



# WSCC Practice Blueprint Session 5

**Purpose:** To identify WSCC domains that are areas of strength, weakness, opportunity, and tension in your setting's practices

## Review

- Step 2: Evaluating Directions
- Big Picture WSCC SWOT Analysis activity, case study, & reflection questions

## Do Together

- Activity 5 – Big Picture WSCC SWOT Analysis

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## STEP 2: Evaluating Directions



### Evaluating Directions

Examining opportunities to strengthen whole child initiatives by implementing, refining, or de-implementing

Goal: to prioritize areas of focus and identify potential directions

We refer to the second step in WSCC Practice Blueprinting as **evaluating directions**, as you will complete activities that allow you to evaluate opportunities, or directions, for strengthening whole child practices in your setting. After completing these activities, you should have clear priority areas of focus and ideas about future directions to address in the final step.



#### Activity 5 – Big Picture WSCC SWOT Analysis

Anticipated time needed to complete this activity: 20 minutes

If you have experience in the corporate world, you may have conducted SWOT analyses. A SWOT analysis allows us to identify **strengths**, **weaknesses**, **opportunities**, and **tensions**. In WSCC practice blueprinting, SWOT analysis is used to identify priority areas of focus. This allows to improve and refine practices related to the whole child.

There is not one right way to complete your Big Picture WSCC SWOT Analysis. Instead, [Activity 5 – Big Picture WSCC SWOT Analysis](#) is meant to be a tool for processing Activity 4 – Exploring WSCC Practices in Context. The example below shows how a school team completed their Big Picture WSCC SWOT Analysis.

## SWOT Analysis: Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Tensions

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Nutrition Environment                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Farm-to-School programs enable the use of fresh produce</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Safe Environment                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Hillside's moisture, air, water quality, thermostats, smoke alarms, and humidity levels are assessed annually</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Behavioral Supports                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The Student Support Team (SST) consistently relies on data-based decision-making practices to effectively support students</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Employee Wellness                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ No current plans currently exist related to the practice of staff wellness</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Opportunities	Tensions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Employee Wellness                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The WSCC Leadership Team sees the lack of initiatives geared towards staff well-being as an opportunity to build a more supportive framework that uses staff input and perspectives.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Potential challenges to updating and integrating practices include time constraints, staff buy-in, and funding.</li> </ul>

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Big Picture SWOT Analysis | [csch.uconn.edu](https://csch.uconn.edu)

### School Team Case Study:

#### Hillside's Big Picture WSCC SWOT Analysis

The next Whole Child Team meeting begins with the team working together to complete a Big Picture WSCC SWOT Analysis.

Drawing on their Resource Inventory and Exploring WSCC in Context activities, the team identifies the domains of Nutrition Environment, Safe Environment, and Behavioral Supports as strengths of Hillside's current practices. Hillside has a strong agricultural focus and Farm-to-School program that has allowed for students to plant, cultivate, and eat local products. Students frequently have access to fresh air and opportunities to improve their environment by maintaining the school garden or picking up trash in and around the building. The building's moisture, air, water quality, temperature, and humidity levels are assessed each year. Teachers use positive behavioral support practices appropriately according to fidelity data, and office referrals have decreased substantially since Hillside made a concerted effort to increase the use of positive behavioral support practices several years ago.

Although there are opportunities for improvement across all domains, the Whole Child Team continues to feel that Hillside's main area of weakness and opportunity is within the Employee Wellness domain. The school does not have many current initiatives aimed at Employee Wellness, and team members feel that morale is low. In addition, Mrs. Wu points out that previous Employee Wellness initiatives may not have been accessible to all staff. For example, certified staff have benefited while paraprofessionals and lunch staff have not due to contract restrictions. However, the team isn't entirely sure how to best improve Hillside's Employee Wellness initiatives.

## District Team Case Study:

### Elmwood's Big Picture SWOT Analysis

At their next monthly meeting, Elmwood's executive council takes a moment to celebrate all that they accomplished in their previous quarterly meeting. The full team was highly engaged in rating the district's current practices across the WSCC model and offered insightful reflections on areas of strength and potential areas for improvement.

The executive council uses their Resource Inventory and Exploring WSCC in Context to complete a Big Picture SWOT Analysis. They list Social and Emotional Climate, Behavioral Supports, Health Services, and Nutrition Environment and Services as strengths in Elmwood's current district practices. They note weaknesses and opportunities for improvement in Physical Education and Physical Activity, Family Engagement, and Community Involvement. Specifically, they do not have any district-wide physical activity events for students and families to participate in, do not have sufficient after-school activities to meet childcare needs in the community, and do not evaluate their existing family engagement efforts. Through discussion, the team feels that physical activity might be their biggest area in need of attention. This has been identified as a priority for the district in their 5-year strategic plan and could be integrated with opportunities for greater family engagement and community involvement. The executive council decides to share their SWOT analysis and a brief summary of their discussion with the rest of the district wellness team via email, and to ask for their brief feedback on this potential area of focus.

**After** completing your Big Picture WSCC SWOT analysis, we recommend **identifying WSCC domains for follow up** (e.g., those identified as weaknesses or opportunities).

Then, we recommend choosing one domain of focus for the remainder of your blueprinting work. We hope that you will **complete the blueprinting activities multiple times**; for this first pass, **we suggest choosing one WSCC domain** as a manageable starting place. Then, you can return to blueprint for additional domains that are areas of weakness and opportunity.

To streamline your work and optimize the potential for successful implementation, you might consider choosing a domain that is aligned with current school, district, or state areas of focus. In our work with schools, we have found alignment with school and district priorities to be a key facilitator of successful and sustainable implementation. If you have not already done so, review your school or district's strategic plan (sometimes called strategic priorities or school or district improvement plan) to see how it relates to WSCC and areas identified in your Big Picture SWOT Analysis.

## TIP



If you have not already done so, we encourage you to read the [What Do We Mean by Whole School?](#) to learn why alignment with school and district priorities can be so valuable for effective implementation and sustainment of WSCC initiatives.

## REFLECT



1. What WSCC domains did you identify as areas that you would like to follow up on?
2. Which WSCC domain will you focus on for the remainder of this pass at blueprinting? How and why did you choose this domain?



## Activity 6 – WellSAT WSCC in Practice and Identifying Potential Directions

Anticipated time needed to complete this activity: 20-30 minutes

Now that you have identified your priority WSCC domain of focus, you are ready to take a deeper dive into assessing your practices in this domain and considering next steps to strengthen those practices in [Activity 6 – WellSAT WSCC in Practice and Identifying Potential Directions](#). In this activity, you will complete a more thorough assessment of