



As Superintendent of the School District of the City of York, I have seen firsthand the powerful impact that our School-Based Health Centers have on the well-being and success of our students and families.

The health and wellness of our students is at the core of their ability to learn and thrive. Through our partnership with Family First Health, we have been able to bring essential primary medical and behavioral health care services directly into our schools, where students already spend most of their time. These centers serve as a true medical home, making it easier for students and families to access care, whether addressing immediate health concerns or supporting long-term well-being.

Our two School-Based Health Centers each reflect a unique and intentional model of care. At Hannah Penn, serving students in grades Pre-K through 8, the center is designed to support both students and their families, with an external entrance and year-round access that extends beyond the traditional school day. At William Penn, serving grades 9 through 12, the focus is primarily on students, with services aligned to the school year to ensure access during the most critical academic periods.

Across both sites, these centers play a vital role in addressing preventive and acute care needs. By reducing barriers to care, we are helping ensure that students can remain in school, engaged, and ready to learn. We know that access to health care directly impacts student success. When students are healthy, they are more likely to attend regularly, focus in class, and ultimately achieve more.

Equally important is the comprehensive behavioral health support that Family First Health has embedded within our schools. Behavioral Health Consultants provide targeted interventions for students who are patients, offering timely support when challenges arise. In addition, Behavioral Health Associates help meet the day-to-day needs of students by facilitating groups and providing real-time support. Together, these roles create a proactive and responsive system that strengthens the overall environment of care within our schools.

The School-Based Health team from Family First Health is deeply integrated into the fabric of our district. They are responsive not only to district priorities, but also to the unique needs identified at the building level. That level of collaboration and adaptability ensures that support is meaningful, relevant, and aligned to the needs of our students and school communities.

We also recognize the important role of the mobile school dentistry program in keeping our students healthy. By providing access to dental care, we are removing yet another barrier that can impact attendance, comfort, and a student's ability to fully engage in learning.

At its core, this work is about more than health care. It is about creating an environment where students can reach their full potential, both inside and outside of the classroom. When we support the whole child, we strengthen attendance, improve outcomes, and build a foundation for long-term success.

This work is made possible through strong partnership and shared commitment. Together, the School District of the City of York and Family First Health remain focused on supporting students, strengthening systems, and ensuring that every child has what they need to succeed.

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Superintendent of Schools