# Proposed [SCHOOL NAME] School-Based Health Center

# Frequently Asked Questions

[NAME] Hospital District, [SCHOOL DISTRICT NAME], and its community partners are currently exploring the opportunity to offer school-based health services to students enrolled in [SCHOOL DISTRICT]. They are hoping to gain support and grant funds to open the student health center by the fall of 2011. Below are answers to questions you might have about the proposed student health center.

**What is a school-based health center (SBHC) or student health center?**

A school-based health center (SBHC) or student health center brings the healthcare provider into a school so students can avoid health related absences and receive the support they need to succeed in the classroom. SBHCs are staffed by a multi-disciplinary team of medical and mental health professionals.

**Do parents favor SBHCs?**

Yes. Parents appreciate SBHCs because:

* SBHCs help their child to stay healthy and in school.
* Parents miss less work. Without an SBHC, when a child is sick, the parent must miss work to take the child out of school and be seen at the nearest health care facility.
* SBHC services are provided to all students, whether or not the student has insurance.
* According to a nationwide survey commissioned by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and conducted in 2007, the majority of voters support providing school-based health care.[[1]](#endnote-1)

**What services will be provided at the Grand River Student Health Center at Rifle?**

Services provided may include: physical exams, including sports physicals; immunizations; care for acute, minor injury and illness; management of chronic conditions such as asthma, allergies, and diabetes; counseling services; routine lab tests and throat cultures; prescriptions and medications; health wellness education, including sexual health; referral to community providers and agencies; and assistance to families with enrollment into Medicaid and CHP+.

**What age groups will [SBHC NAME] Student Health Center serve?**

[TAILOR TO FIT SCHOOL POPULTION]

**Does the student need parental permission to receive services?**

Yes. The student health center will require the parent or legal guardian to sign a consent form before their minor child may receive services in the center. Because the student health center will take the approach that the clinician, parents, and child should work together to resolve health problems, the staff will promote strong family communication and make every effort to involve parents.

**Does the parent need to be present for the student to receive services?**

As long as the parent or legal guardian has signed a consent form, he/she does not need to be present for the student to receive services. Parents, are always welcome to be present, though, and encouraged to participate in their child’s care.

**Will the parent be notified when their child receives services?**

Unless prohibited by law, parents will be kept informed about student visits to the health center. By law minors can consent to certain services without their parents’ approval, including treatment for sexually transmitted infections, HIV testing, contraceptive services, prenatal care, and substance abuse and mental health services.

**How much will it cost for my child to receive services at the health center?**Services will be provided on a sliding scale fee based on family income for those that have no insurance and do not qualify for Medicaid or CHP+. No child will be refused services, however, based on an inability to pay. To help sustain the student health center, a student’s insurance will be billed. Sometimes insurance companies require the collection of co-payments and deductibles for services provided and therefore any applicable co-payments and deductibles will be collected from families.

**How will my child get to the [SBHC NAME] Student Health Center?**

[TAILOR TO FIT GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION AND TRANSPORTATION LIMITATIONS THAT MAY EXIST]

**Do health centers take money away from classrooms?**

No. SBHCs get their funding from many different sources. Schools generally provide only in-kind support to their health centers, such as space, utilities, and custodial services. School districts recognize that student achievement gaps can be closed if students are physically and mentally healthy.

**How are SBHCs in Colorado funded?**

Colorado SBHCs are funded through a mix of sources, including: federal, state and local government dollars, private grants and donations, insurance billing, and in-kind support.

**Shouldn't the school district just focus on education?**

“Studies have found direct links between SBHC use and learning readiness.”[[2]](#endnote-2) Schools cannot do their job of educating if students are not in school or are unable to concentrate because of pain or other health problem. Research shows that students who use SBHCs are less likely to be absent or tardy[[3]](#endnote-3) and more likely to graduate or be promoted than nonusers.[[4]](#endnote-4)

**Will the SBHC eliminate the need for the school nurses and school counselors?**

No. SBHCs do not replace school nurses or counselors. Rather, they complement services already being provided by placing additional resources in the schools. School nurses and counselors are vitally important to comprehensive health care for students.

**Will the SBHC take patients away from local providers?**

No. The SBHC will collaborate with and make referrals to community medical providers. SBHCs are another entry point for children who may not otherwise be able or willing to seek help outside the school.

**Will the healthcare providers at the SBHC be qualified?**

Yes. All providers at the SBHC will be qualified, and the services they provide will be limited to their scope of practice.

1. National survey: Executive summary. (January 2007). School-Based Health Care Program-W.K. Kellogg Foundation. Retrieved May 26, 2010, from <http://ww2.wkkf.org/default.aspx?tabid=90&CID=316&ItemID=5000310&NID=61&LanguageID=0> [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. School-based health centers: Uniting education and health for success in the classroom and life. NASBHC. Retrieved June 17, 2010, from <http://www.nasbhc.org/atf/cf/%7BCD9949F2-2761-42FB-BC7A-CEE165C701D9%7D/TA_AO%20fact%20sheet.pdf> [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
3. Walker, S.C., Kerns, S.E.U., Lyon, A.R., Bruns, E.J., & Cosgrove, T.J. (2010). Impact of school-based health center use on academic outcomes. *Journal of Adolescent Health*, 46: 251-257. [↑](#endnote-ref-3)
4. McCord, M.T., Klein, J.D., Joy, J.M., & Fothergill, K. (1993). School-based clinic use and school performance. *Journal of Adolescent Health*, 14(6): 458-463. [↑](#endnote-ref-4)