Ohio | Department of Education

CCIP Note # 390

Re: School Based HealthCare Initiative
Date: March 9, 2018
To: District Superintendents and Building Principals, SST Directors

School Based HealthCare Initiative

Dear Support Districts and schools,

Opportunity to engage in developing or expanding school based health care supports for students:

The Ohio Department of Education and Ohio Department of Medicaid are working together to expand the presence of school-based health care throughout the state. We recommend your school complete the following self-assessment to determine the degree to which school-based health care could support your specific student and community needs. We further recommend including current school care providers to assist in completing the following.

Many schools currently provide access to health services for students, and many have established formal partnerships with healthcare professionals to ensure direct access to primary care, mental and behavioral health, vision, dental and other services. There is no "one-size fits all" model for how schools can partner with health care professionals to expand access to care for students and, in some cases, the broader community. In Ohio, schools have successfully implemented a range of models, from off-site care provision (e.g. setting up physician appointments, partnering with mobile clinics) to building full-service health centers housed within the school(s). Regardless of the approach, research has shown that expanding health interventions for students is associated with improved student academic performance, fewer chronically absent students and fewer students placed in restrictive classroom environments. By completing this needs assessment, you will be able to determine if developing and engaging in this venture will be aligned with your district or buildings needs. All districts and buildings will be able to access a school based health care toolkit.

This self-assessment is voluntary and its completion will not indicate commitment from schools or the state to participate in the program. We will send you a completed version of your survey for your records, be sure to submit your email in the survey tool.

The link to the survey is here. A PDF version of the survey can be found here. If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you for your time in completing the self-assessment.

Jo Hannah Ward, M. Ed., LPCC
Director
Office for Improvement and Innovation

25 South Front Street | Columbus, Ohio 43215-4183
(614) 752-1378 | (877) 644-6338
Johannah.ward@education.ohio.gov

