



School-Based Health Initiative

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SUPPORTING PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN SCHOOLS AND HEALTH CARE ORGANIZATIONS TO HELP KIDS STAY HEALTHY AND LEARN

The Montana Healthcare Foundation's School-Based Health Initiative supports quality, convenient health care for students and their families in a safe, familiar place. Every child in Montana should be able to go to school healthy so that they can focus on learning. School-based health care offers families and schools a way to support students' health so that they can stay in school and reach their full academic potential.

School-Based Health Care

"School-based health care" refers to services provided in or near a school through a partnership with a local health care organization. Providing school-based health care:

1

Reduces barriers to care, like transportation, time, and costs.

2

Improves access to care for students, families, and school staff.

3

Supports student health school attendance, and academic success.

School-based health care provides services based on each community's needs and resources. Services can include primary care, behavioral health, dental, and/or vision. Care can be provided inside a school, in a building on or near the school campus, in a mobile unit, or through telehealth.



How We Help

The Montana Healthcare Foundation supports partnerships between schools and health care providers to create school-based health services in schools that need them most. It provides grants to develop new and expand existing school-based health programs and technical assistance to each grantee. Funding is available for both health care organizations and school districts.

The Montana Healthcare Foundation also convenes the School-Based Health Leaders as a first step to establishing an association that will serve as a backbone organization supporting school-based health across the state over the long term.

132
schools

As of 2025, the School-Based Health Initiative has supported the startup or expansion of 82 school-based health care sites that serve 132 of the state's highest-need schools.



To learn more, use the QR code or visit mthf.org/priority/school-based-health-initiative

