



Ohio Alliance

All-partner meeting

Thursday, September 10, 2026

Ohio School-Based Health Alliance “Ohio Alliance”

The Ohio Alliance is the only nonpartisan, statewide organization created to advance and support the sustainability and expansion of school-based health care.

Our mission is to improve access to comprehensive, integrated health services through school-based health care to advance equity and improve health and education outcomes for students, their families, and communities.



Ohio Alliance **areas of focus**



Capacity building through state and regional networks, learning communities, technical assistance, guidance, and resources



Policy transformation to support and accelerate opportunities that strengthen Ohio's school-based health care infrastructure



Data tracking and evaluation of school-based health care initiatives to inform policy and evaluate impact



Ohio Alliance team



Reem Aly, JD, MHA,
Executive Director



Katherine Bissett, BSN, RN
Director of Initiatives



Rachael Schilling, PhD
Senior Program & Research
Manager



Silaka Lugo, BS
Operations Manager



Meeting **objectives**

- ▶ Understand the implementation of Ohio's Medicaid School Program (MSP) expansion
- ▶ Review the upcoming policy landscape and key developments that may impact school-based health care
- ▶ Receive updates on Ohio Alliance priorities and initiatives



Partner spotlight





Brittany Miracle, BSW, MPA

Medicaid School Program Administrator, Ohio's Department of Medicaid





**Ohio Department
of Medicaid**

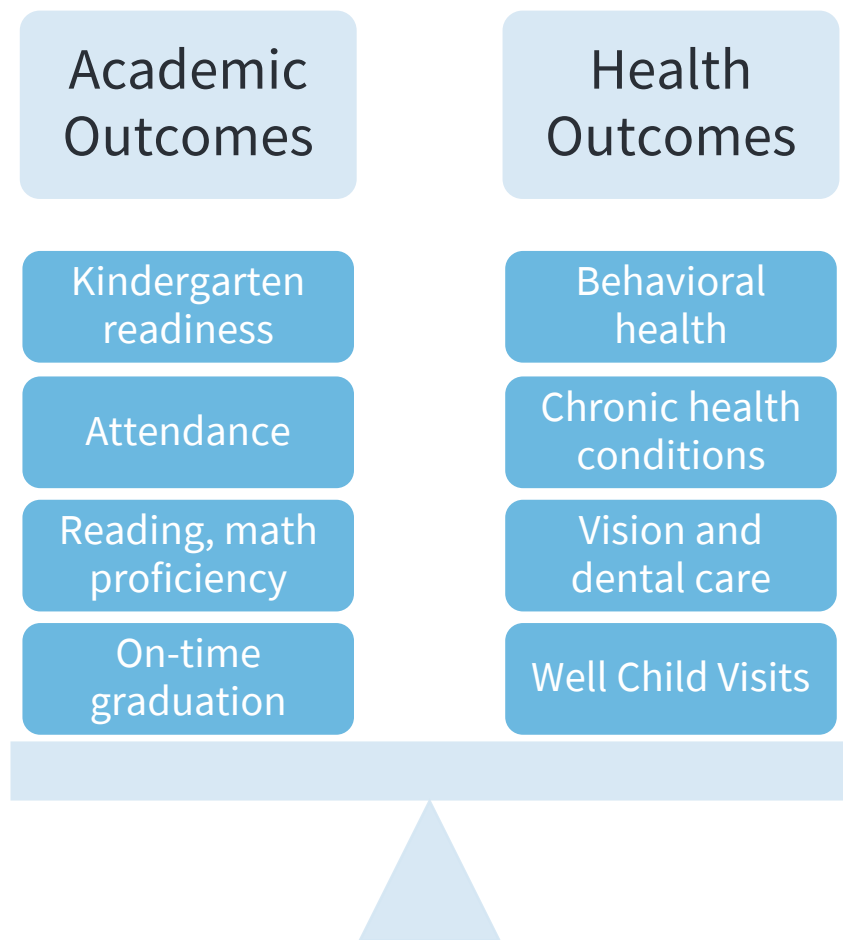
Our Students



There are 1.6 million students in Ohio who attend a public school district or a community (charter) school.

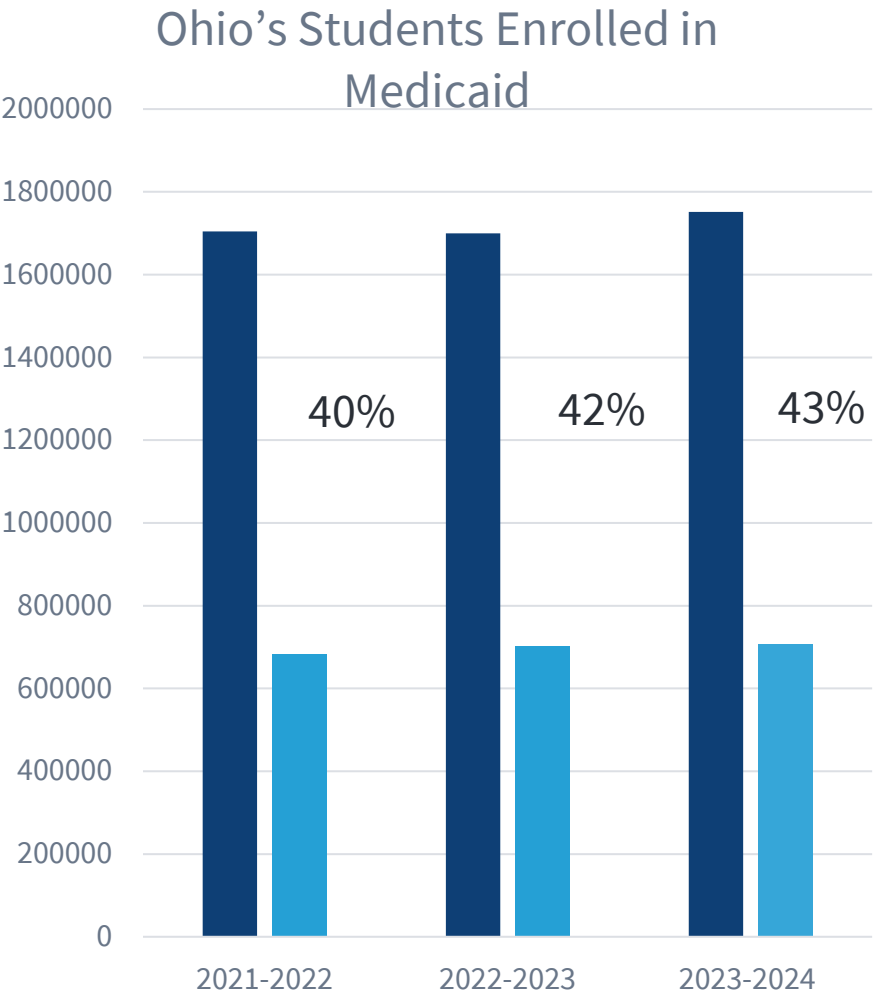
More than 700,000 of Ohio's students are enrolled in Medicaid.

