

**Foundation for Community Health
Partners with Webutuck School District
To Establish School-Based Health Center
June 2020
Synopsis**



Background

The Foundation for Community Health's (FCH) Board of Directors has approved a \$100,000 grant to the Webutuck Central School District to establish the first school-based health center in New York's Mid-Hudson Valley. The school-based health center will provide year round, immediate, high quality and evidence-based primary care, mental health services and comprehensive dental services to all students of Webutuck Central School district, regardless of their ability to pay or insurance coverage.

Grant Information

FCH's grant funds the one-time construction costs, to convert existing property on school district grounds into a school-based health center. The total cost of the project is a little over \$140,000 and encompasses the creation of new rooms, upgrades to the HVAC system to utilize one system for the health center and the installation of two new sinks and new electrical throughout the new center's space. The remaining costs of the project were funded through a grant from New York State Assemblymember, Didi Barrett.

Webutuck Central School District is partnering with [Open Door](#), a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) that will manage and operate the school-based health center. Open Door currently operates seven school-based health centers in Port Chester and Ossining. Plans are underway to open the school-based health center for the 2020-2021 school year. Once operational, services will be sustained financially through billing and other revenue streams available to Open Door as an FQHC.

School-Based Health Center Address Health Access Challenges and More

The best teachers and schools cannot compensate for poor health or poverty. However, schools themselves are well placed to help address these challenges. By providing services in the confines of a school, school-based health centers effectively remove cultural, financial, privacy and transportation related barriers that are typically experienced at a separate center site.

Students who use school-based health centers have better grade point averages and attendance compared to students who do not use such centers. At the most basic level they do better in school because they miss less school. School-based health centers are also linked to a myriad of health-related outcomes, such as increased use of vaccinations and prevention services, reduced asthma morbidity, fewer emergency department visits and hospital admissions, lower illegal substance use and alcohol consumption and reduced violence. Simply put, school-based health centers provide culturally competent, developmentally appropriate, easily accessible, high quality services to students.

Additional Information about the School-Based Health Center Model

American Public Health Association, (2018) [School-based health centers. Improving health, wellbeing and educational success](#)

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, (2016) [The relationship school health and attendance](#)

Chiang, R. J., Meagher, W., & Slade, S. (2015) [How the Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child model works: creating greater alignment, integration, and collaboration between health and education](#)

Health Affairs, (2017) [School-Based Health centers: A Funder's View of Effective Grant Making](#)