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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Lafayette Sunnyside Intermediate School Recognized as America's Healthiest Schools for Dedication to Student, Staff and Family Health

Lafayette Sunnyside Intermediate School across is among the 781 schools nationwide to be named as <u>America's Healthiest Schools</u> for the 2022-23 school year. The recognition, awarded by <u>Alliance for a Healthier Generation</u> (Healthier Generation), a leading children's health organization, honors schools' dedication to supporting the health and well-being of students, staff and families.

This year, Sunnyside was recognized in three categories, including:

- Increasing Family and Community Engagement
- Enriching Health Education
- Bolstering Physical Education and Activity

Sunnyside prioritized healthy policies and practices amid numerous challenges facing schools today: learning loss and declining youth mental health due to traumatic events, such as school shootings, vaping and nicotine addiction; curriculum changes; and school meal insecurity. They have continued to sustain and promote good health by:

- Recognizing school teams that gather input from the school community, engage parents and caregivers in meaningful ways to support student successes, and connect families to resources related to social drivers of health.
- Recognizing school teams that provide health education to all students, using an evidence-based curriculum and prioritize opportunities for students to practice skills to maintain and improve their health.
- Recognizing school teams that provide physical education using an evidence-based curriculum and integrating physical activity opportunities throughout the school day with all students, including students with special health needs.

"We're honored to receive this national recognition for our dedication to supporting the well-being of students and staff," said Sunnyside Principal Matt Brown. "We remain steadfast in our commitment to fostering environments where all members of the school community can learn and thrive."

America's Healthiest Schools remains one of the country's longest-running, nationwide recognition programs honoring schools for achievements in supporting whole child health equity for students, teachers and staff. Any school can connect with Healthier Generation to access trainings, resources and technical assistance by visiting <u>HealthierGeneration.org</u>. Visit <u>HealthierGeneration.org/HealthiestSchools</u> to view all 781 America's Healthiest Schools for the 2022-23 school year.

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