Ohio Healthy Students Profile

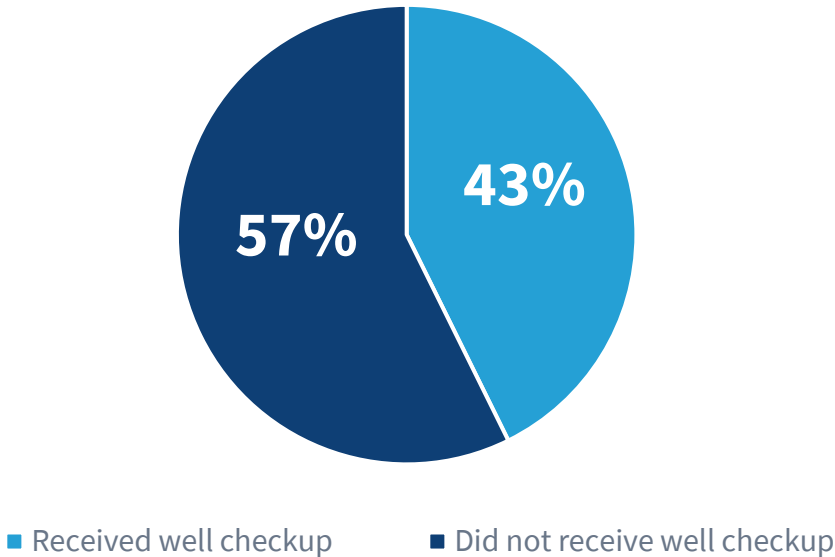


	Medicaid-Enrolled Students	State Rate	
Chronic absenteeism	37.7%	16.5%	↑
Kindergarten readiness	21.2%	49.7%	↓
English Language Arts proficiency	46%	71%	↓
Mathematics proficiency	36.9%	61.9%	↓
Disciplinary actions per 100 students	41.2	13.2%	↑
On-time graduation	78.9%	92%	↓

