

School Health

EXPAND SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH SERVICES AND DENTAL CARE

The governor recommends expanding school-based health clinics (SBHC) and building the capacity and integrating oral health services in school settings to meet the health needs of students, K-12.

Why it's Necessary

Children and adolescents benefit from access to high quality medical, dental, mental, and behavioral health services from health care providers who understand child and adolescent health and development. Health and dental services delivered in a SBHC are youth-friendly, culturally competent, affordable, accessible, convenient, and confidential. COVID-19 and the trauma from the on-going global pandemic has negatively impacted our students' physical health, prevention services, social emotional learning, coping skills, and overall mental health.

Benefit to Minnesotans

The expansion of SBHCs and oral health services will increase the number of students with access to health care by 25% and more than double the number of students receiving dental care and oral health education. There is strong evidence that communities that have schools with SBHCs have increased attendance; improved student behavior; increased mental and dental health treatment; higher graduation rates; and improved school learning environments as reported by students, teachers, and parents.

Amount Recommended

	FY 22/23	FY 24/25
<i>General Fund</i>		
Expenditure	\$837	\$6,749
Net Cost (Savings)	\$837	\$6,749

Note: Amounts are dollars in thousands (\$1,000 = \$1M)

Results

Schools play an important role in promoting the health and safety of children and adolescents by improving their health, teaching them to manage their chronic health conditions and establishing lifelong health patterns. When school health policies and practices collaborate with education, healthy students can grow to be healthy and successful adults.

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