



TAG in Action: Health Centers in Schools

As part of its national call to action, **Adolescent Health, Think, Act, GrowSM (TAG)**, the Office of Adolescent Health, in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Service has identified a number of successful strategies for improving adolescent health throughout the country.

The Goal

Health Centers in Schools is demonstrating the power of an innovative, integrated program to improve the health and well-being of students and support educational progress.

The Game Plan

In Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Health Centers in Schools is providing no-cost medical and mental health services on site at 11 public school campuses. With additional rotating school nurses and support staff, Health Centers in Schools serves 72 school buildings in East Baton Rouge Parish and provides health and mental health services to approximately 45,000 students. In 2009, more than 6,000 students in East Baton Rouge public schools had chronic health conditions or required special health services. These students can now receive health services within their school, which minimizes their time away from class and supports better educational outcomes.

In addition to providing school-based health and mental health services, Health Centers in Schools offers an [online searchable guide](#) to community organizations in the greater Baton Rouge area. The guide links youth and families to a variety of services and programs including groups that address family relationships, substance abuse, and parenting skills.

The Winning Plays

A large, multi-disciplinary collaboration among community partners contributes to the success of Health Centers in Schools. It is run by Our Lady of the Lake Children's Hospital in partnership with the East Baton Rouge school system and the Louisiana Office of Public Health. Other partners include the Nurse-Family Partnership, Vaccines for Children, the Louisiana Department of Agriculture & Forestry, Area Health Education Center, Pennington Biomedical Research Center, Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank, Children's Coalition of Greater Baton Rouge, and multiple pediatric dentists, optometrists, and a child/adolescent psychiatrist.

Learn More

Health Centers in Schools
<http://www.schoolhealthathcs.org>