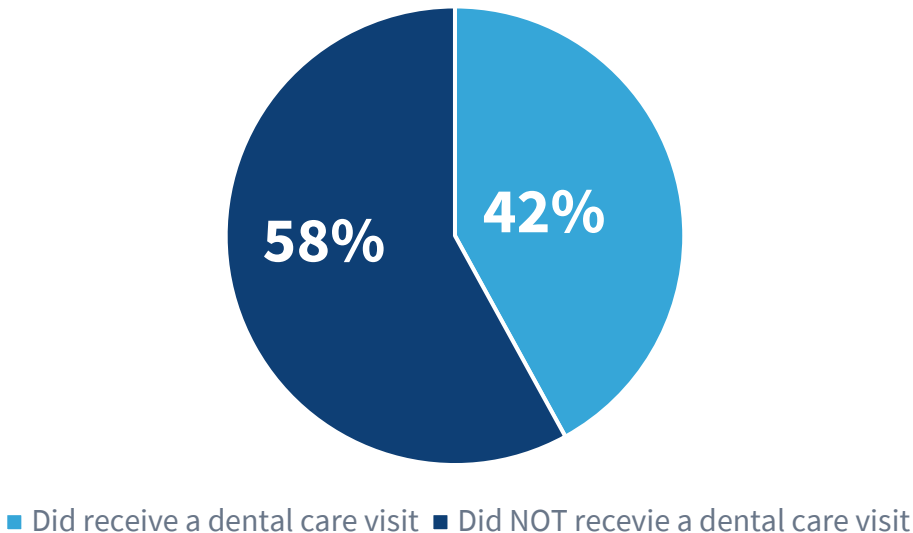
Ohio Healthy Students Profiles



Annual Comprehensive Well-Child Checkup, 2023-2024 school year

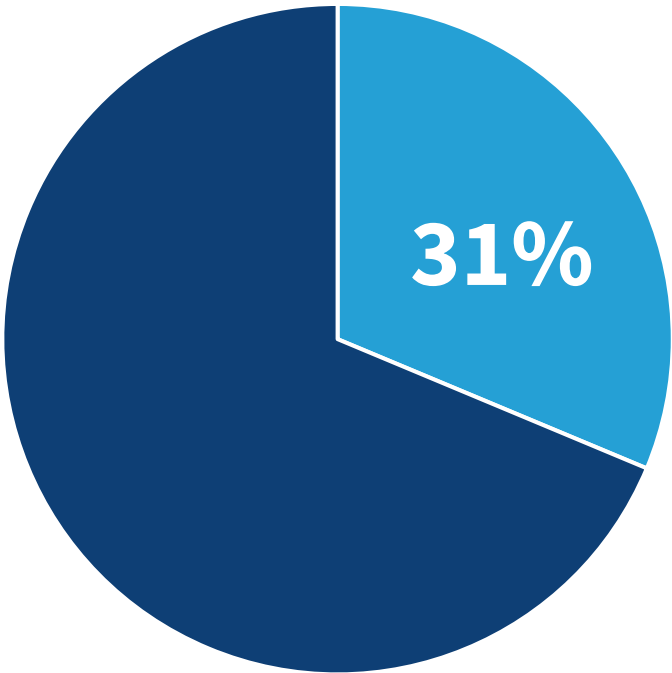


Annual Dental Visit, 2023-2024 School year

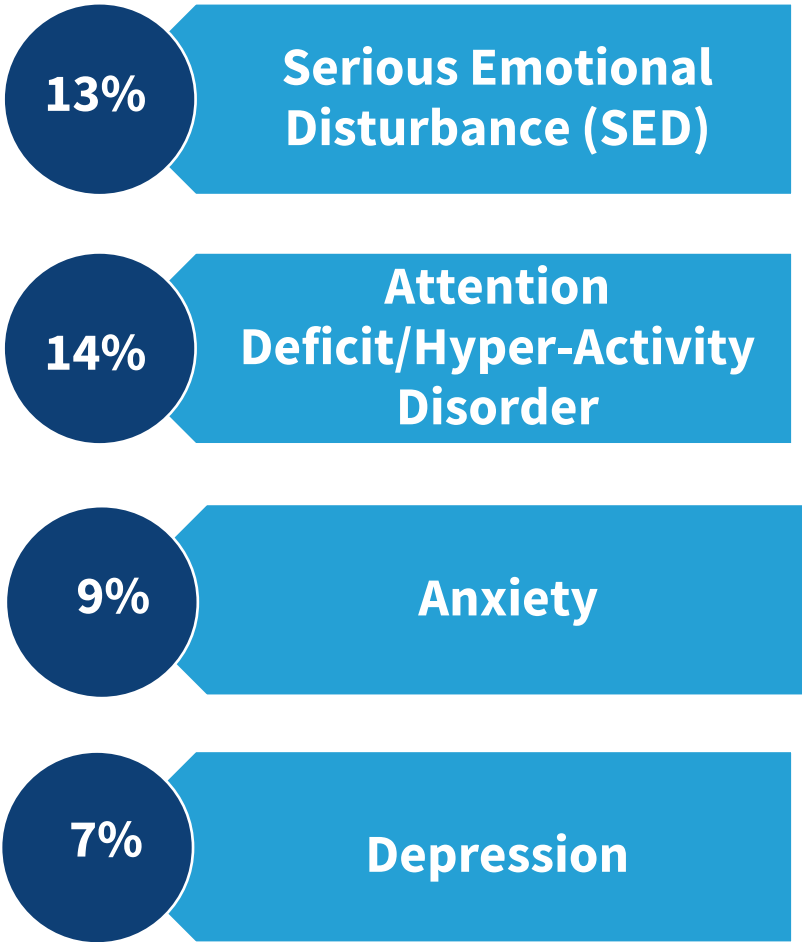


Ohio Healthy Students Profile

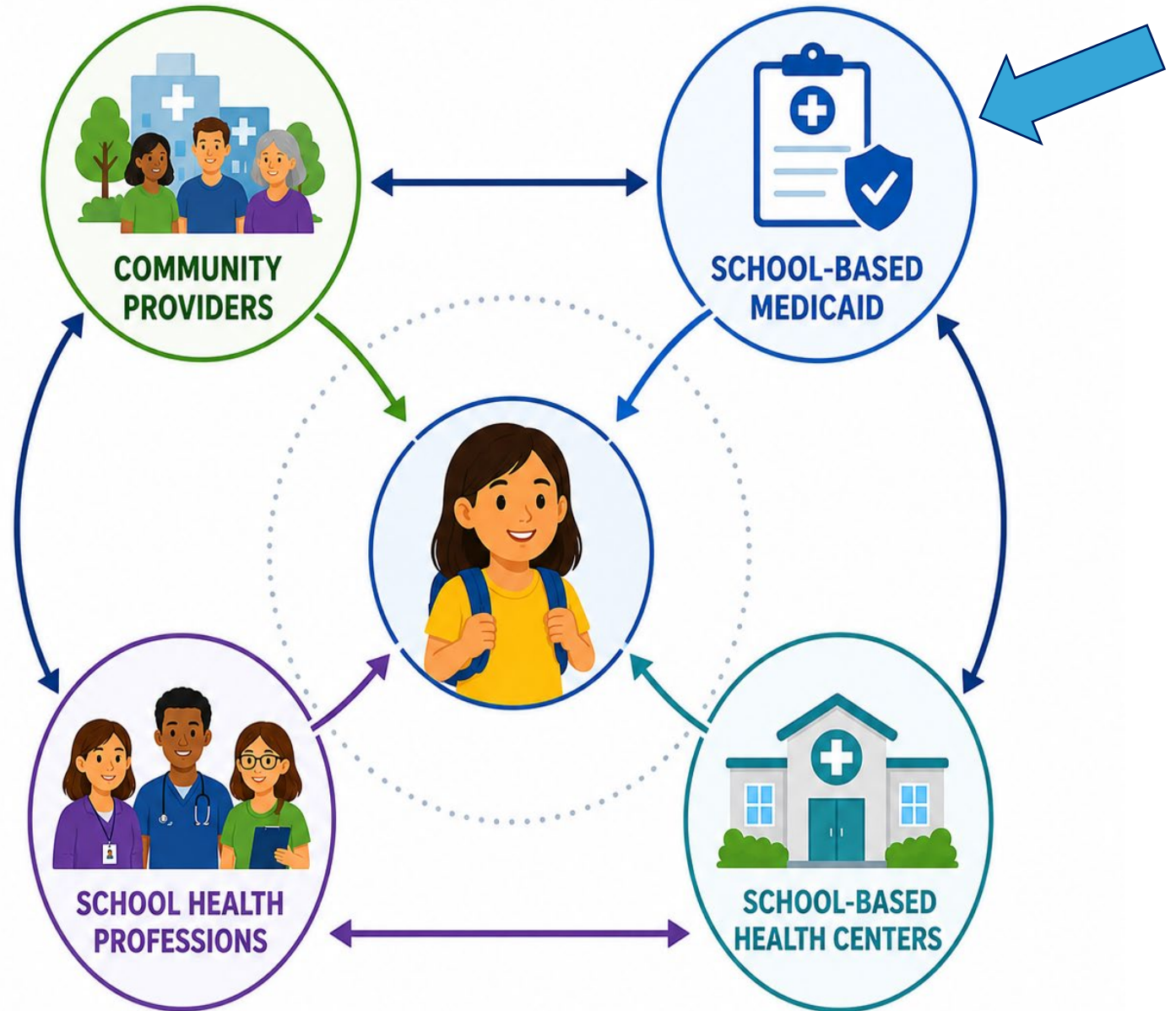
Medicaid-Enrolled Students with Behavioral Health Diagnosis, 2023-2024



