

SNAP-Ed Toolkit

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School Physical Activity & Nutrition-Environment Tool (SPAN-ET)

Oregon State University Extension

Overview

The School Physical Activity and Nutrition Environment Tool (SPAN-ET) is a PSE Change tool used by school sector stakeholders to assess elementary school resources and readiness to improve nutrition and physical activity (PA) environments, suggest appropriate improvement strategies, score and measure outcomes resulting from environmentally-based treatments. The assessment tool includes 27 Area of Interest items in two main component categories, PA and nutrition, and considers the policy, situational, and physical environment within each component. **Target Behavior:** Healthy Eating, Physical Activity **Intervention Type:** PSE Change

Intervention Reach and Adoption

SPAN-ET targets elementary school-aged youth (grades k-5/6) in SNAP-Ed eligible elementary schools (>50% students eligible for free/reduced meals). **Setting:** School **Age:** Elementary School **Race/Ethnicity:** All

Intervention Components

SPAN-ET includes direct observation, interview, document review, and school wellness coalitions. Coalitions include SNAP-Ed staff, utilize the SPAN-ET Results and Resource Guide that provides assessment details to individual schools as to which criteria were met relative to their SPAN-ET scores, and links appropriate research-based, practice-based or emerging PSE strategies with each criterion to tailor school-based PSE implementation to unmet criteria. These intervention components contribute to school environmental and policy improvements aimed at supporting students' healthy weight, healthy dietary, and PA behaviors at school.

Intervention Materials

Online materials (SPAN-ET) and web-based training modules are under development (pending funding).

Evidence Summary

The SPAN-ET was evaluated to be a reliable instrument for assessing the quality of elementary school PA and nutrition environments and a sensitive measure for objectively identifying specific attributes of SPAN-ET areas of interest (PSEs) to target for school environmental and policy improvements aimed at supporting students' weight healthy dietary and PA behaviors at school.

- John, DH, Gunter, K, Jackson, J, & Manore, M. Developing the School Physical Activity and Nutrition Environment Tool (SPAN-ET) to Measure Qualities of the Obesogenic Context. J Sch Health. 2016 Jan;86(1):39-47. doi: 10.1111/josh.12348.

Classification: Research-tested

Evaluation Indicators

Based on the SNAP-Ed Evaluation Framework, the following outcome indicators can be used to evaluate intervention progress and success.

	Readiness and Capacity – Short Term (ST)	Changes – Medium Term (MT)	Effectiveness and Maintenance – Long Term (LT)	Population Results (R)
Individual				
Environmental Settings	ST5 , ST7	MT5 , MT6	LT5 , LT6 , LT9 , LT10	
Sectors of Influence				

Evaluation Materials

The SPAN-ET is an evaluation tool that drives PSE interventions; no evaluation materials will be developed for the SPAN-ET. Developers have proposed (pending funding) to validate the SPAN-ET items (Areas of Interest) relative to individual-level outcomes. To date, examination has included only select SPAN-ET-driven PA PSE change relative to changes in students' in-school PA bout behaviors and weekly levels.

Additional Information

Website: The SPAN-ET website (<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/growthkc/tools/span-et>) includes an overview of the SPAN-ET tool. **Contact Person(s):** Deborah H. John (PI/PD GROW Healthy Kids and Communities) College of Public Health and Human Sciences Oregon State University Email: deborah.john@oregonstate.edu Phone: (541) 737-1405