



How Health Equity, Policy & Planning Advances Policy

Local health departments shape policies to improve community health and well-being. Health Equity, Policy, and Planning plays a key role by using policy expertise, content knowledge, and community collaboration to guide equitable policy development in San Mateo County.

Our Role



Health Equity, Policy & Planning leverages policy knowledge, content expertise, and community collaboration to influence and support policies that drive equitable health outcomes in San Mateo County.

Types of Policies We Engage With



- **Institutional:** Policies involving shared oversight entities (e.g., school districts).
- **Organizational:** Policies affecting individual entities (e.g., schools)
- **Municipal:** Policies at the city, county, or tribal government level
- **Legislative:** State or federal legislation

Policy Focus Areas



- Food Systems & School Food Environments
- Anchor Institutions & Equitable Economic Advancement
- Active Transportation & Safe Routes to School
- Guaranteed Income Programs
- Youth Pathways to Success & Restorative Justice

Who We Work With



- **Community Partners:** We provide public health data to support local initiatives.
- **County Health Leadership:** We share best practices from both local and national models.
- **School District Leadership:** We offer targeted messaging to inform policy decisions.
- **City Leadership & Staff:** We facilitate communications and share public health guidance.

Past Policy Contributions



- **Support:** Assisted with the passage of SB 348, requiring schools to meet sugar and sodium guidelines for pupil meals (Chaptered 2023).
- **Inform:** Organized presentations on sugar-sweetened beverage tax policy to the Redwood City Together Early Childhood Work Group.
- **Influence:** Hosted School Wellness Alliance conferences, promoting model policies on school wellness and discipline.
- **Influence:** Convened city and school district staff to address traffic safety near schools.

Our Support & Influence on Policy



- **Support:** We draft formal letters of support or opposition for proposed state legislation.
- **Assist:** Help implement policies in our areas of expertise, such as public health and community engagement.
- **Influence:** Act as liaisons, connecting community voices to decision-makers and policy experts. We review and support county legislative priorities in alignment with community needs.

Approaches to Policy Work



- **Funding:** Securing resources to support initiatives (e.g., funding for school districts to develop restorative justice plans).
- **Data Sharing:** Collecting and distributing data to inform policies.
- **Community Engagement:** Involving community stakeholders to guide decisions.
- **Public Health Guidance:** Providing health expertise for the adoption of policies like Vision Zero & Complete Streets.