

School-Based Health Center

Fairfield City

Fairfield,OH Butler County

Initiative Type(s):

Mental health services, Physical health care services

Community Partner(s):

Nonprofit organization with experience serving children

Description of Initiative:

Fairfield City School District partnered with Primary Health Solutions to build and open a school-based health center on our school campus. We transport students to and from the health center during the school day, which allows students to receive medical, dental, vision and behavioral health care they might not otherwise receive. Our school-based health center was the first comprehensive school-based health center in a suburban school setting in the United States.

Initiative Benefits:

Primary Health Solutions is a Federally Qualified Health Center that serves individuals who are underinsured or uninsured. Students who previously may have had to wait months to receive routine medical and dental care now receive care the same day or within the same week a need is identified. Preventative appointments also are available, and students can see a primary care physician, whereas in the past, they often relied on the emergency room or urgent care for medical care. Working parents or parents with transportation needs can schedule appointments during the workday without having to take time off from work. The average time students miss school for routine medical, vision or dental appointments has drastically reduced.

Essential Staff and Partners:

Key staff members and partners include school nurses, community liaisons, Primary Health Solutions staff and providers, logistic staff and Fairfield City School District administration. Many sponsors helped get this project off the ground, including Interact for Health, Delta Dental and OneSight. These sponsors and partners continue to support the work of the school-based health center.

Action Steps to Get Started:

Primary Health Solutions help us begin by conducting a needs assessment, which included a parent and community survey, breakdown of local providers, demographics, business plan and general outline showing what the health center would provide. Once completed, conversations took place with both the Primary Health Solutions Board and Fairfield City School District Board of Education. Final approval to move forward with the plan and project was approved by both boards in 2015. The center opened in January 2016.

For More Information:

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NOTE: Student Wellness and Success Funds were not used for this initiative.