



# Connecticut Association of School Based Health Centers

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## SCHOOL BASED HEALTH CENTERS ARE SAFETY NET PROVIDERS FOR CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS

### *School Based Health Centers support families in crisis*

Connecticut families are experiencing the stress of loss of employment, and employer-sponsored health insurance. Students in schools with school based health centers (SBHCs) are turning to the Centers for needed medical care and help with family stress induced by financial strain and uncertainty.

Parents rely on school based health centers to provide the medical and mental health care that their children need. SBHCs keep children in school and provide a safe environment to express their concerns.

### *School Based Health Centers provide affordable health care*

School based health centers provide immediate access to medical and mental health care. Students enrolled in the SBHC can receive care from staff that have expertise in child and adolescent health. When students receive care in the early stages of a medical or mental health problem, they avoid the costly care that results from delaying treatment. In most cases, the health care provided in the SBHC keeps students in school and out of the emergency room. A visit to a school based health center for an asthma treatment costs ~ \$22.00 per visit compared to \$350.00 in the emergency department.\*

### *School Based Health Centers keep children healthy and in school*

Students that are healthy and attend school maximize their opportunities for learning. School based health centers support schools and support families. During the economic downturn, families need the services provided in school based health centers more than ever. As families turn to school based health centers as a safety net for their children, it is critical to maintain funding levels that ensure the survival of this unique, accessible model of comprehensive care.

*For more information, contact the Connecticut Association of School Based Health Centers at 203-230-9976, or email us at: [jesse@ctschoolhealth.org](mailto:jesse@ctschoolhealth.org)*

\*CASBHC Asthma Study, 2002