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## **News Release**

### ***“Healthy School Champion Score Card” Assesses Best Practices In Health And Wellness***

The Colorado Department of Education announced today the creation of an online “Healthy School Champion Score Card” for schools to assess best practices in health education and services, counseling, nutrition services and education, physical education and activity, family and community involvement, staff wellness and healthy school environment.

In September and October, schools can log on to [healthyschoolchampion.civicore.com](http://healthyschoolchampion.civicore.com) to score themselves and be considered for recognition. The top 15 schools will be recognized at the Colorado Connections for Healthy Schools Recognition Summit on Tuesday, Nov. 9 at the Stonebrook Manor in Thornton. Winners will be notified by Friday, Oct. 22. The Colorado Health Foundation sponsors awards, including mini-grants of up to \$5,000. For more information on the mini-grants, log on to [www.cde.state.co.us/cdeprevention/healthyschools.htm](http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeprevention/healthyschools.htm)

“The purpose of the Healthy School Champion Score Card is to create a Web-enabled, voluntary reporting system to support school efforts to improve learning through the lens of health,” said Karen Connell, CDE Health and Wellness supervisor. “We know that many schools are making great strides in health and wellness according to our latest health survey. We want to celebrate their work in creating healthy schools.”

Colorado Connections for Healthy Schools, Colorado’s Coordinated School Health Initiative released a 2009 Youth Risk Behavior Survey

that compared Colorado with the U.S. on areas like unintentional injuries and violence, alcohol and other drugs, sexual behaviors, dietary behaviors and physical activity.

To view the published data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, visit

[www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/yrbs/state\\_district\\_comparisons.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/yrbs/state_district_comparisons.htm)

**For more information, contact** Mark Stevens, 303-866-3898, or Megan McDermott, 303-866-2334, in the CDE Office of Communications. To sign up for the CDE e-mail news service, please visit

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