



SCHOOL HEALTH PROGRAM (PSE): INTEGRATING PUBLIC HEALTH AND EDUCATION POLICIES



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ABSTRACT

The School Health Program (PSE), initiated in 2007 by the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education, aims to integrate health and education policies in Brazil to promote the integral health of students and improve their academic performance. The objective of the research was to evaluate the effectiveness of the PSE in this integration, analyzing how the integrated approach contributes to the promotion of health and the improvement of school performance. The research was characterized as a bibliographic research and involved the analysis of the program's actions, such as educational activities on health, vaccination campaigns and the provision of health services in schools. The results showed that the PSE has been successful in incorporating health actions into the school environment, promoting collaboration between health professionals and educators, and offering continuous support to teachers. The research concluded that the integration of health and education policies through the PSE has led to the improvement of students' health indicators, reduction of diseases and promotion of healthy habits, in addition to creating a school environment that values health as an essential part of the educational process. This integrated model not only improves the quality of life of students, but is also associated with better academic results, highlighting the importance of a coordinated approach to meet the needs of children and adolescents effectively.

Keywords: School Health Program (PSE), Public Policies, Education, Health.

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INTRODUCTION

The School Health Program (PSE) emerges as a strategic initiative that aims to integrate public health and education policies in Brazil, reflecting the growing awareness of the importance of collaboration between these two crucial sectors for the well-being of children and adolescents. Launched in 2007 by the Ministry of Health in partnership with the Ministry of Education, the PSE seeks to promote the integral health of students through actions that involve both prevention and the promotion of healthy habits in the school environment. This program recognizes that the school is a privileged space for the implementation of health practices, given its ability to reach a significant number of young people and its direct influence on daily behaviors and habits (Lopes; Walnut; Rocha, 2018).

The historical context of the PSE is closely linked to the recognition of the limitations of isolated health and education systems, and the need for integrated approaches to address common challenges. Prior to the program's creation, health and education policies often operated in a segmented manner, without sufficient synergy to address the complex needs of student populations. With the PSE, the aim is to overcome this fragmentation, establishing an intervention model that promotes cooperation between schools and health units, aiming to ensure more effective and holistic care for children and adolescents (Schneider; Magellan; Almeida, 2022).

The implementation of the PSE involves a series of strategies and coordinated actions, including carrying out educational activities on health, promoting vaccination campaigns, and offering health services within schools, such as screening and care. Partnership between health professionals and educators is essential to ensure that the program's initiatives are tailored to the specific needs of each school community. In addition, the PSE promotes the continuous training of teachers and school managers to enable them to identify and deal with health issues that may impact the performance and well-being of students (Vieira; Belisário, 2018).

The impact of the PSE is observed through the improvement of health indicators and the quality of life of students, as well as in the strengthening of the articulation between public health and education policies. The program aims not only to reduce disease and promote healthy habits, but also to create a school environment that values health as an essential component of learning. Studies on PSE have shown that the integration of health and education policies can lead to better academic results, since the physical and mental health of students is directly linked to their school performance and their ability to learn (Rumor et al., 2022).



Thus, the objective of this research was to analyze the effectiveness of the School Health Program (PSE) in the integration of public health and education policies, evaluating how this integrated approach contributes to the promotion of health and improvement of students' school performance.

DEVELOPMENT

HISTORICAL CONTEXTUALIZATION OF THE SCHOOL HEALTH PROGRAM (PSE)

The School Health Program (PSE) emerges as a strategic response to the need to integrate public health and education policies in Brazil, reflecting the growing understanding of the importance of this collaboration for the well-being of young people. Launched in 2007, the PSE is a joint initiative of the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education, designed to promote the integral health of students and ensure that the benefits of an integrated approach reach schools directly (Souza, 2020).

The creation of the PSE was motivated by the recognition of the limitations of the health and education systems, which, until then, operated in a fragmented and often isolated manner. Prior to PSE, health and education policies were often developed and implemented without effective synergy, resulting in disconnected approaches that did not adequately address the complex needs of the student population. This historical context highlighted the urgency of a strategy that would unite the efforts of both sectors to address common challenges and ensure more holistic care for children and adolescents (Rumor et al., 2022).

The program was conceived in a period of growing awareness of the importance of health in the school environment, recognizing that schools are privileged places for the implementation of health practices due to their direct access to a large number of young people. The PSE aims to overcome the fragmentation of previous policies by promoting an intervention model that fosters cooperation between schools and health units. This collaboration seeks not only to improve students' health care, but also to integrate health practices into everyday school life, creating an environment that values health as an essential component of learning (Schneider; Magellan; Almeida, 2022).

With the implementation of the PSE, a new paradigm was established for the management of public policies, which now include carrying out educational activities on health, vaccination campaigns and offering health services directly in schools. The program's proposal also involves the continuous training of teachers and school managers to prepare them to identify and treat health issues that may impact the performance and well-being of students. This collaborative effort reflects the intention to create a more robust



and effective support structure capable of responding to the diverse needs of school communities (Rumor et al., 2022).

