**EMBARGOED UNTIL TUESDAY, AUGUST 25 AT 8AM EST**

**Media Contact:**

NAME, TITLE

EMAIL

PHONE

# **(NUMBER) Schools in (DISTRICT) Recognized for Addressing Student Health Needs Relevant During COVID-19 Crisis**

*School(s) nationally recognized for implementing best practices in nutrition and physical activity*

**(CITY, STATE), August XX, 2020** – NUMBER schools across DISTRICT OR CITY are among the 518 schools nationwide to earn a spot on the [Alliance for a Healthier Generation](http://www.healthiergeneration.org/)’s (Healthier Generation) 2020 list of [America’s Healthiest Schools](https://www.healthiergeneration.org/campaigns/americas-healthiest-schools)” for their commitment to promoting quality nutrition, regular physical activity and strong wellness policies.

Though SCHOOL NAMES were evaluated on practices taking place *prior to* the COVID-19 school closures, they leveraged their strong foundations in wellness and were positioned to prioritize healthy habits throughout the pandemic. They have continued to sustain and promote good health by:

* INSERT EXAMPLE OF PROMOTION OF NUTRITION
* INSERT EXAMPLE OF PROMOTION OF PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND/OR EDUCATION
* INSERT EXAMPLE OF PROMOTION OF SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL HEALTH
* INSERT EXAMPLE OF PROMOTION OF STAFF WELL-BEING
* INSERT EXAMPLE OF COMMUNITY COLLABORATION
* INSERT OTHER EXAMPLES AS DESIRED

For nearly 15 years, Healthier Generation’s annual recognition program has honored schools that are implementing best practices that support children’s learning and development, including meeting or exceeding federal standards for nutritious school meals and providing regular opportunities for students and staff to be active throughout the school day. It remains one of the country’s longest-running, nationwide recognition programs honoring schools for achievements in nutrition, physical activity and wellness policies.

“The teachers, parents, students and staff at SCHOOL NAMES recognize the critical role that health play in learning,” said NAME, TITLE. “We’re honored to receive this national recognition for our dedication to supporting the well-being of students and staff, and remain steadfast in our commitment to fostering environments where all members of the school community can succeed.”

“We commend this cohort of school leaders for prioritizing the essential health needs of students and staff in a time of great challenge and with limited resources at their disposal,” said Kathy Higgins, chief executive officer of the Alliance for a Healthier Generation. “Over time, these awardees established strong foundations in health – allowing them to pivot and adapt to meet acute health and wellness needs in a year unlike any other.”

As members of Healthier Generation’s Healthy Schools Program, SCHOOL NAMES work to implement wellness policies and practices that meet federal requirements and support a comprehensive approach to kids’ health. Any school can join Healthier Generation’s Healthy Schools Program to access trainings, resources and technical assistance by visiting [HealthierGeneration.org](http://www.healthiergeneration.org).

To view the complete list of awardees, visit [HealthiestSchools.org](http://www.healthiestschools.org/).

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**About the Alliance for a Healthier Generation**

The Alliance for a Healthier Generation believes every child deserves a healthy future. For over a decade, Healthier Generation has empowered kids to develop lifelong healthy habits by ensuring the environments that surround them provide and promote good health. Driven by our passion that all young people deserve a chance to live healthier lives, our work, in total, has reached more than 29 million kids across the country. To learn more and help make a difference, visit [HealthierGeneration.org](https://www.healthiergeneration.org/) and join us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/HealthierGeneration) and [Twitter](https://twitter.com/HealthierGen).