



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Executive Office of Health and Human Services  
Department of Public Health  
250 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108-4619



DEVAL L. PATRICK  
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Dear Principal:

We are pleased to present this new revision of **The Comprehensive School Health Manual**, which encompasses current, practical health information and resources for students and staff in the Commonwealth's schools. Since its original publication in 1995, the health needs of students have increased in number and complexity, representing major challenges in the educational setting. To address these challenges, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health assumed leadership in revising the manual, while collaborating closely with the Massachusetts Department of Education. Our joint effort demonstrates an understanding that educational achievement and health are closely related.

To better serve the needs of those who use the manual, the second edition appears in multiple formats, including CD Rom and both PDF and word versions on the Internet. The manual is designed for use by school administrators, school nurses and other health personnel, teachers, and the many others who are developing school health programs that encompass the nine interactive components of coordinated school health: health services, health education, family and consumer science education, physical education, nutrition services, counseling and psychological services, healthy school environment, health promotion for staff, and parent/community involvement. It addresses the changing issues in school health, provides guidelines for acceptable practice and policy development, and facilitates the orientation of new staff.

To ensure that the manual is used effectively, you may choose to provide your staff with an orientation to its contents, ensure that all personnel know where the manual may be found, and regularly reinforce its concepts of a comprehensive, coordinated approach. Staff members of both the Department of Public Health and the Department of Education are available to provide additional assistance at your request.

We wish to thank you for your continued leadership in supporting the educational achievement *and health* of all the Commonwealth's students.

Sincerely,

John Auerbach  
Commissioner of Public Health

David P. Driscoll  
Commissioner of Education



**Deval L. Patrick**  
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**Timothy P. Murphy**  
**Lieutenant Governor**

**JudyAnn Bigby, M.D.**  
**Secretary**  
**Executive Office of Health and Human Services**

**John Auerbach**  
**Commissioner**  
**Massachusetts Department of Public Health**

**Sally Fogerty, B.S.N., M.Ed.**  
**Associate Commissioner**  
**Center for Community Health**  
**Massachusetts Department of Public Health**

**Anne H. Sheetz, R.N., M.P.H., C.N.A.A.**  
**Director**  
**School Health Services**  
**Massachusetts Department of Public Health**

Massachusetts Department of Public Health  
School Health Services  
250 Washington Street – 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Boston, MA 02108

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# The Comprehensive School Health Manual

## SENIOR EDITORS

**Anne H. Sheetz, RN, MPH, CNAA**  
Massachusetts Department of Public Health  
Boston, Massachusetts

**Irene F. Goodman, EdD**  
Goodman Research Group, Inc.  
Cambridge, Massachusetts

## EDITORS

Thomas Comerford  
Sally Fogerty  
Diane M. Gorak  
Massachusetts Department of Public Health

Joanne Kelleher  
Kimberley Rylander  
Goodman Research Group, Inc.

## CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

Kathleen Atkinson  
Mary Ann Gapinski  
Gail Lopez  
Barbara Mackey  
C. Lynne McIntyre  
Massachusetts Department of Public Health

John L. G. Bynoe, III  
Massachusetts Department of Education

Kathryn Franich  
Roger M. Goodman  
Deborah Kreuze  
Christine Pier  
Goodman Research Group, Inc.

## PRODUCTION ASSISTANCE

Janet Burke  
Massachusetts Department of Public Health

Stefanie Archer, Dana S. Brown, Nina Grant, and Katherine Rich  
Goodman Research Group, Inc.

## DESIGN

Frank N. Verni III / DriveMedia.com

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Following is a long list of individuals who contributed to the manual through reading, revising, or reviewing chapters. Every attempt has been made to recognize all contributors. We regret any omissions that may have occurred.

### **Massachusetts Department of Public Health**

Emily A. Ackiss, MPH

Jennings Aske, JD

Darcy Bacall, BSN, RN, CDE

Martha Badger, RN, BSN (Retired)

