

YouCare Clinics

Youngstown City School District

Youngstown, OH | Mahoning County

Initiative Type(s):

Physical health care services

Community Partner(s):

Local Urgent Care

Description of Initiative:

Youngstown City School District partnered with QuickMed Urgent Care to open four YouCare clinics inside school buildings. These clinics operate as full-service urgent care centers for use by students and staff. With this investment in physical health services, Youngstown City School District offers the following services: wellness visits, sick child visits, vaccines, employee physicals, athletic physicals for student athletes, testing for viral infections including influenzas, streptococcus, and COVID-19, specialty physician referrals, prescriptions, and other urgent care services. By having access to these services available in schools, we are improving attendance rates and increasing access to learning opportunities.

Initiative Benefits:

Clinics are open during school hours so students can be seen and parents do not need to miss work. This convenience ensures that more children have access to medical services. Beyond this increase in access, students and staff benefit in many ways. Now, when a student or staff member are ill, the district can evaluate them on-site and immediately treat them. This combats the spread of COVID-19 and other contagious illnesses. This clinic also reduces the likelihood in delays of care for children seeking medical attention. Often, when a child is sick, their parents or guardians need to take time off work looking for the soonest available appointment time—which can delay the students return to school by days. When this delay in care takes place on a school-wide basis, the absences can become prohibitive to student performance. Having access to same-day medical services on-site reduces the likelihood of delays in care and treatment, which therefore reduces the length of absences and increases student performance.

Essential Staff and Partners:

Key partners include the CEO of QuickMed Urgent Care, Dr. Lena Esmail, DNP who assists with planning and has placed Nurse Practitioners in all four of the school-based urgent care centers, and Kenyetta Whipple, the Supervisor of Nursing for Youngstown City School District, who assists with policy, planning, and is in charge of coordinating school nurse services with the YouCare clinicians.

Action Steps to Get Started:

The CEO of Youngstown City School District met with the CEO of QuickMed and the Nursing Supervisor of Youngstown City School District to discuss shared goals and brainstorm ideas for how to work collaboratively. From there, the Nursing Supervisor created the “School Clinic Model,” which included the policy and procedure for the collaboration.

For More Information:

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