

How much does it cost the school?

School Nursing:

- Cost of nurse's salary.

SBHCs:

- Depends on what costs the schools negotiate with the SBHC sponsor.

How much do services cost for students?

School Nursing:

- Free to all students.

SBHCs:

- All services are available to students regardless of their ability to pay.

Are schools required to have these services by law?

School Nursing:

- Yes, there are legal requirements for specific student groups.

SBHCs:

- No, but they are meant to complement school nursing, and keep students in the classroom.



“We remove obstacles to learning when student health needs are met.”

Susan Castillo

Superintendent of Public Instruction

“Today is exclusion day, and I don't have a single student being excluded because the SBHC has vaccinated and seen those kids needing updates.”

“I've had students with severe dental abscesses, where they don't have access to a dentist, are missing school, and are in pain. I can refer these students to the SBHC for antibiotics and then we work together to get the dental van to come on-site for the dental care this student and others need.”

Robin Loper, RN

School Nurse, St. Helen's School District, Columbia County 2000 School Nurse of the Year, Oregon School Nurses Association

“We should never underestimate the power and the positive impact of the school nurse. The school nurse is always available to kids, staff and community members to support their health needs, which in turn, enriches the learning environment.”

Brian Horne, Principal

Rock Creek Elementary
Beaverton School District

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SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES



2010

School Nurses and School-Based Health Centers

While they can't replace one another, they complement each other to provide schools and their students with comprehensive health services.

School Nursing

School nurses support student success through health promotion and prevention services and education. The school nurse provides health information in classrooms and on an individual basis; refers students for appropriate immunizations and medical care; and promotes student and staff wellness. School nurses facilitate vision, hearing, spinal and other screenings, and coordinate management of chronic health problems such as asthma, diabetes, cystic fibrosis, spina bifida, and more. The school nurse is an advocate linking home, school, and the medical community in support of student academic success.

Healthy students learn better, yet many of our students aren't healthy. This is a daily challenge for students and school staff. School-based health centers and school nursing play an essential role in addressing the health care needs of students.



School-Based Health Centers

School-Based Health Centers (SBHCs) are primary care clinics that are located in a school building or on school campus. They provide the services you would find in your local pediatrician's office like diagnosis and treatment (including prescriptions) for acute and chronic illnesses and injuries, immunizations, and perform sports physicals and well-child checks. SBHCs are staffed by nurse practitioners, physician assistants, doctors, nurses, qualified mental health professionals and health assistants.

In essence, SBHCs bring the medical clinic into the school so school nurses and school staff can refer students immediately for the care they need regardless of their ability to pay. Plus, they miss less class time!

What do these health services do for students?

School Nursing:

- Create and implement school health management plans for specific students;
- Manage school immunization programs;
- Coordinate vision and hearing screenings;
- Provide oversight of school health programs;
- Participate in school health policy and implementation;
- Consult with school staff on student health needs;
- Consult and refer to community providers.

SBHCs:

- Perform routine physical exams, including sports physicals;
- Diagnose and treat acute and chronic illness;
- Prescribe medications;
- Treat minor injuries;
- Provide vision, dental and blood pressure screenings;
- Administer immunizations;
- Provide health education, counseling, and wellness promotion;
- Supply mental health services;
- Give classroom presentations.

What types of providers furnish these services?

School Nursing:

- Registered nurses.

SBHCs:

- Physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, registered nurses, and/or qualified mental health professional.

Who employs and manages them?

School Nursing:

- School district.

SBHCs:

- Usually a community health care agency (e.g., county health department or clinic).

Health care issues reported by 8th and 11th grade students (2009 Oregon Healthy Teens Survey)

Health care issues	8 th grade	11 th grade
Unmet physical or mental health care need in past year	27%	29%
Self-reported overweight or obese	28%	24%
Seriously considered suicide in past year	18%	13%
Went hungry because there wasn't money for food in past 30 days	16%	18%
Felt harassed at school in past 30 days	41%	27%
Smokes cigarettes daily	9%	19%
Participated in binge drinking (>5 drinks in a row) in past 30 days	11%	23%

School health services are a critical piece of the health care puzzle. In 2008, 13% of Oregon children were uninsured, therefore school health services are sometimes the only source of health care for students, addressing: **Asthma, Dental Health, Diabetes, Mental Health, Obesity and Chronic illness.**