■ Percent with a diagnosis ■ Percent without a diagnosis

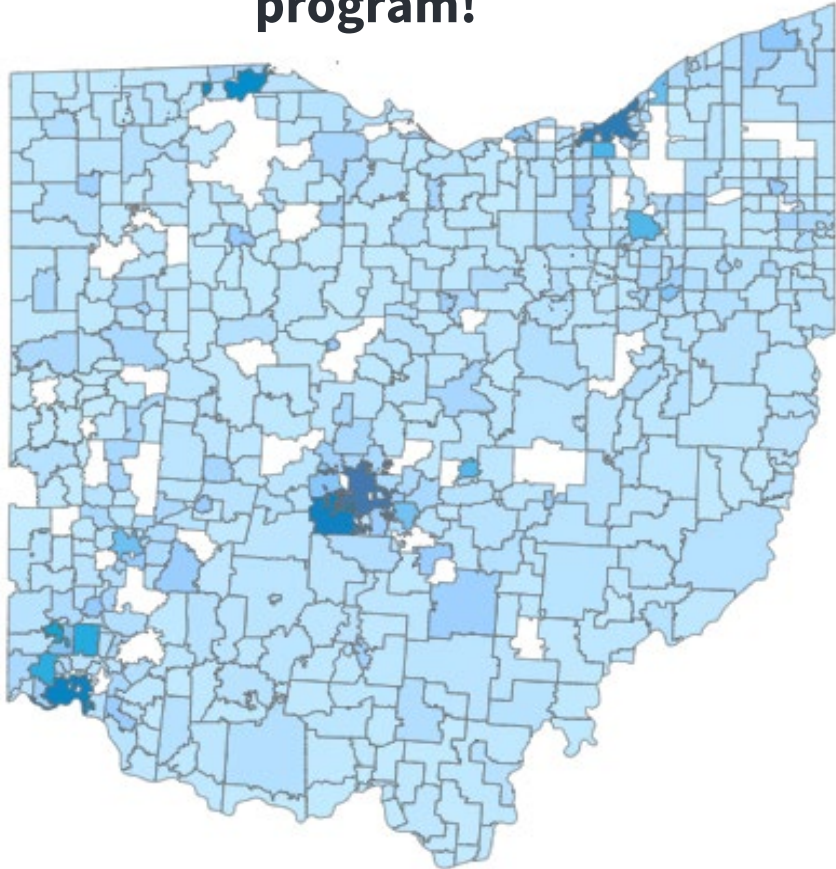


MEDICAID SCHOOL PROGRAM AND OTHER SCHOOL HEALTH DELIVERY MODELS



Ohio's Medicaid School Program

87% of Ohio's school districts participate in the Medicaid school program!



- MSP is administered by the Ohio Department of Medicaid and is authorized by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid.
- Districts receive reimbursement for the federal share of Medicaid funding. The districts are responsible for paying the state share with local, state or philanthropic dollars (including Student Wellness and Success funds!)

Ohio's Medicaid School Program

The Medicaid School Program (MSP) allows local educational agencies (LEAs), community schools, and state schools for the blind and deaf to seek reimbursement for **Medicaid eligible services provided to students who have services documented in a plan of care when the student's disability is impacting their academic achievement or regular school attendance.**

Eligible Services

Occupational
Therapy



Physical
Therapy



Speech



Audiology



Nursing



Behavioral
Health



Transportation

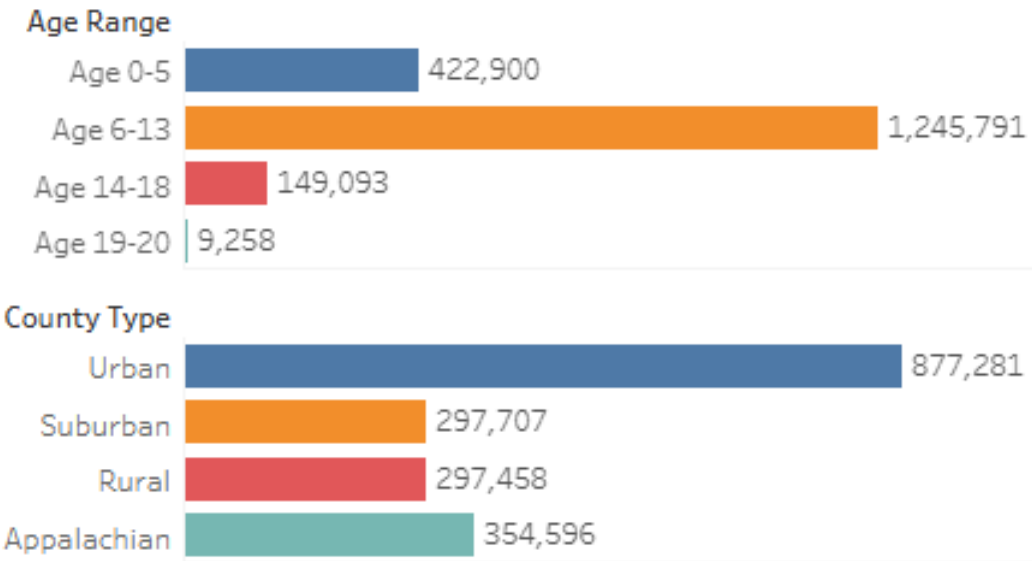
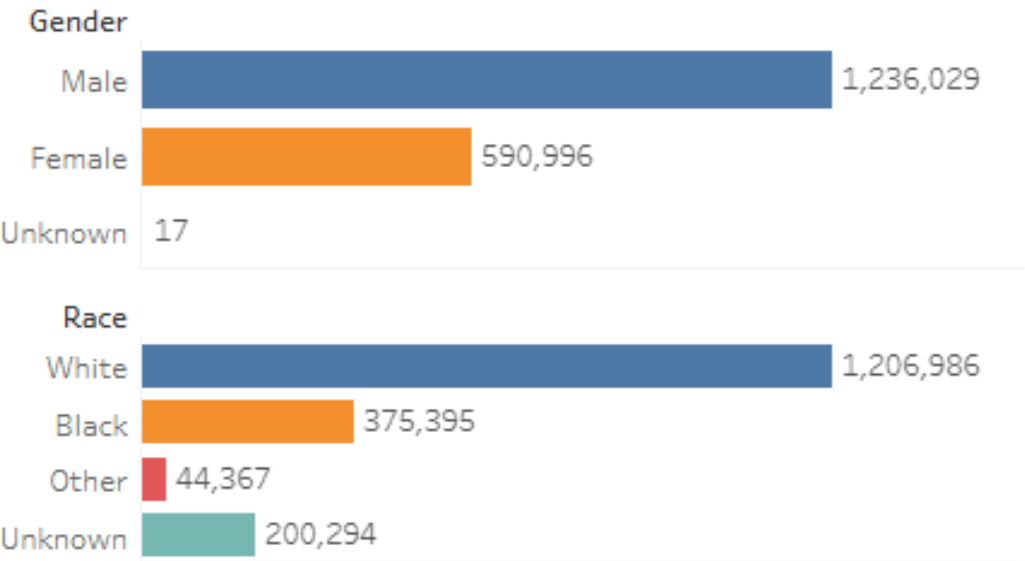


