

Action Item - 38

Title: License Agreement with Various Entities for School-Based Wellness Centers

Board of Education Meeting Date: 6/26/2025

Action Under Consideration

The Administration recommends that the Board of Education authorize The School District of Philadelphia as Licensor, through the Superintendent or their designee, to execute and perform a lease agreement, subject to funding, as follows:

With:

Greater Philadelphia Health Action, Inc. (GPHA)
Covenant House, Inc. (CHI)
Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania (Penn)

Purpose:

To license the use of space for the provision of school-based medical, dental, and behavioral healthcare services

Authorized Start date: 7/1/2025

Authorized End Date: 6/30/2026

Value of Donation: \$250,000

Lease/License fee not to exceed: \$0.00

Location:

Olney School; Roxborough High School; West Philadelphia High School

Renewal Option(s) and Term(s):

Number of options: 2; Duration of each option: 1 year

Maximum Compensation authorized per option period, per contractor:
\$0.00

Description:

Why is this contract needed?

The Board previously approved action items in support of school-based wellness centers (SBWCs), also known as school-based health centers, which are a key component of the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD)/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)'s "Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child" framework for promoting health and well-being in schools. The current action will authorize the District to enter into license agreements with the providers to use the space for the purpose of operating a SBWC.

SBWCs are a collaborative effort between the District and community-based healthcare providers. Unlike other contracted health services, where providers are guests who “visit” or “drop in” to schools, SBWCs modify and occupy spaces for their sole use, store equipment and supplies, have multiple staff who are in the school for the majority of time that school is open, and maintain secure data and telecommunications networks.

SBWCs provide a wide range of essential health services beyond those mandated by the school code. SBWC services are shown to improve academic performance through the early identification and treatment of health problems that cause absences and negatively affect learning, the elimination of barriers to accessing care and contribute to further absenteeism, and the overall improvement of student well-being and school climate. SBWCs do not deny any services based on a student’s insurance status or ability to pay. SBWCs do not receive compensation from the District for these services and rely entirely on grants and their ability to bill insurers to fund their efforts. SBWCs bring substantial benefit to our students while sustaining their own efforts.

SBWCs require assurance that they have appropriate access to designated school spaces before they make capital investments in modifying, furnishing, and equipping wellness centers, hiring and credentialing staff, and setting up telecommunications networks. The license agreements requested for these partners will provide that assurance and will enable the Office of Student Health Services to carry out the Board’s goal to provide school-based medical, dental, and behavioral healthcare services in select schools with the highest need.

How is this work connected to the District’s plan to achieve Goals and Guardrails?

SBWCs support the Board of Education Goals and Guardrails by helping every school to be a safe, welcoming and healthy place where our students, staff and community want to be and learn each day. Additionally, SBWCs partner with parents and family members to welcome and encourage them to be partners in their child’s school community. Lastly, SBWCs remove barriers to healthcare in our school communities impacted by worse health outcomes, primary and mental health care workforce shortages, and other social determinants of health.

How will the success of this contract be measured?

SBWCs will be required to provide monthly and quarterly aggregated data on specific measures of service utilization and student health indicators. First year benchmarks will include reaching a consent rate of 30% of enrolled students with 50% of those utilizing services. Additionally, a data framework will be used that will monitor utilization, consent form rates, and screenings.

When applicable, is this an evidence-based strategy? If so, what evidence exists to support this approach?

SWBCs are an evidence-based strategy to achieve better health and education outcomes. Broadly, the evidence points to multiple benefits of SBWCs including increased attendance and graduation rates, improved school climate, fewer discipline referrals, and improved compliance with state-mandated school immunizations. The centers also support health outcomes that impact learning including better control of chronic illnesses like asthma and diabetes, fewer unnecessary ER visits, and improved health literacy. See more information at: <https://www.thecommunityguide.org/findings/social-determinants-health-school-based-health-centers.html>

When applicable, was a larger community of District community members and/or stakeholders involved in this selection process? If so, what groups and how?

SWBCs were selected through a competitive RFP process. Proposals were reviewed against a standardized rubric by an evaluation committee made up of District employees from multiple Education Center offices, as well as school-based staff and administrators. The highest scoring proposals were selected. The entire process was overseen by the Office of Procurement.

Related resolution(s)/action item(s)

June 27, 2024, Action Item #37

May 26, 2022, Action Item #31

Funding Source(s)

N/A

Office Originating Request:

Student Support Services