Working with Education Sector
Dos and Don’ts

Expecting children’s health to be as high a priority as in health care
- Frame approach and language around the school, district, board, or agency’s top priorities

Approaching an education partner with “What do I need from schools?”
- Communicate respect for education system

Mindset of working IN schools
- You’re working with them, not just in them

Failing to do the background work around the 5P’s of education

*adapted from NACDD’s “Speaking Education’s Language: A Guide For Public Health Professionals Working In the Education Sector”
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Dos and Don’ts

- Misinterpreting “lack of interest in health concerns” as lack of caring
  - Communicate role that poor health status plays as an underlying cause of the achievement gap

- Underestimating barriers to some health initiatives

- Assuming the availability of your health center resources and services means school wants it
  - Acknowledge understanding of education sector’s great pressures

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**Dos and Don’ts**

- Measuring your work only with health-related outcomes
  - Speak in health and learning language

- Large amounts of health data
  - Keep it simple and don’t use large amounts of data

- Assuming both sides have common understanding of words “school health”

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