MSP's Impact on Students with Disabilities

1,827,042
Services Rendered

85,568
Students Served

\$143,771,801
Dollars Reimbursed



What's the MSP Process?

- ☐ School district enrolls as a Medicaid provider and contracts with a third-party billing agent.
- ☐ School district selects an MSP Coordinator to serve as the point-of-contact for ODM, DEW, RMTS and providers.
- ☐ School district follows the prescribed process and timeline by IDEA to develop a student's IEP. The district will write appropriate services and goals into the IEP or School Services Plan of Care based on medical necessity.
- ☐ School district obtains parent permission to bill Medicaid.
 - District must receive one-time written permission to bill the student's insurance (Medicaid) and provide written notice annually. Additionally, the district must obtain written permission every time a student enrolls in the district.

What's the MSP Process? (cont.)

- ☐ Providers deliver services according to the IEP and document accordingly.
- ☐ Claims will be submitted by the district's third-party billing agent.
- ☐ Districts will receive monthly reimbursement for the claims submitted (this is called interim claiming).
- ☐ Throughout the school year, MSP providers will receive moments to complete for the Random Moment Time Study (RMTS).
- ☐ Districts submit a cost report and receive a final settlement.

Updates to the Medicaid School Program

Implement the School Services Plan of Care to serve a broader group of students with disabilities



Update benefits package to include additional physical and behavioral health services



Allow for some public health services to be available to all students enrolled in Medicaid, with or without a plan of care



School Services Plan of Care

A standardized and timebound template developed and maintained by the Ohio Department of Medicaid to be used by the MSP provider. The school services plan of care serves as documentation of the services an eligible child will receive as part of the Medicaid school program to address an eligible child's physical, mental, or behavioral health needs that inhibit the eligible child's academic performance or regular school attendance.

- Demographic page
- Signature page
- Alternative documentation page OR Documentation of Medical Necessity Questionnaire

Alternative documentation:

- ☐ Absence Intervention Plan
- ☐ Behavioral Intervention plan
- ☐ Safety Plan
- ☐ Mental health treatment plan from a school or community provider
- ☐ Individualized Health Plan (IHP)
- ☐ Child and Family Centered Plan (CANS)
- ☐ Seizure Action Plan
- ☐ 504 plan
- ☐ Occupational therapy plan of care
- ☐ Physical therapy plan of care
- ☐ Nursing Care Plan
- ☐ Asthma Management Plan
- ☐ Diabetes Management Plan

MSP Services for Students Without a Plan of Care

- [OAC 5160-35-07](#)
 - Physical, mental, and behavioral health screenings recognized as valid and within scope of practice to identify eligible children who may be at risk of experiencing physical, mental, or behavioral health conditions, and refer for services as appropriate.
 - Administration of medication prescribed by a Medicaid authorized prescriber.
 - Contacting the prescribing or ordering providers about prescription or treatment orders.
 - Consultation with parents and providers regarding a physical, mental, or behavioral health condition or diagnosis.
 - Administration of the children and adolescent strengths and needs (CANS) assessment for children who have not had a CANS assessment previously completed.
 - Direct service activities to address tobacco prevention, cessation, and vaping.
 - Screening, brief intervention, referral, and treatment (SBIRT).
- School districts must obtain parental permission to bill

Parental Permission to Bill Medicaid

- ✓ The MSP providers are responsible for obtaining parental permission to bill Medicaid before seeking reimbursement from Medicaid for a service provided to an eligible child.
- ✓ Parental consent must be obtained to seek access to public health information, including Medicaid eligibility, and must be obtained to bill public health insurance for services provided.
- ✓ A notification of continued access to public health insurance must be sent annually to the parent.
- ✓ Parents have the right to revoke consent at any time.
- ✓ School districts are obligated to provide services to students through Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE), regardless of the parental consent status.
- ✓ MSP services do not take a way from services a student can receive in the community.



Actions you can take today:



- ✓ Think about what you are already doing that you could bill for. You don't have to do it all at once.
- ✓ Think through your district's process for obtaining parental permission to bill Medicaid for students without an IEP.
- ✓ Ensure any provider you want to bill for is on the RMTS .
- ✓ Ask how your district is utilizing Student Wellness and Success Funds.

