



# Highland Health Providers

## **SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH CENTERS**

### *FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS*

#### **WHAT IS SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH?**

School-Based Health Centers provide comprehensive health services in school buildings to ensure students, families, and communities have the health services, supports, and systems they need to achieve optimal health and education outcomes. Health care is provided to students with parental permission, as well as faculty and community members, regardless of insurance coverage or ability to pay.

School administrators and teachers are extremely supportive of school-based health centers because they allow them to focus on their role of educating students who are healthy and ready to learn.

#### **DO I HAVE TO GIVE PERMISSION FOR MY CHILD TO BE SEEN?**

In order for a child to be seen at the school-based health center, permission must be granted by the parent or legal guardian. When a parent or guardian gives permission for their child to be seen at a school-based health center, they know they will not have to miss work to care for minor problems. Additionally, they know their child will receive prompt attention from health care providers.

#### **WHAT IF WE ALREADY HAVE A PRIMARY CARE PROVIDER?**

School-based health centers do not seek to replace any care being issued from the current school nursing staff or the student's current care provider. The optimal outcome for students is when the school-based health care professional can partner and collaborate with the existing school nursing staff and primary care provider to help ensure that each student is receiving the health care they need when they need it.

#### **HOW WILL MY CHILD REMAIN SAFE WHEN RECEIVING CARE?**

Highland Health Providers and Fairfield Local School District will work collaboratively to ensure student and community safety is prioritized. Community members seeking care will enter the center separately from students, and will not have access to the school building through the center. Students will have their own secure, designated entrance to the center and will return directly to the school building once care is received.

#### **WHO WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR CONTINUING COSTS OF THE CENTER?**

As part of the Appalachian Children's Health Initiative, grant funds for the center were awarded to both Highland Health Providers and Fairfield Local School District to build the facility, and to help with operational costs for a limited time. Highland Health Providers, a Federally Qualified Health Center, will continue all operational costs after the grant funding exhausts. Investing in health equity opportunities in under-served areas is the mission of Highland Health Providers, benefiting the overall health and wellness of the Leesburg community and surrounding areas.