

Child and Adolescent Health Initiative: Policy Agenda

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Overview: The Child and Adolescent Health Initiative collaborates with schools, partner agencies, youth, and school health centers (SHCs) throughout the State to increase health care access and improve the health of children and adolescents.

Priority 1: Advocate for and support SHCs as school and community assets.

- Protect State grant program for SHCs.
- Ensure that SHCs are integrated fully into emerging financial models, such as Medicaid Managed Care.
- Advocate for policy solutions that enable the sustainable integration of behavioral health services in SHCs.
- Provide youth opportunities to become civically engaged and advocate for SHCs.
- Collaborate with national partners, including the national School-Based Health Alliance, on federal legislation that impacts SHCs.

Priority 2: In partnership with other advocacy and community-based organizations, advocate for and support efforts to address social determinants of health for children and adolescents.

- Participate in policy discussions and initiatives focused on social determinants of health for children and adolescents.
- Defend against policies that threaten the social supports necessary for positive health outcomes.
- Support policy initiatives that promote the safety of children and adolescents.