Resources

- [Ohio Administrative Code for MSP \(5160-35\)](#)
- [ODM's MSP Webpage](#)
 - [School Services Plan of Care Form](#)
 - [School Services Plan of Care Guidance](#)
 - [MSP Services Beginning Jan. 1, 2026](#)
 - [MSP Training framework](#)
 - [Ohio MSP Third Party Billing Agent Contact Information](#)
 - [MSP Billing Guidance](#)
 - [Becoming an MSP Provider](#)
 - [RMTS Training for Direct Service Participants](#)

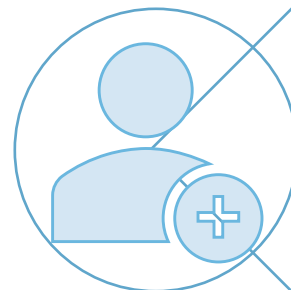
Contact and Connect



MedicaidSchoolPrograms@Medicaid.Ohio.Gov



[Medicaid School Program Webpage](#)



Subscribe to [Medicaid School Program](#) Gov
Delivery emails

Policy updates



Rural Health Transformation Program

School-Based Health Center *(issued 6/11/2026; closed)*

- Planning for a new SBHC in or next to a school where one does not currently operate
- Start-up funds to open a new SBHC
- Support for operational and expansion projects to existing sites

Award amount: \$50,000 - \$4,070,000; up to 25 awards



Rural Health Transformation Program

OhioSEE *(issued 7/31/2026; closed)*

Support efforts to reduce vision referral gaps and expand access to comprehensive eye exams for students in rural communities. Funded strategies may include school partnerships, mobile service delivery, and care coordination.

Award amount: \$25,000,000; multiple awards

OhioDENTAL *(issued 7/30/2026; closed)*

Improve oral health outcomes by increasing access to comprehensive dental services for children in underserved communities through mobile and portable dental.

Award amount: \$14,868,000.00; up to 20 award(s)





Markee Osborne

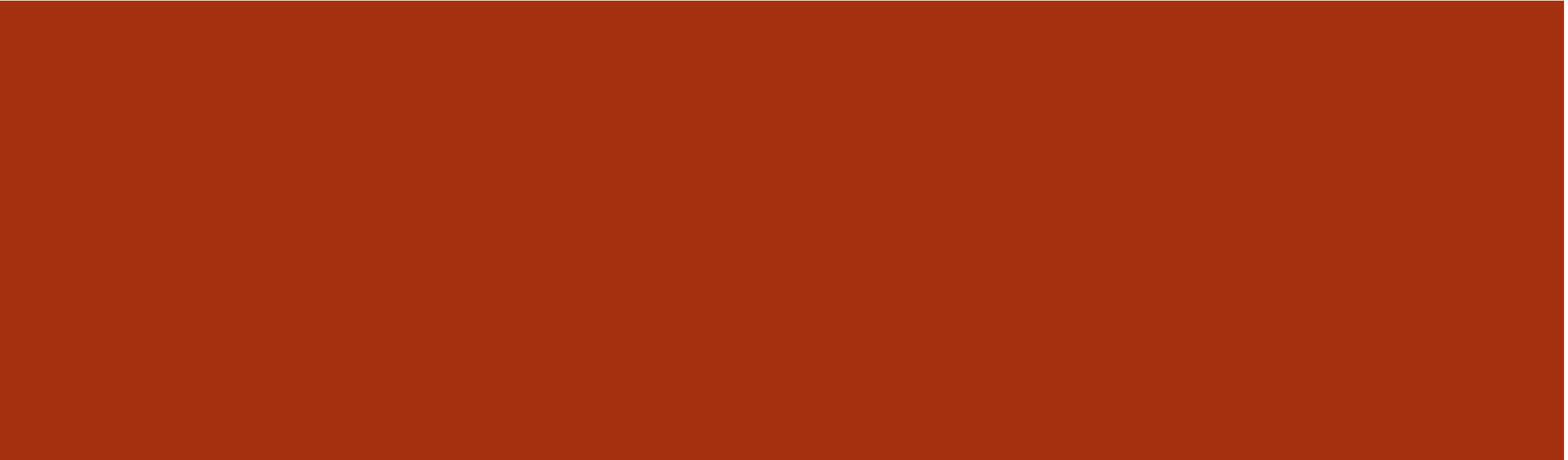
VP for Government Relations, High Bridge Consulting





LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY UPDATE

SEPTEMBER 10TH 2026



2026 ELECTION OUTLOOK

- **Open-seat race:** Republican Vivek Ramaswamy faces Democrat Amy Acton following Gov. Mike DeWine's term limit.
- **Highly competitive:** Current polling shows the race extremely close.
- **Polling:** Recent averages put Ramaswamy and Acton at approximately 47% each, with roughly 5–6% undecided/other.
- **Key factors:** Candidate favorability, turnout, the national political environment will all factor into the outcome.
- **Election Day:** November 3, 2026.

WORKING WITH THE NEXT ADMINISTRATION

- Build relationships early with the incoming administration and key agencies, regardless of the outcome.
- **Acton administration:** Greater emphasis on health care access, public education and affordability.
- **Ramaswamy administration:** Greater emphasis on education outcomes, parental choice, accountability and efficiency.
- **Common ground:** Student health, attendance, academic outcomes and access to care provide opportunities for bipartisan engagement.
- **Goal:** Position school-based health as a practical investment in student and community outcomes.

LEGISLATIVE OUTLOOK

- **136th Ohio General Assembly:** January 1, 2025 – December 31, 2026
- **Current operating budget:** FY 2026–2027
 - Lame Duck heavily dependent on Statewide races
 - Sessions scheduled November 10th, November 18th, December 2nd, 9th, 16th and 17th
- **137th Ohio General Assembly** January 1, 2027 – December 31, 2028
 - Convenes: January 2027 following the 2026 election
 - Key focus: 2027–28 legislative session will include development of the FY 2028–29 state operating budget
 - House and Senate will maintain majorities
 - What to watch for is maintaining the “supermajority” to override a Governor’s veto (2/3)

FY 27-28 OPERATING BUDGET

- **Fall 2026:** State agencies develop and submit budget requests to the Governor/Office of Budget and Management (OBM).
- **January 2027:** New Governor and General Assembly take office.
- **March 15, 2027:** Governor must submit the executive operating budget to the General Assembly.
- **Spring 2027:** House and Senate review, amend and pass the budget.
- **Late Spring/Early Summer 2027:** House and Senate negotiate final budget language and reach agreement.
- **June 30, 2027:** Current biennium ends; new budget is expected to be enacted ahead of the July 1 start of the new fiscal year.
- **July 1, 2027:** New two-year budget takes effect.

