

What is a School-Based Clinic (SBC)?

A SBC is a student-focused health center located in or adjacent to a school where students can receive integrated medical, behavioral health, and other healthcare services such as dental care.

How are SBHCs operated and funded?

Collaboration SBCs are a collaboration between the community, the school, and a healthcare sponsor. The healthcare sponsor can be a community clinic or healthcare system, hospital, public health department, tribal program, or university. The sponsor staffs and manages operations of the SBC.

Funding SBCs may be funded through a mix of public funding, private donations, the community benefit contribution of healthcare sponsors, public and private insurance billing, and in-kind support.

Staffing. SBCs are staffed according to school needs and resources. SBCs typically include at minimum a primary care provider, behavioral healthcare provider, and a clinic coordinator or medical assistant. Dental and other health professionals may also provide services at the SBC. Some SBC services are provided through **telehealth**.

Hours of operation. SBCs are open during the school day to serve students where they spend much of their time. Ideally a SBC has a consistent presence, open for as many days of the week as students need and resources allow. Some SBCs are also open outside of school hours to serve families, school staff, or community members.

Insurance enrollment Students are seen regardless of their insurance status.

Coordination of care SBCs help students and families connect with primary care providers and other specialty providers as needed. SBCs coordinate care with other community service providers to address students' needs.

Coordination with school community. SBCs are integrated within the school community to optimize student and school-wide wellness. The SBC care team collaborates with students, families, teachers, the school nurse, counselors, social workers, and other school leadership to support student development and academic success.

What services do SBCs provide?

Integrated care SBHCs provide comprehensive primary medical care that may include well-child care, health screening and education, sports physicals, immunizations, chronic condition diagnosis, treatment of illness or injury, and laboratory tests. SBCs offer mental health care to address the whole child, from stress management to mental health therapy. SBCs may include dental or vision care, substance abuse services, nutrition counseling, and crisis response.

Complementary care SBCs provide clinical, diagnostic care that complements the school nurse role in student health. SBC providers and the school nurse work collaboratively to improve health and academic outcomes.

Who is served by SBHCs?

School needs. SBCs are typically located in schools where students have socioeconomic, geographic, or other barriers to accessing healthcare in the community.

Eligibility for services. SBC services are available to all students in the school. In some cases, SBHCs also serve students from other schools in the district, families of students, school staff, or community members.

Enrollment and consent. Students must be enrolled by their families to receive the full range of services provided by the SBC. State law observes some exceptions for urgent care. Every effort is made to involve students' families in their care.