

On-campus healthcare access improves student learning at Lincoln Consolidated Schools

For **Lincoln Consolidated Schools**

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Jeremy Lapham, Nurse Practitioner and Site Supervisor for the University of Michigan's Regional Alliance for Healthy Schools at Lincoln Consolidated High School, speaks to students at the campus-based health center

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When Lincoln Consolidated Schools students are in need of health services, assistance is never far away.

It's actually just down the hall at the district's middle and high schools, which **host comprehensive health centers inside the learning environment.**

Lincoln Consolidated's partnership with the **Regional Alliance for Healthy Schools at Michigan Medicine** (RAHS) provides easy access to basic health needs of students as well as preventative vision and dental services that benefit their overall well-being.

As a comprehensive health center, RAHS provides the same scope of services that primary care physicians offer. The center is open to youth 21 and under and accepts patients regardless of their ability to pay. RAHS provides services for youth that are insured and uninsured.

The service comes with high praise from students, who in surveys relayed positive experiences with the professional care staff:

- "RAHS always helps me understand my health."
- "I feel respected and safe."
- "I feel comfortable."

Lincoln Superintendent Sean McNatt said the health centers are an excellent community resource and something he's never seen in his education career before taking the helm of the district in 2016.

"The kids use the health centers and it helps create a culture of feeling secure in their school and in their well-being," McNatt said. "It's something other schools don't have and it's nice to have this right here in our buildings."

The volume of use at the health centers show the importance, officials say. In the last year, the clinic served nearly 800 students during 3,200 center visits. Approximately 200 received vision or dental services and 141 families were assisted with health resources. Nearly 2,000 students and community residents gained information about health education from health center sessions.

Anginique Spence-Green, Director of the Regional Alliance for Healthy Schools at Michigan Medicine, said the centers have been helping Lincoln students since 2012.

"(RAHS) serves as an extension of the extraordinary services that are being offered in the community by joining efforts to eliminate access barriers for patients and families and support the culture of wellness in the Lincoln Consolidated School District," Spence-Green said.

Research shows that healthy students achieve better academic outcomes and engage less frequently in risky behaviors, according to studies by the Centers for Disease Control. The results illustrate improved academic achievement including grades, standardized tests, graduation rates and attendance.

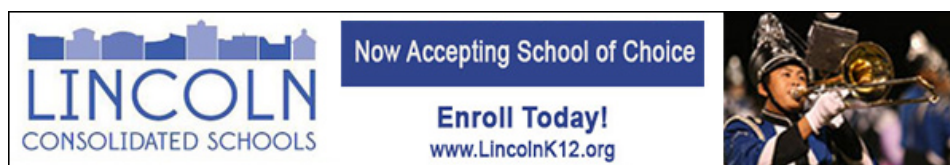
Evidence suggests that educational and public health institutions have a shared interest in promoting school programs that account for the individual, family, school, and community. Strategically planned school health programs and services are also necessary for closing the academic achievement gap.

Schools are a key setting for improving health, given the amount of time students spend in the classroom and at school activities. School settings provide an opportunity for improving student health and supporting overarching school goals regarding academic outcomes, the CDC found.

William Holden, a clinical social worker at Lincoln Middle, said the assistance provided to students and the interactions with youth are rewarding.

"We take pride in our work serving students and their families," RAHS staff said. "It is a privilege to connect with students that have limited access to medical, mental, and nutritional care and assist them in meeting their needs."

[Learn more about Lincoln Consolidated Schools here.](#)

A banner advertisement for Lincoln Consolidated Schools. On the left is the school's logo, which includes a stylized city skyline above the text "LINCOLN CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS". To the right of the logo is a blue box with the text "Now Accepting School of Choice". Below that is another blue box with "Enroll Today!" and the website "www.LincolnK12.org". On the far right of the banner is a photograph of a student in a blue and white marching band uniform playing a trumpet.

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