



ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Johnny Key, Commissioner

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Four Districts Awarded Funds for School-Based Health Centers

LITTLE ROCK — Four school districts recently were selected to receive state funding to implement School-Based Health Centers during the 2015-2016 school year, bringing the total statewide to 27.

The Arkansas Department of Education's School Health Services Office in collaboration with the Arkansas Department of Health and Arkansas Medicaid in the Schools awarded funds to the following sites:

- Bradford Elementary School, Bradford School District;
- Bryant Elementary School, Bryant School District;
- Charleston Elementary School, Charleston School District; and
- Smackover Elementary School, Smackover-Norphlet School District.

Funds are awarded to districts to start school-based health centers in an effort to promote health, wellness and academic achievement among public school students. Applicants undergo a competitive application process, which includes an internal review, external review and an onsite visit.

The centers serve as support programs to remove physical and mental health barriers for students with the intent of directly impacting student achievement. By offering these services on campus for all students, the goal is to ensure students remain healthy and absences due to health issues are reduced.

Grantees implement three components in order to meet state requirements: physical health services, mental and behavioral health services, and school health outreach programs based on student and community needs. They also are required to have a health care provider onsite a minimum of 12 hours per week.

Local academic officials and local health service providers design the centers based on student and community needs. All centers are open to students, and centers may serve families, district employees and the community. Many of these centers offer other services, such as oral health and optometry, in addition to the required services.

To learn more about the School-Based Health Center program and to see a list of center locations, go to <http://www.arkansased.gov/divisions/learning-services/school-health-services/school-based-health-center>.

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