



SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH CENTERS IN CALIFORNIA

School-based health centers (SBHCs) are an innovative way to make sure all kids get health care and do well in school. They are located on school campuses and offer services in a place that is familiar, trusted, age-appropriate and convenient for all students and families.

SBHCs encompass a variety of models – from clinics with full-time medical and mental health staff to part-time clinics offering a limited set of services. Some SBHCs serve only students; others serve the entire community.

The number of SBHCs has continued to grow over the past decade because schools, providers and communities know that supporting healthy children is a smart investment. In 2000, California had 108 school health centers; today, there are 200 with about 45 in the works. In the last year, 13,500 children gained access to health care in their school through the expansion of SBHCs.

Where are California’s SBHCs?

- Of California’s 200 SBHCs, 44% are in high schools, 31% are in elementary schools, 13% are in middle schools, and 12% are “school linked” or mobile medical vans.
- SBHCs spread from Del Norte to San Diego County with large concentrations in Los Angeles and the San Francisco Bay Area.
- Many SBHCs are located in schools serving some of the state’s most vulnerable children. On campuses with school health centers, about 70% of students receive free or reduced price meals.

Who determines which services are offered?

SBHCs are supported by many communities because they respond to local needs. School boards have the final say over what services are provided so the community is always in control.

Who operates SBHCs?

The most common types of organizations that operate SBHCs are:

- Federally Qualified Health Centers
- School districts
- County health departments
- Hospitals

Other organizations include community-based agencies and private physician groups.

How are SBHCs financed?

- Reimbursement through health plans, the Child Health and Disability Prevention Program (CHDP), Family PACT, Medi-Cal, Healthy Families, and EPSDT contracts for mental health services.
- School district contributions or in-kind support of space, utilities, and custodial services.
- Sponsoring agency contributions or subsidies.
- Government and private grants.

What types of services are provided?

Service	% Centers
Medical Services	84%
Health Education	61%
Mental Health Services	58%
Reproductive Health - Screening and Education	62%
Reproductive Health - Clinical Care	51%
Nutrition and Fitness Programs	33%
Dental Services - Prevention	30%
Dental Services - Treatment	18%
Youth Engagement Programs	19%