

Framework for Excellence and Sustainability in School-Based Health Centers



**SCHOOL-BASED
HEALTH ALLIANCE**
The National Voice for School-Based Health Care

To determine how best to describe the qualities and practices of successful school-based health centers (SBHCs), the national School-Based Health Alliance partnered with the SBHC community, state leaders, and experts from the field, and combed the literature and research.

This process resulted in the development of two foundational guiding principles and practical applications that are critical for planning and operating a successful SBHC.

▶▶ **SBHC Core Competencies**

- Guiding principles and aspirational concepts working toward excellence.
To learn more about the Core Competencies, please see our infographic here

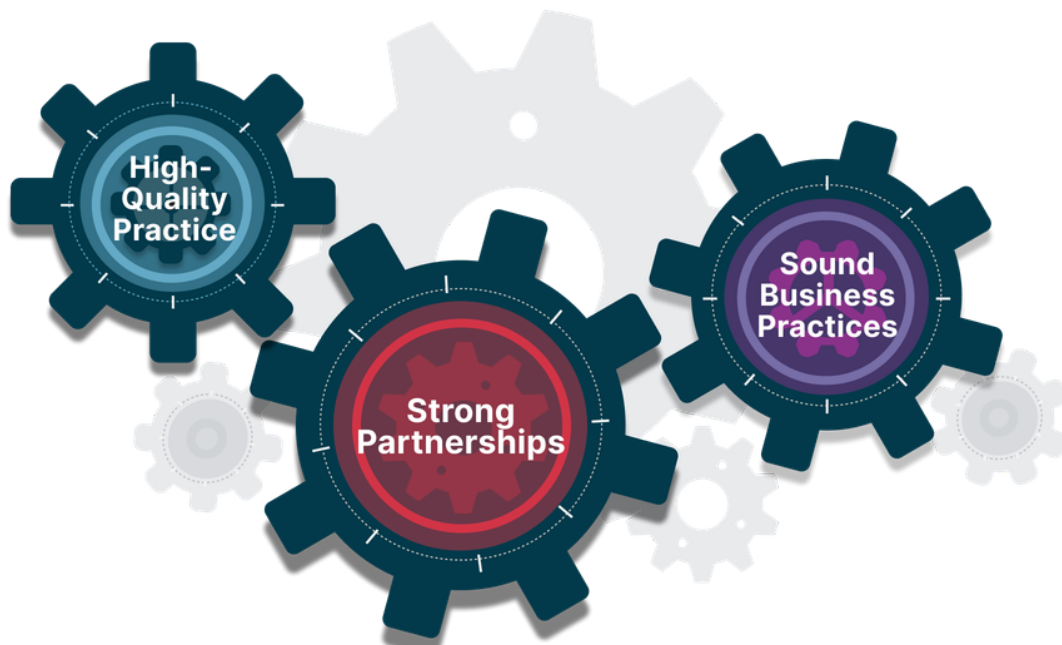


▶▶ **SBHC Nuts and Bolts**

- Nuts and Bolts are the working parts or elements. Nuts and Bolts are NOT the theories, concepts, or ideas. They are the practical aspects of working toward excellence and sustainability.

Nuts & Bolts

Strategies for developing and maintaining high-performing school-based health centers that meet students' needs and are grounded in sustainable practices & resources.



Strong Partnerships



Strong partnerships with committed and accountable partners result in high-performing SBHCs that meet the needs of students, increase coordination of care, have greater community support, and are grounded in sustainable resources.



Strong Partnerships in Action

- Build a planning or advisory committee.
- Develop a youth advisory council.
- Host focus groups with parents to learn about their school-based health care priorities.
- Arrange meetings between school health staff and SBHC to learn about each other's roles.
- Reach out to local pediatric healthcare providers to make a plan for collaboration.

Sound Business Practices



Sound business practices developed with key partners and implemented with transparency result in long-term sustainability of SBHC services for students.



Sound Business Practices in Action

- Complete and regularly update a pro forma or complete a cost analysis.
- Ensure that the whole SBHC team (providers, administrators, school staff, funders) understands the connection among access, utilization, and sustainability.
- Create and share monthly internal reports outlining key sustainability metrics.
- Plan and implement outreach.
 - Include consent forms with school registration paperwork.
 - Participate in school events.
 - Consider where in the community you can reach parents/guardians and students.
 - Consider using an electronic consent.
 - Make consent forms available on the school website.

High-Quality Practice



High-quality SBHC practices provide the foundation for excellence, resulting in continuous improvement and better, more efficient services that meet students' comprehensive needs.



High-Quality Practice in Action

- Adopt the SBHC National Performance Measures. Regularly report on progress.
- Collaborate across health and education to identify shared priority metrics (e.g., saved seat time). Implement a plan to track and report those metrics.