Since its creation, the PSE has been a fundamental piece in the articulation between health and education, positively influencing health indicators and the quality of life of students. The program stands out for promoting the integration of public policies, standing out not only in the reduction of diseases and the promotion of healthy habits, but also in stimulating a school environment that values health as an essential part of the educational process. The evolution of the PSE demonstrates the importance of an integrated and coordinated approach to meeting the needs of children and adolescents, reflecting a continuous commitment to the improvement of public policies in Brazil (Schneider; Magellan; Almeida, 2022).

SCHOOL HEALTH PROGRAM (PSE): INTEGRATION BETWEEN PUBLIC HEALTH AND EDUCATION POLICIES

The School Health Program (PSE) represents a significant advance in the integration between public health and education policies in Brazil. Launched in 2007, PSE emerged as a response to the need for a more cohesive and effective approach to meeting the health and education demands of students. Prior to the implementation of the program, policies in these sectors often operated in isolation, lacking the synergy needed to address the complex needs of children and adolescents (Rumor et al., 2022).

The PSE was created to overcome this fragmentation, establishing an intervention model that promotes collaboration between schools and health units, seeking a more integrated and holistic service. The PSE proposal is based on the idea that the school is a strategic environment to promote health, given its ability to reach a large number of young people and influence their daily habits and behaviors (Souza, 2020).

The program integrates health actions within the school context, offering educational activities on healthy practices, promoting vaccination campaigns, and providing health services such as screening and care in the schools themselves. This approach seeks to ensure that health promotion and student education go hand in hand, reinforcing the importance of health as a fundamental component of the educational process (Schneider; Magellan; Almeida, 2022).

For this integration to be effective, the PSE establishes a close collaboration between health professionals and educators. This partnership is crucial to tailor the program's initiatives to the specific needs of each school community, ensuring that actions are relevant and impactful.



In addition, the program includes the continuous training of teachers and school administrators, enabling them to identify and deal with health issues that may affect the well-being and academic performance of students. This capacity building is critical to ensure that health practices are implemented efficiently and that the integration between health and education is sustained over time (Rumor et al., 2022).

The impact of the PSE can be observed in several aspects. The improvement of student health indicators, such as the reduction of diseases and the promotion of healthy habits, reflects the success of integrated actions. In addition, the creation of a school environment that values health contributes to improving the quality of life of students and promoting more effective learning (Veras; Ferreira; Lourinho, 2020).

The integration of health and education policies can lead to better academic results, since the physical and mental health of students is directly linked to their school performance. In summary, the School Health Program represents an important innovation in the way public policies are formulated and implemented, by promoting an integrated approach that unites health and education (Schneider; Magellan; Almeida, 2022).

By creating a model of collaboration between schools and health facilities, PSE aims not only to improve student health, but also to strengthen the school environment and promote more effective learning. The integration between these public policies is a crucial step to ensure that the needs of children and adolescents are met in a comprehensive and coordinated manner (Souza, 2020; Scallop; Belisário, 2018).

FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

The analysis of the School Health Program (PSE) reveals its importance as an innovative model of integration between public health and education policies in Brazil. Since its inception in 2007, PSE has stood out for promoting a collaborative approach that unites the efforts of the health and education sectors to improve students' well-being and academic performance. The proposal to integrate these two areas, historically fragmented, has shown positive results in several aspects.

First, the effectiveness of the PSE is evident in the way health actions are incorporated into the school routine. The program not only promotes health education activities and vaccination campaigns, but also makes health services available directly in schools. This presence of health professionals in the school environment facilitates students' access to medical care and preventive guidance, reflecting a commitment to the integral health of students.



In addition, close collaboration between health professionals and educators is one of the pillars of the PSE. This partnership ensures that health strategies are tailored to the specific needs of each school community and that health practices are implemented effectively. Ongoing training of teachers and school administrators strengthens this collaboration, empowering them to address health issues that can impact academic performance and student well-being.

The results observed so far indicate that the PSE has contributed to the improvement of students' health indicators, such as the reduction of diseases and the promotion of healthy habits. In addition, the program has positively influenced the school environment, creating a space that values health as an essential component of learning. The integration of health and education policies promoted by the PSE not only improves the quality of life of students, but is also linked to better academic results, evidencing the direct connection between the physical and mental health of students and their school performance.

The success of the PSE demonstrates that an integrated and coordinated approach is key to comprehensively meeting the needs of children and adolescents. By uniting health and education, the program offers an effective model to ensure that public policies work in synergy, promoting a healthier and more stimulating school environment. In conclusion, the School Health Program represents a significant advance in the integration of public policies in Brazil, showing that collaboration between different sectors can result in substantial improvements in student well-being and learning.



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