



The School-Based Health Center Model of Care

The vision of the Oregon School-Based Health Care Network is that school-based health care will be available, accessible and stable in order to promote the health, well-being and success of all of Oregon's children.

The School-Based Health Center model of care is child-centered and prevention-oriented primary and mental health care, delivered in an easily accessible and supportive environment located on school grounds. School-based health care is coordinated, based on best practices, integrated within the school and promotes the health and educational success of school-aged children and adolescents. Local communities including youth and parents are involved in shaping the content, quality, delivery and financing of these centers.

School-based health centers (SBHC) ensure easier access to comprehensive health care for all students. When possible SBHCs bill for services while assuring that students receive care regardless of insurance status or their ability to pay. Services in the SBHC are not limited to reimbursable services: preventive health, care coordination, and health education services are integral components of this model.

Certification and Staffing

In 2000, Oregon implemented a voluntary certification process to ensure standardization of high quality SBHC programs throughout the state. The Standards for Certification allow for differences in local needs and resources while assuring provision of exceptional health and preventive care for Oregon's kids. Certification standards address facilities, operations and staffing, laboratory services, clinical services, data collection and reporting, quality assurance activities, and administrative procedures for certification.

In Oregon, certified SBHCs are required to provide a minimum of 20 hours of professional licensed staff service per week. Actual staffing patterns vary greatly statewide depending on local need and resources. Staffing requirements includes a support staff and a primary care provider. Additional staffing may include a registered nurse, licensed practical nurse, or qualified mental health provider. Centers must have in place systems for patients to seek care outside of the center's normal operating hours as well as referral systems for services not provided on site.

Certification standards can be found at www.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/ah/sbhc/certreqs.shtml.

Services

School-based health center services are culturally sensitive, age appropriate and address the most important health needs of children and youth, including:

- primary care for acute and chronic health conditions
- diagnosis and treatment of minor illness, infection and injury
- mental health and substance abuse services, grief counseling and family support
- routine exams, sports physicals
- immunizations, communicable disease prevention and control
- routine lab tests to monitor health conditions
- case management and care coordination
- vision and dental health screening and referrals
- age-appropriate reproductive health care and community sanctioned services
- risk assessment, wellness and lifestyle education and support
- tobacco cessation and prevention information
- fitness and nutrition education and counseling

Funding

A local hospital or health provider, a health department, community health center, or even a school system can operate a SBHC in Oregon. Funding sources that help pay for this care vary among communities and may include federal public health and primary care grants, state legislated grant allocations for certified sites, foundation grants, county general funds, local fundraising, donations, fees and reimbursement from public and private health insurance.

Proven Results for Kids

The centers are uniquely available to meet the demands of students, decreasing class time missed due to health issues and reducing health disparities for students. The centers are a smart investment. Studies show that school-based health care¹:

- improves children's health status
- reduces Medicaid costs²
- saves money on unnecessary ER visits
- encourages the use of more appropriate health care services
- helps minority children get more care
- increases mental health and dental care for children
- provides care for children who have no health insurance
- supports working parents
- keeps children in school and ready to learn, promoting school success

¹ Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati (2005): A Prescription for Success: How SBHCs Affect Health Status and Healthcare Use and Cost

² Adams, Kathleen, Johnson, Veda, "An Elementary School-Based Health Clinic: Can it Reduce Medicaid Costs? *Pediatrics* 2000; 105; 780-788,

For more information on school-based health centers in Oregon, please visit our web site: www.osbhc.org, or contact us at: 503-595-8423.