

# SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH CENTERS IN PETERSBURG



PETERSBURG  
CITY+SCHOOLS  
PARTNERSHIP



United Way of Greater  
Richmond & Petersburg



## HEALTH AND EDUCATION CAN HAVE A POWERFUL IMPACT WHEN THEY INTERSECT ON BEHALF OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH.

Research shows that health is a critical factor in students attending school every day, engaging meaningfully and thriving in school and in life. Poor health creates a greater risk of students not being ready for kindergarten, not reading at grade-level by third grade or not graduating high school on time, leaving them without certain credentials and skills necessary to participate in today's workforce. In short: A student's health is a major component of his or her ability to move along the Steps to Success.

**That's why United Way is working with local organizations through the Petersburg City and Schools Partnership to open a school-based health center at Petersburg High School.**

## WHAT IS A SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH CENTER?

A school-based health center (SBHC) is a shared commitment between a community's schools and healthcare organizations to support students' health, well-being and academic success by providing preventative, early intervention, and treatment services where students are: in school.

SBHCs are gaining recognition across the country because they offer critical services like medical, behavioral, dental and vision care directly in schools. This ensures that all young people, no matter their zip code, have equal opportunity to receive care, learn and grow. SBHCs provide immediate help for students with acute and chronic conditions.

In Petersburg, the SBHC is a partnership between Petersburg City Public Schools, service providers, and community organizations. Together, partners will provide **integrated, culturally-sensitive, patient-centered care focused on improving physical and behavioral health to promote positive academic outcomes and build resilience.**

### But what about the school nurse?

The nurse continues to manage the student population's health. School-based health care complements the nurse's work by providing an accessible referral site for students who are without a medical home or in need of more comprehensive services. The SBHC will provide the school nurse with instant access to a healthcare provider who can immediately address students' acute healthcare issues.

## IMPROVING HEALTH OUTCOMES, ADVANCING STUDENT SUCCESS

School-based health centers are uniquely positioned to integrate prevention into their clinical care to effectively address a full range of health determinants. They can serve as a resource for group and classroom health education, school-wide wellness programs and support a positive school climate.

### Positive outcomes include:

- Students stay in school and learn to advocate for their own health;
- Schools have higher academic expectations, increased attendance and GPAs,
- Students are more engaged and enjoy an enhanced school climate; and
- Communities are healthier with decreased inappropriate emergency room use and hospitalizations

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## WHY PETERSBURG?

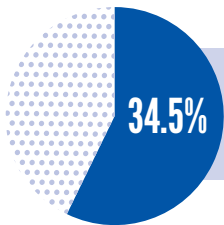
Of the approximately 4,000 students in the Petersburg City Public Schools district:



Approximately  
**2,800 STUDENTS**  
are economically  
disadvantaged.

More than  
**1,000 STUDENTS**  
were chronically  
absent in  
2016-2017.

Approximately  
**300 STUDENTS**  
are experiencing  
homelessness.



**34.5%** of all children ages 0-17 years live below the poverty threshold in Petersburg.

## THIS IS THE FUTURE

Students with access to health and wellness care right where they spend most of their time: in school. Youth advocating for their own health and managing their own care. A hub for trauma-informed care, school safety and whole school wellness.

**This future does not have to be a dream. Help us make it a reality and create a health home for 1,000 students at Petersburg High School.**



## HOW YOU CAN HELP

**Donate to United Way to support our work in this area.** We have the excitement, desire and business plan ready to open the SBHC in August 2019. With your help, we can build a youth-friendly space that meets the core competencies of quality, sustainable SBHCs.

**Become an advocate for school-based health care.** Share information about the importance of equitable access to healthcare and make sure all of your friends and colleagues have the same understanding as you. Looking for talking points?

Visit [www.yourunitedway.org/petersburg/city-schools-partnership](http://www.yourunitedway.org/petersburg/city-schools-partnership) to learn more.