

CHAP ADVOCACY BRIEF

Changes to the Functions of the DC School-Based Health Centers

March 2026

PURPOSE

To inform the community about AJE's **Community Health Advisory Panel (CHAP)** recommendations on improving the effectiveness, equitable access, and sustainability of the DC School-Base Health Centers at respective DCPS schools and their integration with school-based health systems.

OVERVIEW

The DC Department of Health's **School-Based Health Centers (SBHC) are shifting their model of care from providing comprehensive primary care services to focusing on adolescent reproductive care.** The SBHCs complement the Health Services Program (SHSP).

SBHC LOCATIONS & OPERATORS

- Ballou High School (Ward 8)
- Dunbar High School (Ward 5)
- Eastern High School (Ward 6)
- Roosevelt High School (Ward 4)
- Anacostia High School (Ward 8)
- Columbia Heights Education Campus (Ward 1)
- Coolidge High School (Ward 4)

Unity Health Care operates SBHCs at Cardozo Education Campus (Ward 1) and H.D. Woodson High School (Ward 7)

KEY DIFFERENCES

- **DC Department of Health-operated SBHCs:** Public health–driven, integrated with District programs.
- **Unity Health Care SBHCs:** Unity is a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) and integrates a community health care model with the capacity to provide expanded billing and pathways to continuity of care beyond school setting.

KEY SYSTEM STRENGHTS

- Improve access, prevention and early intervention, and equitable health outcomes.
- SBHCs are available in high impact areas across the District.

CHAP POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Align SHSP, SBHCs, and School Behavioral Health programs.
- Enchance Data Transparency to track:
  - Student health outcomes
  - Service utilization rates
  - Staffing ratios and coverage gaps

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