

School-Based, School-Linked Healthcare Services

What are School-Based, School-Linked Healthcare Services?

“School-based health center” (SBHC) is defined as a health center located in a school building or on school grounds that provides on-site comprehensive preventive and/or primary health services that may include behavioral health, oral health, ancillary, and enabling services.

“School-linked healthcare services” refers to a collaboration wherein a school system establishes partnerships with providers from various health care/social service organizations within the community to deliver a continuum of health care services and support that are not available on school grounds to students.



Services provided at school-based health centers and/or through school-linked healthcare partnerships are based on the student and community needs, as well as, the philosophy of the school administration. These services may include a wide variety of preventive services such as:

- General health assessments
- Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) services
- Laboratory and Diagnostic services
- Immunizations
- First Aid
- Prenatal and postpartum care
- Dental services
- Behavioral services
- Drug/Alcohol Abuse counseling
- Chronic disease management
- Prescription Drug distribution and management
- Patient education and other services based on student need

The Indiana School Health Network is a statewide initiative of Covering Kids & Families of Indiana. For more information and to become a member of the Network, visit the website: <http://www.inschoolhealth.org>

How do these services impact Academic Achievement?

The academic success of America’s youth is strongly linked with their health. Leading national education organizations recognize the close relationship between health and education, as well as the need to embed health into the educational environment for all students. Health-related factors such as hunger, physical and emotional abuse, and chronic illness can lead to poor school performance. School-based, school-linked healthcare goes beyond the classroom and school day. The school and community are brought together to create a healthier environment with benefits beyond individual healthcare services. Students who are healthy experience better attendance rates and improved academic achievement.

What’s happening in Indiana Schools?

Currently, there are over 90 school-based healthcare centers in Indiana. More than 80 centers exist in Marion County through the support of Learning Well, Inc., a non-profit organization whose mission is to improve the health, well-being and school performance of students through improved access to integrated preventative and primary health care services provided by collaborative partnerships. In addition, school-based health centers exist in Northwest Indiana and others are located in the Southwest region of the state. These services have proven to be extremely valuable to promoting optimal student health and academic achievement. The movement is on to expand these services.

*School Year 2009-2010 brought the addition of new school-based clinics in Indiana. Warren Township’s Renaissance School announced the opening of the **Jane Pauley Community Health Center**, in Indianapolis. In Gary, the Lake Ridge Schools have opened two school-based health centers in **Calumet High School** and **Grissom Elementary School**. These centers would not have been possible without the support of the school administration and key community partners.*

The Indiana School Health Network believes that every student in Indiana can be healthy and academically successful, achieve his/her potential, and have enhanced life-long well-being.