

First School Based Health Center Opens in Douglas County

On August 4, the Douglas County School System (DCSS) will cut the ribbon on the first school based health center in Douglas County. The Family Health Center at Douglas County is in the Burnett Elementary School building located at 8277 Connally Drive, Douglasville. The center provides a full range of healthcare services to help students avoid health-related absences and receive support to succeed in the classroom.

The Family Health Center at Douglas County serves students attending Burnett and the adjacent Eastside Elementary as well as their siblings up to the age of 18 and their pre-school age siblings beginning at age three. The center also serves homeless students across the district and children of the staff at Burnett and Eastside. The center accepts insurance or charges parents for services based on a sliding scale. The health center is one of only 11 full service school based health center in Georgia.

DCSS partners with Family Health Center of Georgia (FHCGA) to provide care through the health center. FHCGA is a not-for-profit 501(c)3 federally qualified community healthcare provider. FHCGA has provided comprehensive primary healthcare services since 1976, serving more than 22,000 patients annually and generating more than 50,000 patient visits.

Services provided at the clinic include primary care, immunizations, laboratory services, physicals, chronic disease management, health education, nutrition counseling, and behavioral health. The space for the health center includes four exam rooms, a reception area, locked storage, and wheelchair accessibility.

The health center must have parental consent to treat a child and must follow all HIPAA and FERPA laws. FHCGA agrees to hold DCSS harmless from any liability, loss, damage, cost, or expense. DCSS's obligations are limited to providing the facility, utilities, room renovation labor, and the promotion of the health center.

DCSS expects the school based health center will not only be a huge convenience for parents, but will also decrease absenteeism, tardiness, and time out of class for visits to the doctor while improving overall health, attendance, grades, and test scores.

The clinic will be open Monday through Friday when school is in session, 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.