals, get daily physical activity and attend school in a tobacco-free environment are better prepared to learn. Schools play an important role in the lives of children. Schools that convey the message of good health habits coupled with academic excellence will have a student population that is healthy and ready to learn each and every day. If your school is one which adheres to the standards of a healthy school you are eligible to be recognized as one of Ohio's Buckeye Best. Why not come forward and be recognized for your efforts in establishing a healthy school environment?

How does our school apply for the Buckeye Best Award?

Included in this packet is an application form. The application includes health questions specific to three areas: (1) tobacco; (2) nutrition and; (3) physical education. The application questions have been developed based upon the Healthy People 2010 Objectives. The questions represent a multidisciplinary approach to assessing the level of healthy school programs and policies. To insure that each school answers the questions completely, it is strongly recommended that the application should be completed by a team of school personnel in each school building who have expertise in the three targeted areas.

Applications must be completed and returned to the address listed below by March 1, 2006. Schools will be notified of their application score in

April/May 2006. The application has been designed to measure a school's progress over time. Each school will be ranked initially and each year thereafter based upon their progress toward achieving a higher standard in the areas of tobacco use prevention, nutrition and physical education. To expedite the application scoring process, please follow the directions closely and complete each question. Be sure to select only one category of school for this application. **If you are a school that includes grades K-8 or K-12 you must choose one of the categories, you cannot select more than one.**

How will our application be evaluated?

An interdisciplinary team of school health professionals will score each application based on responses to the questions using the standard as defined in the Healthy People 2010 Objectives.

What will our school receive for our time and effort?

Each school that participates will be recognized. Those schools that show exemplary programs and policies will be ranked into one of three categories: (1) Gold; (2) Silver and; (3) Bronze. The gold award winners will receive a Buckeye Best Healthy School flag which can fly outside the school building displaying a clear message to all that your school places a high priority on healthy learners.

Who do I call if I have questions?

Calls can be directed to the Ohio Department of Health, School and Adolescent Health Section at 614-466-6039 or the American Cancer Society – Ohio Division, School Health Programs at 614-889-9565.

Mail completed applications to:

Ohio Department of Health
Buckeye Best Healthy School Awards Program
c/o School and Adolescent Health Services
246 North High Street
PO Box 118
Columbus Ohio 43216-0118

Thank you for your time and interest. Good Luck!