



NETWORK *Notification*

Notice Date: April 1, 2022
To: Ohio Medicaid Providers
From: CareSource
Subject: Benefits of School-Based Health Centers for Ohio Students

Summary

School-based health centers (SBHCs) have been improving the health and education outcomes of children and adolescents for 30 years in Ohio. Ohio currently has 85 SBHC programs in both rural and urban regions of the state and is continuously growing in number and expanding health care services to students. SBHC models include traditional school health clinics and at least a dozen mobile health unit programs across the state.

Impact

The Ohio Department of Education and the Ohio Department of Health are committed to making all Ohio children healthy and improve educational outcomes for all students. Health plays a major role in the ability of students to learn and be successful in school and later in life. SBHCs improve access to health care by removing barriers to health care services in low-income communities by providing health care services where students spend the majority of time – school.

SBHCs improve students' overall health, improve attendance rates, decrease graduation dropout rates, and enable students to have increased academic success and help close the academic achievement gap for Ohio students. SBHCs play a major role in students' access to health care and address social determinants of health providing increased health equity in low-income school districts.

Importance

The SBHC model is a partnership between a school district and a health provider including Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), hospitals and local health departments that contract to provide health care services to the district's students, staff and families in some cases. SBHCs offer the following health care services: primary, preventive and acute care visits, health, and Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) screenings, behavioral health including therapy and psychiatric visits, comprehensive dental care and eye exams including providing prescription eyeglasses to students. The pandemic provided an expansion of provider services including telehealth services for both medical and behavioral health visits to students and their families in some cases.

CareSource has a School-Based Health Administrator available to providers to answer questions, provide information and to be the liaison between providers and SBHCs that serve Ohio's children.

State and National School-Based Health Alliance organizations:

The Ohio School Based Health Alliance is a statewide professional organization that provides advocacy and quarterly meetings to support high quality and sustainable school-based health models of care in school settings.

Link to site: <https://www.osbha.com>

The School-Based Health Alliance (SBHA) founded in 1995 is a national nonprofit organization that provides support and resources to more than 2,500 SBHC programs across the country.

Link to site: <https://www.sbh4all.org>

For questions, please contact Kim Radominski at Kimberly.Radominski@CareSource.com.

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