MEDICAID CHANGES AND PRIORITIES

- **Federal changes:** Eligibility and enrollment changes could create coverage disruptions for some Medicaid recipients.
- **Ohio implementation:** How Ohio implements these changes will be critical to maintaining access for students and families.
- **Medicaid integrity:** Continued focus on fraud, waste and abuse will likely drive greater oversight, program integrity measures and scrutiny of Medicaid spending.
- **School-based services:** Continued opportunity to expand Medicaid-covered primary, preventive and behavioral health services in schools.
- **Funding & reimbursement:** Protect and build on Ohio's \$10 million annual investment in school-based health centers and support sustainable Medicaid reimbursement.

CONTINUED ADVOCACY

- **Build on existing relationships** with policymakers and agency leadership.
- **Elevate school-based health** as a driver of student health and academic success.
- **Engage early** with the new administration and 137th General Assembly.
- **Pursue opportunities** for sustainable funding and program growth.
- **Expand awareness** of the impact of SBHCs across Ohio communities.
- **Strengthen bipartisan support** for school-based health initiatives.
- **Looking ahead:** Position the Association as a key partner in improving outcomes for Ohio students and families.

Ohio Alliance updates



New resources



NEW Ohio Alliance resource

Ohio SBHC Census Report: 2025-26 school year update

Available at:
www.osbha.com/sbhc-census



Ohio School-Based Health Center
2025-2026 Census Report
May 2026

What is the Ohio School-Based Health Center Census?

The Ohio School-Based Health Alliance ("Ohio Alliance") completed the third iteration of a comprehensive census that provides an inventory of school-based health centers (SBHCs) across Ohio (hereinafter referred to as the 2025-2026 census). The purpose of the census is to gather information on the scope, reach, and impact of SBHCs statewide.

This third iteration of the census was enhanced with additional questions to provide a more complete picture of the state's evolving school-based health care landscape. Data collected as part of the 2025-2026 census includes location and operational characteristics of SBHCs, such as the populations served (e.g., students, families, and/or the broader community), types of services provided, service delivery models, and key utilization metrics. The Ohio Alliance plans to conduct the census annually to support ongoing statewide tracking, planning, infrastructure development, and understanding of Ohio's school-based health care landscape.

Methodology

Respondents

Census data were solicited from SBHC provider operators, the healthcare provider organizations that operate and administer SBHC services on a day-to-day basis. Healthcare providers were identified as SBHC operators if they: responded to the 2024-2025 school year census; were identified by the Ohio Alliance;¹ or were self-reported through the census as operating a site that meets the following criteria:

- Provides comprehensive primary care services, including at minimum well care, acute care, and administration of one or more immunizations
- Operates at least 8 hours a week during the academic year
- Primary care is delivered onsite and in-person in a permanent space²
- Located on a K-12 school campus

A total of 38 healthcare providers meeting the criteria above and currently operating Ohio SBHCs were identified. Of these, 32 responded to the 2025-2026 census resulting in an 84% response rate. SBHCs that will be opening in the next academic year or that are under construction are not included in the 2025-2026 census findings. Over the course of the census, 37 school-based healthcare operators have participated in the census.

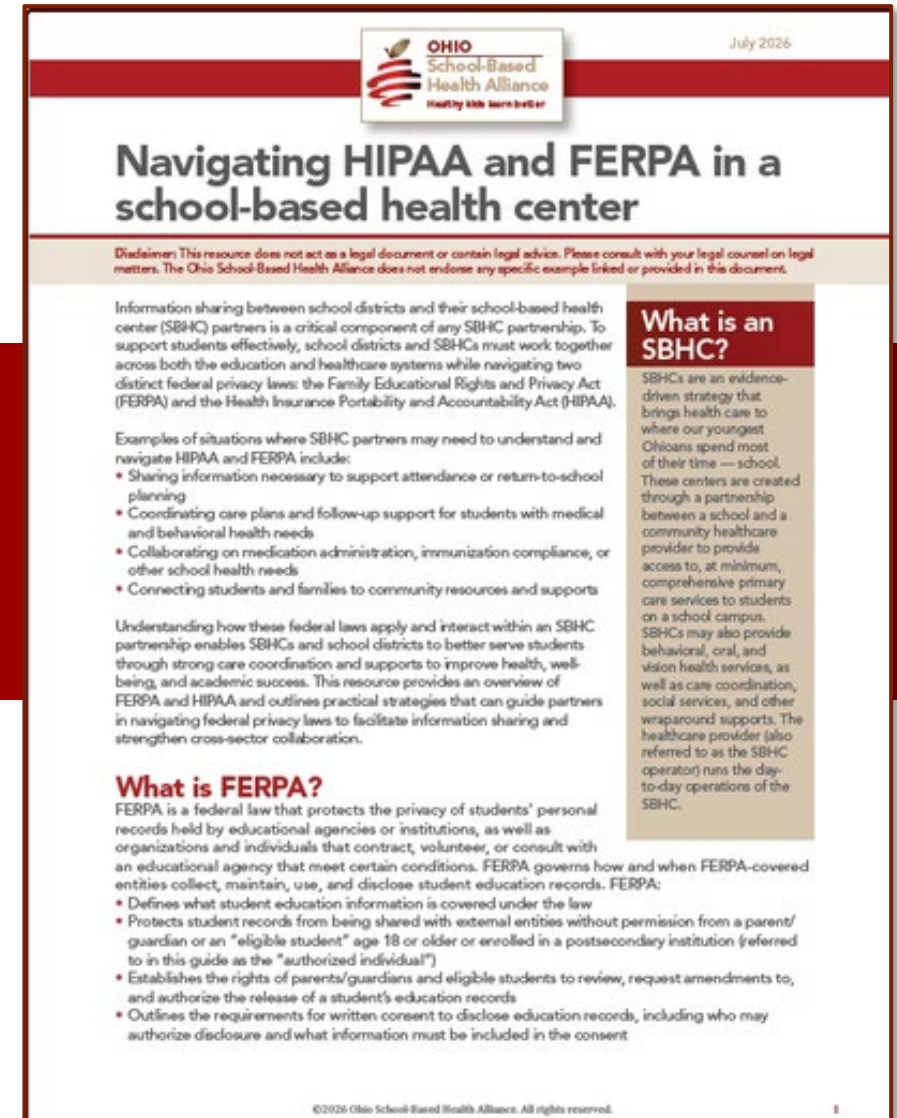
¹ The Ohio Alliance had previously engaged with the healthcare provider regarding SBHC operations, including through site visits, technical assistance, partnership activities, or operational discussions.

