

# Impact of Cutting School-Based Health Center Funding

All children and youth deserve optimal health and academic success

**SBHCs provide critical health services to students who may otherwise have little or no access to care.** Cuts to SBHC funding will hurt our most vulnerable students most and decrease their classroom and learning time.

**SBHCs contribute to the goals of health care reform by helping CCOs meet their metrics.** In a CCO analysis spanning two counties, SBHC patients received adolescent well child visits at higher rates than their cohort, well above the 50% benchmark.

**Mental health services are provided in 97% of SBHCs and make up 29% of visits.** Approximately one out of five adolescents has a diagnosable mental health disorder, and nearly one third show symptoms of depression. Without SBHCs, many would not get needed treatment.

**SBHCs address health equity,** serving a higher percentage of students of color than are represented in Oregon as a whole.

## IMPACT OF A 25% REDUCTION

Potential closure of 20 SBHC sites

13,700 students would not receive preventive or mental health services and would have to seek these services elsewhere

SBHCs leverage about \$4 for every state dollar received, so reducing SBHC funding reduces state resources overall

Schools will need to choose between removing critical student health supports and using limited education dollars to provide them

## What is a School-Based Health Center (SBHC)?

SBHCs are a patient-centered, evidence-based health care model where children and adolescents receive comprehensive physical, mental, and preventive health services regardless of the ability to pay. SBHCs are located on school grounds and operate during school hours.

## Where are SBHCs located?

In Oregon there are 77 SBHCs in 25 counties with urban, suburban, and rural sites. These SBHCs are located in:

- 46 high schools
- 6 middle schools
- 11 elementary schools
- 14 combined-grade campuses

## How are SBHCs operated?

SBHCs are the result of a community partnership that includes the school, local public health authority, and a medical sponsor (which may be the LPHA or a community provider).

- Federally qualified health centers (FQHCs) sponsor 71% of SBHCs.
- Local public health authorities sponsor 43% of the SBHCs (29% have FQHC status).
- 96% currently use electronic health records.
- 55% of SBHCs are state recognized as patient centered primary care homes.

## Who is served by SBHCs?

SBHCs serve all students in a school, and often students district-wide, regardless of ability to pay. In some cases they serve community members as well. SBHCs are typically located in high need schools as measured by free and reduced lunch percentages.