

## **Full call for special Issue: „Leadership in school health promotion“**

Journal: Health Education

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Health promotion is rooted in a broad concept of health including individual, social, environmental and macro-level determinants. Based on this multidimensional understanding, it is not surprising that health promotion in settings rely on holistic intervention strategies. For the school setting, the Health Promoting School (HPS) approach is valued as most promising as it aims at organizational change through strengthening the physical and social environment, including interpersonal relationships, professional capacity, policy structures, and teaching and learning conditions.

Although the importance of leadership is acknowledged for successful implementation of health promoting interventions in schools, it has not received sufficient attention in comparison to other settings (e.g. occupational health promotion) or research on school effectiveness and school quality. The overwhelming research evidence is unambiguous in concluding that exceptional leadership, extensive support for teachers' learning and development, strong links with social resources inside and outside the school community, and a coherent programme of improvement hold the key to creating well-connected school organisations that can improve young children's learning, achievement and health-related quality of life. Previous research in school health promotion findings emphasize financial, social and human resources in school management, (2) the establishment of support structures and (3) the leadership styles and behaviors to support organisational change processes.

However, some focus has been placed on the functional aspects of leadership by neglecting the individual behind the leadership position (e. g. school principals) and their working conditions, health situation and capacities (knowledge and skills). A systemic approach that considers how school leaders establish the connections between pedagogical leadership, curriculum and pedagogical practices and through this, promote the development of teaching and learning is necessary and important. Moreover, based on the complexity of the Health Promoting School (HPS) approach and based on participation and empowerment as main principles of health promotion, leadership in school health promotion goes far beyond the relationship of individual leader and follower. It requires many leaders at different levels to advocate and take over responsibility for health promoting initiatives and approaches in schools. Although these strategies have been generally discussed under the heading of distributed or democratic leadership, there is a lack of theoretical and empirical debate of these forms of leadership in the field of school health promotion.

Against this background, the special issue aims to map the different perspectives on leadership in school health promotion. We welcome contributions that show current research on top-down and bottom-up leadership styles and its determinants and effects on different aspects on school health promotion (e.g. implementation, individual health). Specifically, we call for papers on:

- leadership knowledge, skills and practices
- top-down (e.g. school principals) as well as bottom-up leadership (e.g. teachers, support staff)

- determinants and effects of leadership on different aspects of school health promotion
- individual aspects (e.g. motives, attitudes, health situation) and working conditions of leaders
- theoretical aspects of leadership (e.g. terminology, theory and models) in relation to school health promotion
- methodological aspects (e.g. instruments, tools, checklists)
- empirical experiences related to the changing roles of school leaders

We welcome a broad range of papers, including empirical work using quantitative, qualitative, or mixed-method research methods as well as theoretical work or reviews and meta-analyses or case studies.

Authors are asked to submit their full papers for peer review to Health Education via its online platform by 15 May. Please note, that being invited to submit a paper does not guarantee its publication. If you are in doubt about the fit of your paper idea with the focus of the special issue you are welcome to contact the guest editors.

To submit your paper, please visit: <https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/he>

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