

School Health Services in Oregon

Student Success Relies on Access to Youth-Centered School Health Services

The Adolescent & School Health Program supports two distinct and integral programs to support the health of youth in Oregon: school nursing and School-Based Health Centers

School Nursing

School nursing services are led by registered nurses employed by schools, School Districts, or Education Services Districts. Most school nurses provide daily care and emergency response for individual students, coordinate school response to communicable diseases outbreaks, and support prevention-oriented school health programs. Oregon public schools are required to staff nursing services such that all students can access "[free appropriate public education](#)" (FAPE).

School-Based Health Centers

School-Based Health Centers (SBHCs) are medical clinics within a school or on school grounds that offer a full range of physical, behavioral, and preventive health services by licensed health care providers. Services are provided in a convenient and accessible environment at school, regardless of a student's ability to pay. All Oregon certified SBHCs are required to meet the requirements outlined in the [SBHC Standards for Certification](#).

What happens when students' health care needs are met in school?

- Students can access youth-centered health care and learn how to advocate for their health needs in safe and supportive environments.
- Students' health, overall well-being, and academic success improves.¹
- Students get more time in the classroom; absenteeism decreases, and graduation rates increase.²
- Students gain knowledge and skills to manage health conditions including health promotion, disease prevention, and illness management.
- When students' health needs are met, educators can focus on teaching and parents/caregivers can remain at work.³

Youth-Centered Health Care: Collaboration is Key

- Young people are best supported when many adults listen to their needs and care for their well-being. School nurses and SBHCs can coordinate care between the different services each provides. Care coordination helps ensure the student is healthy, safe, and ready to learn and provides a continuity of care during the school day and outside the school setting.
- Young people require multiple access points to health care to meet their unique and distinct needs. Whether students are medically fragile or seeking a culturally-specific provider, opportunities to make choices about their own healthcare can improve self-management of health conditions and ensure their needs are met.
- Young people need systems that support their whole selves beyond health care appointments. School nurses and SBHCs provide leadership to improve health and education services at the systems level, addressing social determinants of health; supporting policy development and implementation; working on staffing, funding, and reimbursement issues; and more.

¹ Knopf JA, Finnie RK, Peng Y, et al. School-Based Health Centers to Advance Health Equity: A Community Guide Systematic Review. *American Journal of Preventative Medicine*. 2016;51(1):114-126.

² Soleimanpour S, Geierstanger S. Documenting the Link between School-Based Health Centers & Academic Success: A Guide for the Field. May 2014.

³ Wang LY, Vernon-Smiley M, Gapinski MA, Desisto M, Maughan E, Sheetz A. Cost-Benefit study of School Nursing services. *JAMA Pediatrics*. 2014;168(7):642-648.

	School Nursing	SBHCs
What types of providers furnish these services?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Registered Nurses (RN) School staff supervised by RNs may assist to provide care including Licensed Practical Nurses and unlicensed assistive personnel, clerical staff, teachers, health aides, instructional aides. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A team of licensed health care providers; may include nurse practitioners, physicians, physician assistants, nurses, behavioral health consultants, mental health providers, dental providers, and office/health/medical assistants.
What are unique services?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School care coordination <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individual & Emergency Care Plans Daily support for chronic conditions Supervising care provided by school staff (licensed delegations, training) IEP & 504 team member; helps ensure “FAPE” related services and reasonable accommodations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Primary care services Mental health and substance use counseling Dental care Immunizations Reproductive health care Diagnostic and prescription services
What are some shared services?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordination with health and social service agencies, public and private Serve as a school-wide health and wellness resource Health and safety trainings Health screenings Communicable disease control 	
Who manages these services and employs staff?	<p>About 80%</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schools, school districts <p>About 20%</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education Service Districts. <p>Fewer than 5%:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Public Health Departments. Hospital Systems. 	<p>About 75%:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Federally Qualified Health Centers <p>About 25%:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Public Health Departments. Rural Health Clinic Hospital or Health System Private Practice Primary Care Provider.
How are they funded?	Funding comes out of the School District’s state school fund allocation. Additional funding may come from SSA/SIA , school Medicaid billing , grants, or other sources.	Funding comes from a variety of sources including federal, state, local public health department, Coordinated Care Organizations, medical sponsor, hospital or health system, school, Medicaid & third-party billing.
How much do services cost the students?	Free to all students.	All services are available to students regardless of their insurance coverage or ability to pay. SBHCs bill insurance including Medicaid.
How is privacy of health information protected?	FERPA protects the confidentiality of education records created by educational agencies. State statutes also apply.	HIPAA protects the confidentiality of health information held by “covered entities.” State statutes also apply. Other laws and regulations may apply.
What are the relevant Oregon laws?	ORS 336.201 requires nursing services provided by district, with ratio of nurses to students based on student health needs.	SBHCs are defined in ORS 413.225 . Certified School-Based Health Centers meet standards for evidence-based best practices.
How to learn more?	ODE school nurse resources www.nasn.org www.oregonschoolnurses.org	www.healthoregon.org/sbhc www.sbh4all.org www.osbha.org