Janet Berkenfield

Thomas Bertrand, MPH

Maria F. Bettencourt, MPH, LDN

Mark Boldt, MS

Michael Botticelli, MEd

Sandra Broughton, MHA

Janet Burke

Cheryl Bushnell, MS, RN

Fredric Cantor, DVM, MPH

Connie Carroll, RN, MPH

Jessica Cates, MSSW

Gino Chisari, MSN, RN

Jennifer Cochran, MPH

Rachel Colchamiro, MPH, RD, CLC

Thomas Comerford, MS

Suzanne K. Condon, BS, MS

Kevin Cranston, MDiv

Deborah A. Croucher, RN, BSN

Patricia R. Daly, MSN, RNC

Letitia Davis, ScD

Alfred DeMaria, Jr., MD

Marci Diamond, MPA

**Massachusetts Department of Public Health (cont.)**

Bill Dumas, RN

Sue Etkind, RN, MS

Michael A. Feeney, RPh, JD, CHO

Rebecca Feinstein Winitzer, MS, MSW, LicSW

Stephen Fleming, EdM

Kathy Foell, RD, MS

Sally Fogerty, BSN, MEd

Mary Foley, RDH, MPH

Maureen Foley, MPH, RN

Marion Freedman-Gurspan, MSW, LicSW

Mary Ann Gapinski, RN, MSN, NCSN

Kathleen Gilmore, MEd

Daksha Gopal, MPH

Diane M. Gorak, RN, BSN, MEd

Suzanne Gottlieb, BA

Holly Hackman, MD, MPH

Gillian Haney, MPH

Nancy Harrington, BA

Patricia Henley, MEd

Kathleen Herr-Zaya, BSN, MEd, PhD

Alan Holmlund

Jocelyn Isadore, MPH

Donna E. Johnson, MSW

Patricia Kludt, MPH

Jo-Ann Kwass, MDiv, MS

Donna Lazorik, RN, MS

Robert Leibowitz, PhD

Susan M. Lett, MD, MPH

Gail Lopez, RN, MS

Samuel Louis, MPH

Kristin Lyons, LicSW

Nancy Lyons

Valerie Machinist, MS, RD

Barbara Mackey, MS, APRN-BC

Neetu Manjunath

Bela T. Matyas, MD, MPH

C. Lynne McIntyre, RN, PhD

Tracy A. Miller, JD

Marie O'Donnell

Carlene Pavlos

Beatriz Pazos Vautin

Cynthia Rodgers, MSPH

Nicole Roos, MBA

Jorge Sanchez, MEd

Kafi N. Sanders, MPH

Howard Saxner, Esq

Stephanie Schauer, PhD

Xanthi M. Scrimgeour, MEd, CHES

Marva Seifert, MPH

Anne Sheetz, RN, MPH, CNAA

Linda Singleton, RN, MPH

Eileen M. Sullivan, MS, MEd

Cynthia Taft Bayerl, RD, MS, LDN

Pejman Talebian, MA, MPH

Monique Thompson

Brunilda Torres, LicSW

Lora Wooster

Michelle Zbell, MA

**Massachusetts Department of Education**

Holly Alperin, EdM, CHES

John L. G. Bynoe, III

Peter D. Cirioni

Anne Gilligan, MPH

Carol Goodenow, PhD

Robin Haunton, MEd

Elizabeth Keliher

Susan Maher, PhD

Katie Millett, LDN

Marcia Mitnacht

Rhoda E. Schneider

Christanne Smith Harrison, MPH, RD

Jane Stoleroff, MA

**Others**

Joanne Aguiar, RN, BSN  
Plymouth Public Schools

Tina Alu  
Cambridge Economic Opportunity Committee, Inc.

Susan Aries, RN  
Newton Public Schools

Susan A. Baker  
Provincetown Public Schools

Peggy Brkic  
Planned Parenthood League of MA

Marcia Buckminster, RN, CS, PNP, SNP  
Framingham Public Schools

Bill Burke  
Burke's Special Products

Margaret Burton, RN, CS, MS, FNP  
Lawrence Public Schools

Roberta Cobbett, RN, BSN, NCSN  
Swampscott Public Schools

Catherine Crosby-Norton, RN, BSN  
Plymouth Public Schools

Marie DeSisto, RN, BSN, MSN  
Waltham Public Schools

Deborah Dill, MSN, WHNP  
ABCD/Boston Family Planning

Mary Lou Donohue, RN  
East Longmeadow Public Schools

Cindy Dourmashkin, RN, BSN  
Northampton Public Schools

S. Jean Emans, MD  
Children's Hospital Boston

Ann Farrell, RN, MS, MEd  
Nashoba Regional Schools

Jane Franks, RN, BSN, MBA  
Lexington Public Schools

Linda Garrity, RN, MEd, NCSN  
Brimmer and May School

Linda Grant, MD, MPH  
Boston Public Schools

Marilyn Grifoni Belmonte, BA  
Drug Abuse Recognition Programs

Celine Hardy, RN, BSN, NCSN  
Sandwich Public Schools

Gretchen Herrick, RN, BSN  
Ashland High School

David B. Hiltz, NREMT-P  
American Heart Association

Debra A. Kane, MA, CCC-A  
Willie Ross School for the Deaf

Joanne Kelleher, BS  
Goodman Research Group, Inc.

Jane Kisielius, RN, MS  
Quincy Public Schools

Cathryn R. Lyman, RN, BSN (Deceased)  
Westborough Public Schools

Carole MacKenzie, RN, BSN, MEd  
Faulkner Hospital

Marjorie McEttrick-Maloney, RN, BSN, MPA/H, NCSN  
Plymouth Public Schools

Marion S. McEwan, BSN, MS, RN  
Children's Hospital Boston

Kym Meyer, MS, CCC-A  
The Learning Center for Deaf Children

Elizabeth Miller, MD, PhD  
MGH Revere Health Center

Joseph P. O'Brien  
National Scoliosis Foundation

Rita Olans, MSN, CPNP, RN, CS  
MGH-Revere Healthcare Center

Carol Anne O'Leary, RNCS, PNP  
Anna May Powers Health Center

Katherine O'Neill, RN, BSN, MS  
Boston College, Connell School of Nursing

Angela Patterson, MSN, APRN, BC, FNP  
Simmons College

Sylvia B. Perlman, PhD  
DMA Health Strategies

**Others (cont.)**

Carol Podolsky, MD  
Newton Public Schools

Stephanie Porter, MSN, RN  
Children's Hospital Medical Center

Ruth Price  
Consultant

Anne Prinn, RN, MS  
Wellesley Public Schools

Jean E. Ramsey, MD  
Boston Medical Center

Patricia Rissmiller, RN, DNSC, C-PNP  
Simmons College

Joan Scheid, RN, BSN  
Clinton Public Schools

Ronald Siegel, PsyD  
Cambridge Youth Guidance Center

Katie Vozeolas, BSN, NCSN  
North Andover Public Schools

Linda Walsh, RN, BSN  
Newton Public Schools

Barbara Westwood, RN, BSN, MEd  
Central Berkshire Public Schools

Douglas R. White, Jr., BA, MEd  
Plymouth Public Schools