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## About Oregon School-Based Health Alliance (OSBHA)

- OSBHA is a statewide nonprofit organization serving as the collective voice to build a stable, effective, and accessible school-based health care system through the development of school-based health centers (SBHCs).
- With a mission to promote the health and academic success of children and youth through sustaining, strengthening, and expanding school-based health centers, OSBHA engages stakeholders and communities to build awareness and take action to strengthen health and academic achievement.
- For 15 years, OSBHA has worked to save, restore, and increase funding for SBHCs leading to expanded growth and continued success of the sector.
- OSBHA serves as the informational hub for SBHC professionals, providing technical assistance, needs assessments, training, and professional development.
- OSBHA works to strengthen the reputation and importance of school health services.
- OSBHA's Statewide Youth Action Council engages young people in leadership opportunities, legislative processes, event planning and coordination, and school health advocacy.

## Oregon SBHCs Today

- SBHC services include comprehensive physical, mental, and preventive health services, referrals, health education and counseling, oral health care, lab tests, and immunizations.
- Oregon has 75 certified school-based health centers.
- SBHCs operate in 21 Oregon counties.
- At least \$2 to \$3 additional dollars are leveraged from grants, billing, donations, and other sources for every state dollar invested.
- SBHCs served 23,797 clients in 70,666 visits last year.
- 77 percent of students estimate they would miss one class or more in order to visit an off-site clinic.
- 84 percent of students using SBHCs report they are very satisfied with their center.

**“We as youth advocates must continue to push for reliable and accessible health care for teens everywhere.”**

**– James  
Statewide Youth Action  
Council Member**

## The impact of SBHCs on schools and communities

- Operating as medical clinics located in elementary, middle, and high schools, SBHCs facilitate care coordination and access to comprehensive preventive, primary, and mental health care.
- Studies on SBHC effectiveness indicate:
  - SBHCs decrease absences, tardiness, and school discipline or behavior problems.
  - Students who use SBHCs have an increase in GPA and are likely to improve attendance.
  - Adolescents are 10-21 times more likely to access mental health services at SBHCs versus a community health clinic or HMO.
- All school-aged youth can access the centers, whether they have private insurance, public assistance, or no insurance.
- Timely access to health services and better student health improves academic engagement and performance, effectively linking health and education reform strategies and initiatives.

“School-based mental health provides high quality, easy to access services that are youth and family friendly. Being in schools allows us to serve youth and families who might not otherwise access mental health care.”

— Stephen  
Mental Health Consultant

“In-school health care allows us to teach young people how to take care of themselves, encourage them to make healthy choices, and support them toward their goals. We help build a foundation for a student’s life-long health.”

— Suzanne  
Nurse Practitioner

