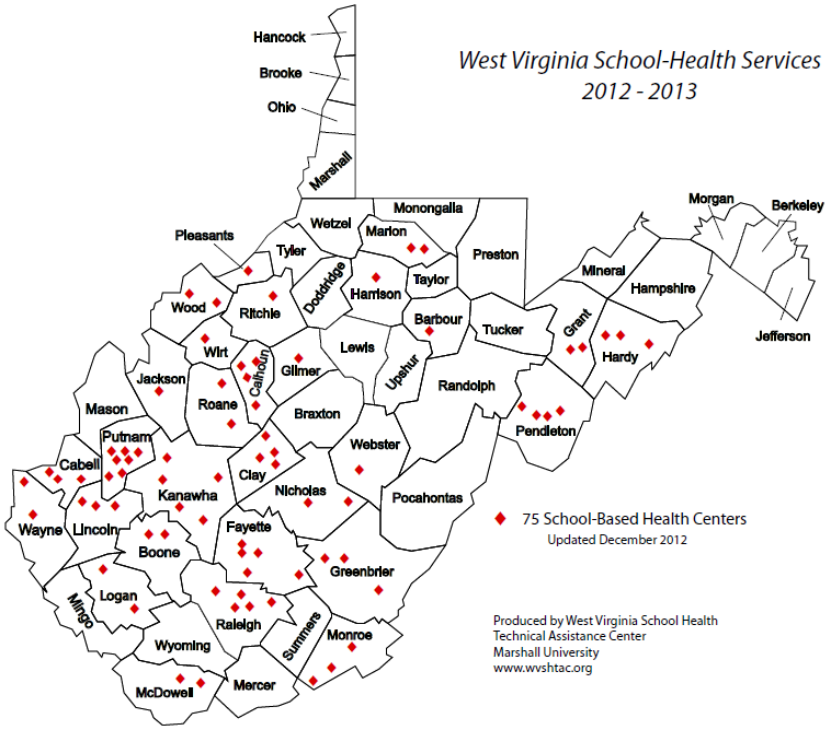
What is a School-Based Health Center?

School-Based Health Centers (SBHCs) are health centers located in schools or on school grounds that provide preventive and primary care to students and staff. They employ a multidisciplinary of providers: nurse practitioners, registered nurses, counselors, social workers and other health professionals to offer a comprehensive range of services to meet the health needs of those who attend the school, and sometimes the community. They work with the child's physician or school nurse, and when needed, can serve as their primary care provider. SBHCs ensure that all students receive health care, **regardless of their families' ability to pay.**



There are currently **75 SBHCs** in West Virginia, serving **94 schools** in **28 counties.**

Thirty-eight serve **high schools** and **technical centers**

Twenty-eight serve **middle schools**

Twenty-eight serve **elementary schools**

Thirty-seven SBHCs provide **behavioral health services**

Twenty-nine provide **oral health services**

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The **West Virginia School-Based Health Assembly (WVSBHA)** brings together interested individuals and organizations to promote health services in schools to help students be healthy learners. Formed in 1995, we serve as the lead membership organization and unified voice in the state for the advancement of school-based health care. At a time when public dollars are strained and health care needs are soaring, it is imperative that we invest in systems that are working, and our most important investment is our children. They represent the hope for our state's future. The fulfillment of their potential is dependent on physical and emotional health throughout childhood. **Let's work together to keep them in the classroom, healthy and ready to learn.**

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