



Bibb County School District

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DISTRICT OPENING GRANT-FUNDED HEALTH CENTER AT BRUCE ELEMENTARY

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(MACON, GA) – The Bibb County School District (BCSD) is excited to announce it has been awarded a \$1 million grant from Georgia Department of Education, Office of Whole Child Supports to develop a School-Based Health Center (SBHC) at Bruce Elementary School. The center, made possible through a partnership with First Choice Primary Care, will provide comprehensive healthcare services to students and families in the district, with an expected opening in the coming weeks.

The SBHC will offer primary care, mental health services, dental hygiene services, and health education directly on school grounds, addressing critical healthcare needs in the community. By offering these services within the school, the center will remove barriers to healthcare access for students, particularly those from economically disadvantaged backgrounds, ensuring they receive essential health services without leaving the school.

"We are thrilled to receive this grant and look forward to the positive impact the School-Based Health Center will have on our students and their families," said Lasharn Ferroudj, Director of Partnerships, Projects, and Engagement at BCSD. "This health center at Bruce Elementary will improve student outcomes by providing easy access to vital health services, helping students, staff and families stay healthy."

Bruce Elementary was selected as the site for the SBHC based on its student population, accessibility, and the opportunity to serve uninsured and underinsured students and families. The health center will not only provide immediate medical care but will also contribute to the long-term well-being of the community by offering preventive care, mental health counseling, and health education.

"We are excited to partner with the Bibb County School District on this initiative," said Katherine Mcleod, CEO of First Choice Primary Care. "The health center will provide high-quality care directly to students with parental consent, eliminating barriers to healthcare and improving both student health and academic success. We will be working with the Bruce Elementary staff and families to make sure they are aware of the services available and opportunities for parent involvement."

The planning process for the SBHC is already underway, with community engagement, facility renovations, and staffing scheduled to begin in the coming months. BCSD will work closely with First Choice Primary Care, Bruce Elementary administrators, and community partners to ensure the center is fully equipped and ready to open by the anticipated date.

This grant will fund the construction, staffing, and operational needs of the health center through October 2026. After this period, the center will be sustained through insurance reimbursements, Medicaid and ongoing community support.

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