² Other services (i.e., behavioral health, oral, and vision services) may be provided through other school-based health care delivery modalities.

NEW Ohio Alliance resource

Navigating HIPAA and FERPA in a school-based health center

Available at:
www.osbha.com/hipaa-ferpa



NEW Ohio Alliance resource

A guide to family and community engagement in SBHCs

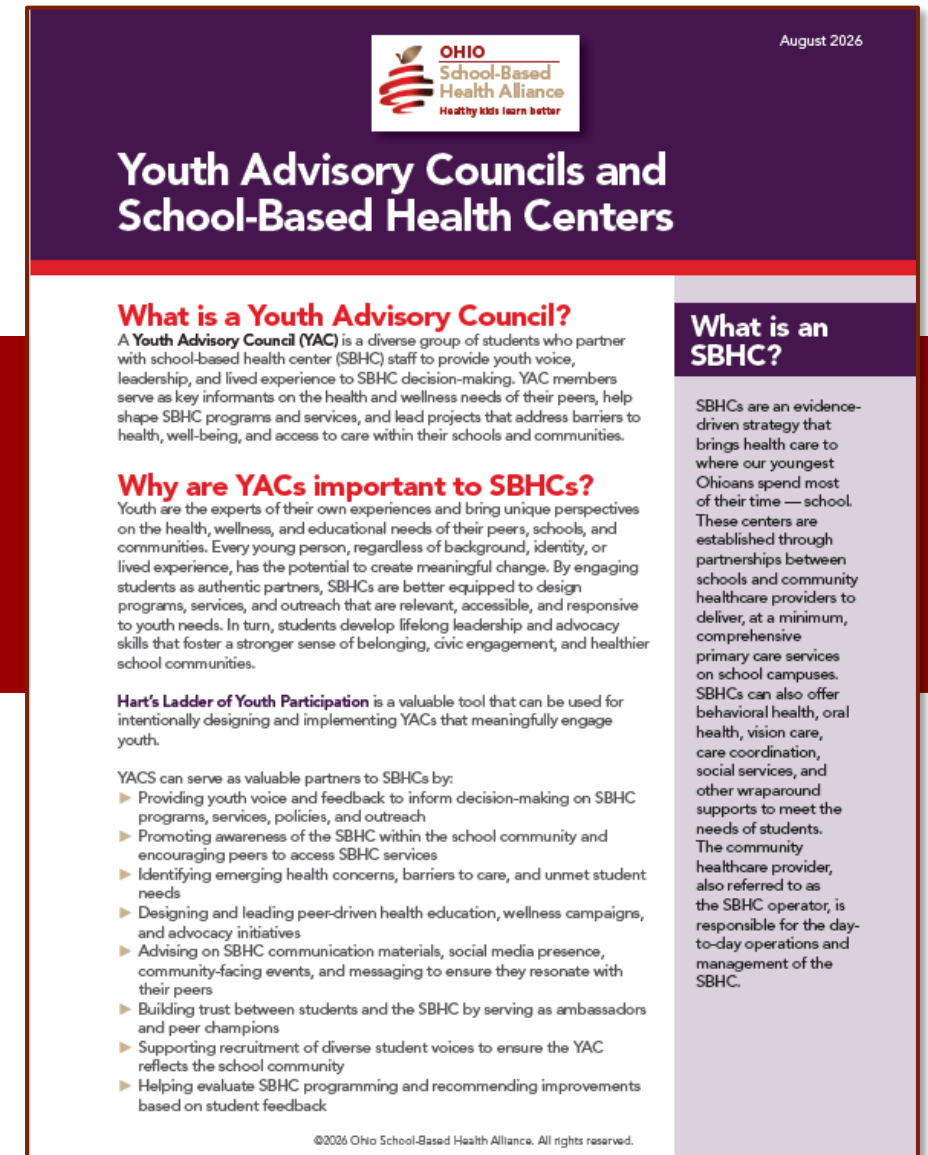
Available at:
www.osbha.com/family-community-engagement



NEW Ohio Alliance resource

Youth Advisory Councils and School-Based Health Centers

Available at:
[https://www.osbha.com/
yac-guide](https://www.osbha.com/yac-guide)



On the horizon



Save the Date

2027

Annual School-Based
Health Care Conference

Thursday, February 4, 2027
Quest Conference Center | Columbus, OH





2027

Annual School-Based
Health Care Conference

Call for speakers

Submission closes October 2nd

Learn more at:

www.surveymonkey.com/r/2027OConference



Next meeting:
Thursday December 10
12-1p



Poll question



Meeting objectives

- ▶ Review updates on the implementation of Ohio's Medicaid School Program (MSP)
- ▶ Understand the upcoming policy landscape and key developments that may impact school-based health care
- ▶ Receive updates on Ohio Alliance priorities and initiatives



Join the conversation

Be sure to use the hashtags #OhioSBHC26 and #OhioSBHCs



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company/ohioalliance

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http://eepurl.com/h_D7HX

