



Health Resource Center Program Southeastern Pennsylvania

Overview

Each school-based Health Resource Center provides a **confidential place** where students can receive counseling and education, condoms, and referrals to community-based sexual and reproductive health and related health services.

- Each Health Resource Center is **managed by a local AccessMatters' Network Partner** and staffed by an experienced counselor, social worker or health educator.
- All visits are voluntary and confidential. Students choose freely whether or not they attend the Health Resource Center, and what services they want to receive.
- Parental involvement is encouraged. All students seeking services are encouraged to speak to a parent, caregiver, or other trusted adult about their sexual and reproductive healthcare needs.
- Students do not need parental permission to receive counseling, education, referrals and other services provided through the Health Resource Center Program.
- The Health Resource Center Program is administered by AccessMatters in collaboration with the School District of Philadelphia, the Chester Upland School District, local healthcare providers, the Philadelphia Department of Public Health and the Pennsylvania Department of Health.

Health Resource Center Program Impact

- **Helps young people make responsible choices to stay safe and healthy**
- **Supports young people's overall health and well-being**
- **Plays an important role in preventing school dropout**

Specifically, the Health Resource Center provides students with medically-accurate education and counseling aimed at:

- Encouraging critical thinking around sexual activity.
- Promoting healthy relationships and behaviors regarding human sexuality.
- Promoting education and counseling around abstinence.
- Promoting safer sexual behavior, including access to and correct use of condoms.
- Reducing unintended pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) and Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) infection by providing referrals for reproductive healthcare services, STD and HIV testing, and contraception.

Health Resource Center Program 2018-2019 Year in Review

- **2,488** students seen for services
- **5,145** visits to the Health Resource Centers
- **18,264** youth seen through outreach activities and Safer Summer programming
- **2,751** risk reduction counseling sessions
- **109,323** condoms distributed in the schools and community
- **2,532** referrals to family planning services, school and community based resources



Health Resource Center Schools *(Does not include new sites)*

School District	School	AccessMatters' Network Partner	Year Opened
Philadelphia	Bartram	Resources for Human Development (RHD)/Family Practice and Counseling Network	2011
Philadelphia	Dobbins	Planned Parenthood Southeastern PA	2010
Philadelphia	Edison	St. Christopher's Hospital for Children	1992
Philadelphia	Northeast	Planned Parenthood Southeastern PA	2001
Philadelphia	Mastbaum	St. Christopher's Hospital for Children	2013
Philadelphia	South Philadelphia	AccessMatters	1998
Philadelphia	West Philadelphia	Children's Hospital of Philadelphia	1992
Philadelphia	Juvenile Justice Center	Children's Hospital of Philadelphia	2013
Philadelphia	Frankford	AccessMatters	2013
Philadelphia	Martin Luther King	EducationPlus	2017
Philadelphia	PLA South	RHD/Family Practice and Counseling Network	2018
Philadelphia	Central	RHD/Family Practice and Counseling Network	1992
Chester Upland	Chester	Foundation for Delaware County	2009

Strategies to Support a Successful Health Resource Center

- Support from school principal and other administrators.
- Health Resource Center Coordinator has a collaborative relationship with administrators and teachers.
- Confidential space, in close proximity to bathroom facilities, to support Health Resource Center services.
- Health Resource Center Coordinator has ability to market Health Resource Center services.

Parental Involvement

The Health Resource Center Program encourages the involvement of parents and families. Students do not need parental permission to receive counseling, education, referrals and other services provided at the Health Resource Center. Health Resource Center Coordinators refer students to local AccessMatters' Network Partner health centers for other free, confidential reproductive health services.

Benefits for Schools

The Health Resource Center Program helps young people make responsible choices to stay safe and healthy. All students who visit the Health Resource Center will receive counseling and education around abstinence, HIV and STDs, pregnancy prevention, and other sexual health issues. The Health Resource Center Program also supports students in developing strong decision-making and communication skills in order to build safe and healthy relationships.

The Health Resource Center Program supports young people's overall health and well-being. For many students, the Health Resource Center is a space where they can get help and support for any concern in a caring and non-judgmental environment. This can range from the student's family or living situation to drugs and violence, to school, college and employment concerns. The Health Resource Center Program helps to link students with school and community resources to meet their needs.

The Health Resource Center Program plays an important role in preventing school drop out. Teen pregnancy and parenting are major causes of school dropout, particularly for female students. The National Dropout Prevention Center includes teen pregnancy prevention efforts as a part of a comprehensive effort to prevent school dropout. By supporting young people in making healthy decisions and preventing teen pregnancy, the Health Resource Center Program helps them to stay in school and concentrate on building a bright future.



Roles and Responsibilities

AccessMatters

Establishes guidelines and policies for the program

Provides fiscal oversight and management for the Health Resource Center program

Oversees selection process for Health Resource Center partners

Provides capacity building and technical assistance

Raises awareness about Health Resource Center services locally and nationally

Monitors and evaluates to ensure delivery of quality Health Resource Center services

Partnering Organization

Manages day-to-day implementation

Hires and supervises Health Resource Center coordinators

Facilitates referrals for sexual and reproductive health and related services

Ensures youth have access to the Health Resource Center

Builds awareness and partnerships that support Health Resource Center services

Health Resource Center Host Agency/School

Provides appropriate space, phone, and internet access for the Health Resource Center

Works in partnership with the Health Resource Center coordinator to implement the program according to the guidelines and agency/school policy

Helps promote the Health Resource Center Program to youth, staff, and parents



Funding

Funding for the Health Resource Center Program comes from:

- Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Population Affairs, Title X
- Pennsylvania Department of Health
- Philadelphia Department of Public Health, AIDS Activities Coordinating Office
- School District of Philadelphia