

***You
probably
don't
hear this
enough...***



Thank you!

**For all you do to make Michigan
a better place for our kids.**

**School-Community Health Alliance of
Michigan is committed to working with you
on policies to help kids learn better by
ensuring they are healthier.**

Right now, too many kids in Michigan do
not have access to primary health care
and mental health services.

Why not?



Geography



Costs/Insurance status



Transportation (or lack thereof)



Provider availability



Parents/guardians can't miss
work for appointments

Kids need to be **mentally and physically healthy** to learn.

Unfortunately, barriers to learning include health issues that haven't been identified or treated. Research has found that school absences in Michigan are often tied to mental health issues,

asthma, diabetes and dental problems.

If kids aren't healthy, they often aren't in school. And they definitely **aren't learning**.



500,000

More than **half a million** K-12 students were chronically absent in 2021-22, making up 38 percent of all students.

[Source: MI School Data.org]

Two years

Missing **three or more days of school per month** can set a student back an average of two full years of learning behind their peers.

(Source: AttendanceWorks)

Here's the good news:

Child and Adolescent Health Centers (CAHCs) - **also known as School-Based Health Centers** - provide primary health care and mental health screenings and support just outside the classroom door, which breaks down barriers to access for our kids.

The School-Community Health Alliance of Michigan (SCHA-MI) supports 129 CAHCs across the state. Clinicians administer comprehensive health services, screenings and treatment for children and teens in Michigan right in their own school.

Approximately 400,000 students benefit annually from school-based services, including primary care, mental health care and health education. And we're using this momentum to reach even more students year after year.

Services Child and Adolescent Health Centers Provide



Despite the high level of need that exists and the proven outcomes associated with school-based health centers, **too few Michigan children are adequately supported within a school district.**



44 percent of Michigan counties do NOT have a health center.



We must meet kids where they are with the resources they need to overcome these challenges. **Primary care and mental health resources in school are critical** for their development and recovery from the pandemic.

Numbers to know

100%

One-hundred percent of CAHCs offer mental health screening and support.

138

There are only 129 child and adolescent health centers in schools across Michigan.

400,000

The number of children and youth receiving access to CAHC services annually.

56%

The percentage of Michigan counties currently benefiting from CAHCs.

CAHCs deliver high-quality interventions and supports in ways that are accessible to students and families. Their work is highly effective in boosting Michigan's population of strong, resilient children who are ready to meet new personal and academic challenges. This means higher graduation rates with a lower number of days missed.

***Seems like a
no-brainer, right?***

Our goals and services



ADDRESS MENTAL HEALTH

We provide an accessible space for students to report mental health issues and receive help.



PROVIDE HEALTH EDUCATION

We provide education on subjects such as tobacco cessation, substance use, safe relationships, general health and hygiene, and other risk taking behaviors.



REDUCE CHILDHOOD OBESITY

We are working to address Michigan's high childhood obesity rate through nutrition and fitness education.



ADMINISTER IMMUNIZATIONS

We immunize as preventative care, helping the whole state stay healthy.



CREATE PARTNERSHIPS WITH FAMILIES AND SCHOOLS

We offer a bridge of support for students between their health care provider and their parents/guardians, and school.



PROVIDE SAFE SPACES

The center might be the only place for sensitive discussions on school grounds where a student can feel seen and heard, and supported.

Know your acronyms

CAHC

CHILD & ADOLESCENT HEALTH CENTER

An in-school pediatric office staffed by healthcare providers administering services such as primary care, immunizations, mental health screenings and preventative care. These centers are funded through Section 31A of the School Aid Budget.

SBHC

SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH CENTER

Another term used for a CAHC.

SLHC

SCHOOL-LINKED HEALTH CENTER

Similar to a SBHC, a SLHC is located off school grounds. They often serve multiple schools.

SCHA-MI

SCHOOL-COMMUNITY HEALTH ALLIANCE OF MICHIGAN

As the state association for 129 school-based health centers and programs across Michigan, SCHA-MI works to ensure that every child and teen has access to high-quality health care, including mental health services.

E3

EXPANDING ENHANCING EMOTIONAL HEALTH

Mental health only sites – staffed by master's level mental health providers.

Adapting and changing to meet student needs.

Child and Adolescent Health Centers have existed for 40 years, but COVID was a new frontier.

CAHCs staff became public health emergent, forming teams capable of meeting public health emergencies. Even as schools closed, CAHCs conducted COVID testing, performed telehealth COVID vaccines. CAHCs are the health expert in the school partnership.

In our pandemic-centric world, CAHCs became more valuable than ever.





Child and Adolescent Health Centers are partners with parents and schools.

Beneficial for educators

Bringing primary and mental health care to kids where they are – at school – keeps their focus entirely where it should be: in the classroom learning!

Beneficial for parents

Parents and guardians don't have to worry about getting time off from work to take their child to doctor's appointments. Travel to and from appointments, especially in rural areas can be particularly burdensome.

Beneficial for kids

Children and youth develop trusting relationships with highly-qualified providers and learn how to access care when they need it.

Students returned to the classroom after 82% of clinic visits, keeping them in school and learning.

We can turn the major challenges of this generation into an opportunity to boost their future by supporting kids where they learn.

CAHCs are proven to increase student attendance and graduation rates, improve school performance, succeed in preventing and treating conditions such as obesity and asthma, reduce urgent care visits, and improve mental health.



They need your help

These services aren't possible without your support. Improve our children's health and futures by making CAHCs a priority in Section 31A in the School Aid Budget and visiting a center in your district.

More info:

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Mark your calendar!



We'll be stopping by your office
for SCHA-MI's Advocacy Day on
May 23, 2023.

Can't wait to see you then!