



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Dennis R. Schrader, Secretary

STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Mohammed Choudhury, Superintendent

December 1, 2021

The Honorable Bill Ferguson
President of the Senate
State House, H-107
100 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401 - 1991

The Honorable Adrienne A. Jones
Speaker of the House of Delegates
State House, H-101
100 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401 - 1991

Re: SB 830/Ch. 606(2), 2021 and HB 1148/Ch. 605(2), 2021 - Report on the Plan to Transfer Administration of School-Based Health Center Grants and Related Functions

Dear President Ferguson and Speaker Jones,

Pursuant to Health - General § 19-22A-08 Section 2(a), Annotated Code of Maryland, the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) in conjunction with the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) is submitting this report summarizing the plan to transfer the administration of school-based health center grants and any related functions from MSDE to the Bureau of Maternal and Child Health within MDH.

Thank you for your continued interest in public health and education in the State. If you have any comments or questions, please contact Heather Shek, Director of Governmental Affairs, at (410) 767-5282.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Dennis R. Schrader".

Dennis R. Schrader
Secretary

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Mohammed Choudhury".

Mohammed Choudhury
Superintendent

Enclosure

cc: Heather Shek, JD, MS, Director, Office of Governmental Affairs, MDH
Jinlene Chan, MD, MPH, FAAP, Deputy Secretary, Public Health Services, MDH
Donna Gugel, MHS, Director, Prevention and Health Promotion Administration, MDH
Shelly Choo, MD, MPH, Director, Maternal and Child Health Bureau, MDH
Mary Gable, Assistant Superintendent, Division of Student Support, Academic Enrichment, and Educational Policy, MSDE
Sarah Albert, Department of Legislative Services (5 copies) MSAR #13355

Report on the Plan to Transfer Administration of School-Based Health Center Grants and Related Functions

2021



Statutory Authority and Requirements:

House Bill 1148/Senate Bill 830 (2021): he Maryland Department of Health, in conjunction with the State Department of Education, shall report to the General Assembly, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article, on a plan to transfer the administration of school–based health center grants and any related functions from the State Department of Education to the Bureau of Maternal and Child Health within the Maryland Department of Health.

Larry Hogan
Governor

Boyd Rutherford
Lieutenant Governor

Dennis R. Schrader
Secretary of Health

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Introduction

School-based health care has a long tradition in Maryland. The first school-based health center opened in Baltimore City in 1985, followed by the rapid spread of the program across the state. The purpose of school-based health centers is to provide enhanced health care services in partnership with schools to: provide comprehensive somatic and mental/behavioral health services, deliver preventative care and chronic care management, reduce health disparities, eliminate barriers to healthcare access, serve all students regardless of ability to pay, and maximize classroom attendance and readiness to learn.

As Maryland's School-Based Health Center Program (Program) increased in size, the State's role in supporting these centers also expanded. Much of the work to grow the Program and to increase the quality of care it provides was conducted by a dedicated interagency committee of administrators and practitioners from state, local, private, and public agencies and organizations in coordination with the Maryland State Department of Education's Student Services and Strategic Planning branch. This interdisciplinary, interagency group produced the first statewide school-based health center guidelines in 1997. The guidelines were instrumental in helping to shape school-based health center growth.

Currently, there are 90 school-based health centers located in 14 of the 24 Maryland jurisdictions. More than two-thirds of visits to these centers are for somatic health care; the remaining visits are for behavioral health, dental care, substance use, and case management. The grants for this Program have been administered by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) in conjunction with the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) since 2005.

House Bill 1148/Senate Bill 830 - *School-Based Health Centers – Guidelines and Administration of Grants* (2021) requires that the Governor transfer the administration of school-based health center grants and any related functions from MSDE to the Bureau of Maternal and Child Health (the Bureau) within MDH on or before July 1, 2022, and that MDH report to the General Assembly a plan for this transfer.

