

Oregon School Health Services

School Nurses and School-Based Health Centers collaborate to provide health services and build a safety net for Oregon students.

We know from the Oregon Healthy Teens Survey, students are reporting increased physical and mental health needs. If these needs remain unmet, they can interfere with young people's ability to attend school and learn. School nurses and School-Based Health Centers play an essential role in meeting the health care needs of students, so students can thrive in all activities.



School Nurses

The National Association of School Nurses defines school nursing as a specialized practice of nursing that protects and promotes student health, facilitates optimal development, and advances academic success. School nurses, grounded in ethical and evidence-based practice, are school leaders who bridge health care and education, provide care coordination, advocate for quality student-centered care, and collaborate to design systems that allow individuals and communities to develop their full potential.

School nurses serve the entire school population through health promotion and disease prevention, providing case management for chronic and acute student health conditions, providing health education and teaching, coordinating mandated screening including vision and hearing, training school staff, delegating nursing tasks, promoting safety, assessing mental health needs, advocating for inclusion of all students according to their ability to participate, and coordinating with other local and state agencies regarding communicable disease, immunization mandates, and other public health efforts.

2017 Oregon Healthy Teens Survey

Health Issue	8 th grade	11 th grade
Unmet physical health care need in past year	20.5%	17.7%
Unmet mental health care need in past year	18.7%	22.4%
Self-reported overweight or obese	25.7%	28.9%
Seriously considered suicide in past year	16.9%	18.2%
Bullied at school in past 30 days—any reason	30.9%	20.6%
Used alcohol in past 30 days	10.3%	26.9%
Used marijuana in past 30 days	6.7%	20.9%
Had depressive symptoms in the last year	30.1%	32.2%

School-Based Health Centers

School-Based Health Centers (SBHCs) are medical clinics that offer a full range of physical, mental and preventive health services to students in a convenient and accessible environment, regardless of a student's ability to pay. SBHCs are located either within or on school grounds. With easy access to health care, SBHCs reduce barriers such as cost, transportation and concerns about confidentiality that keep children and youth from seeking the health services they need.

SBHC providers diagnose and treat acute and chronic illnesses and injuries. Other services include prescriptions, immunizations, well-child checks and sports physicals, as well as health screenings, age appropriate reproductive health services and promotion of healthy behaviors. SBHCs collaborate with schools, parents, youth advisory councils, local providers and community partners to provide health services that benefit students and the school community. Students and their parents appreciate missing less class time for health care needs.

School Nurses

SBHCs

What types of providers furnish these services?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Registered nurses. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nurse practitioners, physician's assistants, physicians, nurses, medical assistants, mental health professionals, dental providers.
Who manages these services and employs staff?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School districts. Education Service Districts. Local Public Health Departments. Hospital Systems. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A health department, community health center, rural health clinic, hospital or health system, or a private practice primary care provider.
How much does it cost the school?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding comes out of the District's state school fund allocation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Costs are typically borne by several sources (state, county health department, medical sponsor) that may or may not include the school.
How much do services cost for students?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Free to all students. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All services are available to students regardless of their insurance coverage or ability to pay. SBHCs bill insurance providers including Medicaid.
What are the relevant Oregon laws?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ORS 336.201 includes standards for the ratio of school nurses to students based on health needs of students. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SBHCs are defined in ORS 413.225. Certified School-Based Health Centers meet standards for evidence-based best practices.

What They Do

