School-Based Health Centers
Uniting education and health for success in the classroom and life

What do all of these students have in common?

- Chronic asthmatic
- Pregnant 10th grader
- 11th grade drug user
- Middle school student in foster care
- Depressed adolescent with suicidal thoughts
- Anxious bully victim afraid to go to elementary school
- Homeless ninth grader
- Adolescent experiencing chronic headaches
- Third grader with painful dental abscess
- Overweight sixth grader who is borderline diabetic
- High school sophomore living with violence in the home

These students have help: their school-based health center.

Medical care delivered in school-based health centers helps students with chronic and acute conditions cope with disease—and gets them back to the classroom faster.

Mental health services focus on improving students' emotional well-being, and decreasing high-risk, health compromising behaviors such as drug, alcohol and tobacco use.

Health surveillance and preventive services catch health problems early and promote a healthier, safer student body.

Social services help children and families with the basic supports of food, shelter, and safety.

Youth development services build social competencies and strengthen their connectedness to school and community.

Hundreds of communities across the country are transforming health and education by uniting them under one roof. School-based health centers integrate comprehensive medical, mental health, and social services on the school campus to optimize learning readiness.

Why school-based health centers?

It's an indisputable fact: a healthy child is a teachable child.

Educators know all too well that poor health has a direct and negative impact on students' success in school.

School-based health centers address physical, emotional and behavioral health issues and foster learning readiness and academic achievement.

Opening school doors to health care opens pathways to children's educational attainment and lifelong well-being.

“Rarely has a single problem—high school dropout rates—contributed to so many adverse social, economic, and health conditions. Our nation's young people deserve no less than a concerted effort to improve school completion rates and thus give young people a gateway to lifetime health and success.