MDH and MSDE met on the following dates to discuss this transfer:

- May 13, 2021
- June 2, 2021
- June 21, 2021
- June 22, 2021
- July 26, 2021

Items discussed at the meetings included:

- 1) Transfer of Funds: Funds will be transferred in the Governor's Budget from MSDE to the Bureau within the MDH starting July 1, 2022. MDH will distribute, receive, review, and award Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 grants to sponsoring agencies in anticipation of this transfer of funds in accordance with the timeline presented in Table 1.
- 2) Approval of New Program Sites: MDH will lead approval of new sites after July 1, 2022. The MSDE School Facilities Branch will assist MDH by reviewing the Architectural Floor Plans, and MSDE's School Health Services/Student Services Branch will assist by ensuring that selected centers have the physical capacity required to provide all school health services.
- 3) Clinical Oversight and Maintenance of Clinical Standards: MSDE, in conjunction with MDH, will update the School-Based Health Center Standards by March of 2022. The maintenance of clinical standards and clinical oversight will transfer to MDH on July 1, 2022. The Bureau will then be responsible for quality assurance and compliance with ongoing development of the School-Based Health Center standards.
- 4) Transfer of Records: MSDE will transfer all relevant Program records to MDH by July 1, 2022. The Maryland State Department of Education School-Based Health Center Outcome Survey (Annual Survey) and associated historical records will also transfer to MDH at this time.
- 5) Technical Assistance/Supports and Professional Development to Program: MSDE will continue to provide technical assistance that addresses challenges such as coordination of staffing, recruiting, training, and retaining staff until July 1, 2022. As of that date, MDH will assume this role and any associated materials will be transferred to MDH.
- 6) Quarterly Meetings with Program Administrators: MSDE will lead these meetings until July 1, 2022. After that date, quarterly meetings will continue under the guidance of MDH and in collaboration with MSDE. Representatives from MDH began attending these meetings in June 2021 to establish a working relationship and continuity of governance.
- 7) Maryland Council on Advancement of School-Based Health Centers (the Council): MDH and MSDE will continue to be ex-officio members to the Council.

Table 1. Timeline of School-Based Health Center Transition

Date	Action
May 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● MSDE provides a historical overview of the Program in Maryland schools.● MSDE provides a list of grantees and the amount each receives to MDH.● MSDE provides a copy of the FY 2022 application for review by MDH.
June 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● MDH assists MSDE in updating Program Center standards.● MSDE shares invoice worksheets and application forms with MDH.● MSDE discusses site approval process and technical assistance for Program administrators with MDH.● MSDE introduces MDH representatives to community stakeholders, including the Council.
July 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● MSDE provides an overview of the Annual Survey and process to update the survey.● MSDE shares the informal Annual Survey results with MDH.● A representative from MSDE's Office of Research provides information about the system used to gather the data for reporting.● MDH assists MSDE in transferring the Annual Survey to an online platform to be used by MDH for future surveys.
August 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● MSDE shares Program applications and Notice of Grant Award with MDH.
September 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● MDH attends the School-Based Health Center Administrator's Meeting to hear directly from administrators about their challenges and successes.
October - December 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● MDH identifies processes and procedures for managing Program grants including applications, invoicing, grant awarding, and data gathering. MSDE provides technical assistance as needed.
January - February 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● MDH provides an overview of their processes and procedures to the Program administrators at a quarterly meeting.● To prepare for the transition, MDH releases applications to all sponsoring agencies with 4-6 week timeline for application submission.
March 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● MDH receives the completed applications from sponsoring agencies.
April 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● MDH reviews the submitted applications and budgets.
May 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● MDH prepares agreements with sponsoring agencies.

June 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● MDH sends award letters to sponsoring agencies.
July 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Program is transferred to MDH.

Personnel

Transferring the Program from MSDE to MDH will require additional resources for administrative and clinical oversight. As indicated in the fiscal note for HB 1148/SB 830, there will be no position transfers from MSDE to MDH.¹ Existing MDH staff will provide clinical and administrative support.

MDH will:

- Develop requests for applications;
- Monitor grants;
- Develop programmatic budgets;
- Monitor compliance to standards through site assessments;
- Coordinate Program administrative meetings;
- Provide technical assistance to schools considering opening a school-based health center;
- Review and update clinical guidelines;
- Review and update the school-based health center billing manual;
- Develop and implement annual clinical quality improvement;
- Review and update telemedicine guidelines;
- Conduct outreach to care providers;
- Lead the School-Based Health Centers Administrator's Meeting; and
- Conduct other duties as they arise.

Conclusion

In accordance with HB 1148/SB 830, MDH and MSDE have met to outline how the departments will transfer the administration of the Program's grants and any related functions from MSDE to MDH by July 1, 2022. The agencies will continue to work together to ensure that the transition is completed smoothly and that the Program maintains delivery of exceptional health care.

¹ Fiscal and Policy Note, Third Reader – Revised, House Bill 1148.
https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2021RS/fnotes/bil_0008/hb1148.pdf