

SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH CENTERS

Busting Common Myths



MYTH: A SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH CENTER IS LIKE A NURSE'S OFFICE

Think of a SBHC like a doctor's office. A nurse-practitioner usually runs the clinic and is the person who will diagnose and treat the patients. However-- it is still important to have a school nurse! A strong partnership between a SBHC and school nurse helps to ensure healthy students.

MYTH: SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH CENTERS ARE ONLY FOR PEOPLE ON MEDICAID

SBHCs take all forms of insurance including private insurance and Medicaid, as well as people without insurance. They are valuable because they provide high-quality, affordable care to those who don't usually have access, and can be more convenient than other forms of care where a parent needs to take off work.



MYTH: WHEN CHILDREN LEAVE CLASS TO VISIT THE SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH CENTER, IT IS A DISRUPTION TO THE NORMAL SCHOOL DAY.

Students can get the medical attention they need in order to be more fully engaged in the classroom. Over 90% of students who use SBHCs return to class after their appointment and direct communication with teachers allows for an appointment time that is best for everyone.



MYTH: SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH CENTERS DON'T PROVIDE SPECIALTY SERVICES SUCH AS MENTAL HEALTH.

All of our SBHCs either have a mental health partner or someone who works in the SBHC with children on their mental health and behavioral health concerns. Additionally, some of our centers provide vision and dental services in the same location and those that don't, bus students to dental and vision centers on a regular basis.



MYTH: ONLY CHILDREN WHO ATTEND THAT SPECIFIC SCHOOL ARE ALLOWED AT THE SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH CENTER.

Most SBHCs see children from other schools in the area as well by providing bus services for groups of students during the school day. Many allow family members to be patients and some SBHCs are even open to the community.

