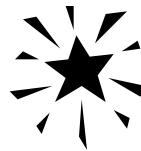


## WORK WITH AND IN THE SCHOOLS

A lot of us get lost at school. Sometimes we just don't fit in. It's hard to find someone to talk to at school.

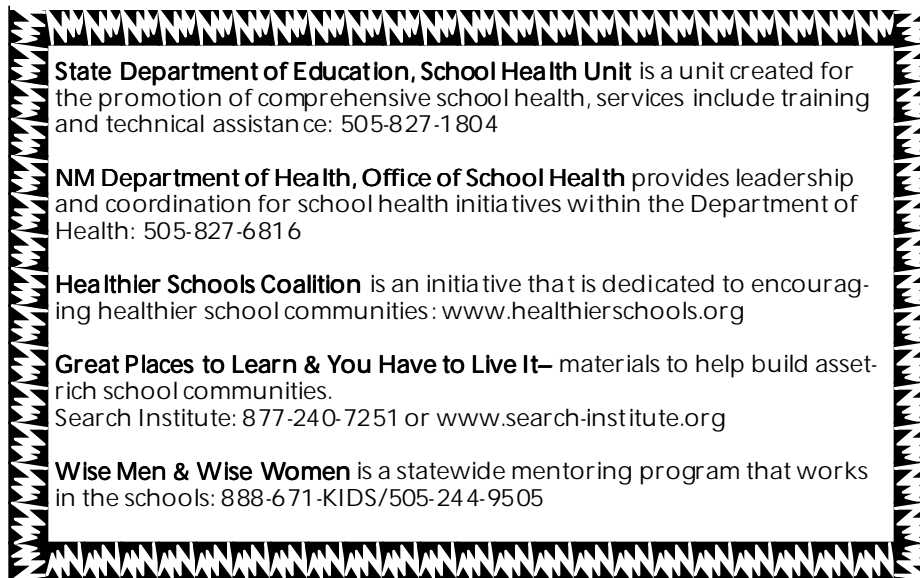
Here are some ideas:

- Involve youth in curriculum development, teacher selection and evaluation, and school related decision-making -- treat youth as customers.
- Work to create better and safer facilities and higher standards.
- Develop more community schools, charter schools, and alternative schools; promote the "school within a school" concept.
- Examine school policies such as suspension and expulsion, standard dress and uniforms, access to transportation.
- Collaborate with community agencies and groups to implement programs known to work for our youth:
  - ✓ Service learning, school to work, and community service
  - ✓ Mentoring
  - ✓ After school and summer opportunities
  - ✓ Conflict resolution and mediation
  - ✓ Counseling and support groups
  - ✓ Teen parenting
  - ✓ Music and art programs, field trips
  - ✓ Health, wellness, and open sports
  - ✓ Media literacy
  - ✓ Empathy training
  - ✓ Life Skills
  - ✓ Character Counts



- Support teachers and schools: support higher teacher salaries, retention programs for good teachers, smaller classes, more materials and supplies, more textbooks, better buildings, more services, equity in school financing, etc.
- Improve teachers skills in communication and anger management.
- Train teachers on how to facilitate the learning of life skills, diversity, social competencies, and how to work with students with special needs.
- Develop more parent involvement in the schools through outreach and other efforts; work directly with the schools to promote parent involvement, both structured and informal.

#### LINKS TO ACTION



**State Department of Education, School Health Unit** is a unit created for the promotion of comprehensive school health, services include training and technical assistance: 505-827-1804

**NM Department of Health, Office of School Health** provides leadership and coordination for school health initiatives within the Department of Health: 505-827-6816

**Healthier Schools Coalition** is an initiative that is dedicated to encouraging healthier school communities: [www.healthierschools.org](http://www.healthierschools.org)

**Great Places to Learn & You Have to Live It**— materials to help build asset-rich school communities.  
Search Institute: 877-240-7251 or [www.search-institute.org](http://www.search-institute.org)

**Wise Men & Wise Women** is a statewide mentoring program that works in the schools: 888-671-KIDS/505-244-9505