

# Oregon School-Based Health Alliance



OREGON  
SCHOOL-BASED  
HEALTH ALLIANCE

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **Who Operates School-Based Health Centers?**

- Since 1986, school-based health centers (SBHCs) have existed in Oregon through public-private partnerships between the State Program Office, county, medical sponsor, and school.
- The OHA State Program Office is in charge of certification, funding, and data collection. The Local Public Health Authority (LPHA) manages quality assurance, reporting, and identifying medical sponsors. Once found, the medical sponsor is responsible for medical oversight, staffing, liability, and logistical support, and may or may not take over the responsibilities of the LPHA.
- The school provides space, access to school community and sometimes logistical support.

### **Where Does the Funding Come From?**

- The Oregon Health Authority, Public Health Division currently provides \$60,000 per certified SBHC.
- SBHCs bill insurance if it is known. About 61% of clients have Medicaid, 21% private Insurance, and 16% none/unknown. The additional 2% use other public funds.
- The medical sponsor contributes additional funds from grants and fundraising.

### **What is the Difference between a SBHC and a Nurse's Office?**

- SBHC's and school nurses work together to keep students safe in schools. One cannot replace the other!
- School nurses support students with special health care needs; train school staff on individual student care and school-wide health protocols; and work with school teams to promote wellness for school communities. They are contracted or employed by the school district.
- SBHCs provide preventive and primary care, behavioral health services, and other services like dental care depending on the community. They can diagnose and treat acute and chronic illness, prescribe medications and administer immunizations! They are run by a healthcare provider.

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### How do SBHCs Benefit Education?

- SBHCs are valuable partners available right in the school, so kids miss less school for illness and appointments and parents miss less work.
- SBHCs address bullying, violence, anger, depression, and other social and emotional issues that impede academic achievement, in addition to improving academic performance indirectly by increasing school connectedness.
- Utilization of SBHCs is associated with improvement on a number of outcomes, such as improved GPAs, attendance, grade promotion, college preparation, and reduced rates of suspensions. (National Institute of Health)

### Is there Parent Involvement in School-Based Health?

- Parents play a crucial role in supporting their child's healthcare. SBHCs support parent involvement in their child's healthcare through opportunities for open communication with healthcare providers, providing educational resources, and coordinating care to address both physical and mental health.
- SBHCs recognize Oregon law and minor consent rights, allowing for children 15 and older to consent to general healthcare and seek treatment independently.
- Studies from the National Library of Medicine have consistently shown that when parents are actively involved in their child's healthcare decisions and care, it leads to improved health outcomes, increased patient satisfaction, and lowered anxiety!

### Where Can I get More Information?

- [Oregon SBHC Certification Standards](#)
- [2024 SBHC Status Update \(SBHC Data\)](#)
- [SBHC Map](#)
- [SBHC Medical Sponsor List by County](#)

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