

What is a School-based Health Center (SBHC)?

A School-based Health Center (SBHC) is a health clinic that:

- is located in or near a school or school facility.
- is organized or promoted through school, community, or health care provider relationships.
- provides primary health services to children by health care providers in accordance with state and federal law.
- meets any other requirements necessary for the operation of a School-based Health Center.

How is a SBHC different from a school nurse?

School nursing services are typically limited to first-aid treatment of minor accidents and illnesses that occur at school, administration of medications when requested by parents, and basic health education.

SBHCs offer a broad range of services intended to replace a child's family doctor. Examples of SBHC services are:

- **Routine pediatric care, including immunizations, sick visits, & well-child visits.**
- **Health screening, eg. Early Periodic Screening & Diagnostic Testing (EPSDT).**
- **Mental and behavioral health services, including assessment, counseling, & prescription medication.**
- **Reproductive counseling & birth control prescription and management.**
- **Pregnancy related care.**
- **Sexually transmitted disease care, including HIV/AIDS screening & management.**
- **Substance abuse interventions** (drugs and alcohol).
- **Social Emotional Learning (SEL) support.**
- **Dental services** (exam, x-ray, cleaning, and sealant when indicated).
- **Vision care** (exam and corrective products when indicated).

Where did SBHCs come from?

In 1985, there were 31 SBHCs in the nation. In the 1990's, this ballooned to over 1,000. By 2020, the count was around 2,500. Today there are over 3,000 SBHCs and hundreds of millions of dollars in grant money from the federal government earmarked to rapidly expand these "medical homes" in our nation's schools. The Biden-Harris administration has prioritized SBHCs as a key opportunity to access children during the school day, and priority funding and partnerships have launched SBHCs to new levels.

How can I tell if my school has a SBHC?

- 1) Check your child's back-to-school paperwork carefully, looking for any form asking you to give consent for your child to be treated medically at school.
- 2) Ask your school nurse or an administrator if your child's school operates a School-based Health Center or if there are any licensed professionals treating children at school aside from the school nurse.
- 3) Send us an email so we can help connect you with health freedom leaders in your state. advocates@standforhealthfreedom.com



For more on School-based Health Centers (SBHCs) scan the QR code here for our SBHC resource page.

There you will find action steps, downloadable pdfs, articles, reference links, and more.

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