OUR PARTNERS

Education
Alameda County Office of Education
Alameda Unified School District
Berkeley Unified School District
Cupertino Valley Unified School District
Dublin Unified School District
Emery Unified School District
Fremont Unified School District
Hayward Unified School District
Levermore Valley Joint Unified School District
New Haven Unified School District
Nevada Union School District
Oakland Unified School District
Peninsula Unified School District
Pleasanton Unified School District
Piedmont Unified School District
Redwood unified School District
Alameda Family Services
Alameda County Health System
City of Berkeley
Asian Health Services
Lead Agencies
School Health Center
San Lorenzo Unified School District
San Leandro Unified School District
Pleasanton Unified School District
Piedmont Unified School District
Oakland Unified School District
New Haven Unified School District
Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District
Emery Unified School District
Dublin Unified School District
Castro Valley Unified School District
Berkeley Unified School District
Alameda Unified School District
Alameda County Office of Education

School Health Center
Local Agencises
Alameda County Health System
• San Leandro Health & Wellness Center
• Alameda County Public Health Department
• Maximum Middle School Health Center
• Alameda Family Services
• Alameda High School-Based Health Center
• Foster High School-Based Health Center
• Aiden High School-Based Health Center
• Asian Health Services
• Peralta Community College District Health Center
Children’s Hospital & Research Center at Oakland
• Oakland High School Health Center
• Youth Health Center

School-Based Behavioral Health Providers
Alameda Family Services
Alta Bates Health System
Asian Community Mental Health Services
Asian Pacific Psychological Services
Bay Area Community Resources
Children’s Hospital and Research Center Oakland
City of Berkeley Mental Health Division
City of Fremont Human Services Department
Crisis Support Services of Alameda County
East Bay Agency for Children
Fremont Youth Center
Girls, Inc, Pathways Counseling Center
Hayward Youth & Family Services Bureau
La Clinica de La Raza
La Clinica de La Raza
Children’s Hospital and Research Center Oakland
City of Berkeley Mental Health Division
City of Fremont Human Services Department
Crisis Support Services of Alameda County
East Bay Agency for Children
Fremont Youth Center
Girls, Inc, Pathways Counseling Center
Hayward Youth & Family Services Bureau
La Clinica de La Raza
La Clinica de La Raza

City & Community Partners
Assessment in Action
Associated Community Action Program
Bean, Myers and Li
Berkeley Alliance
City of Berkeley
City of Oakland
City of Richmond
City of Hayward
City of Livermore
City of Oakland
City of Richmond
City of Pleasanton
Eden Housing

Healthy Schools Center for Healthy Schools and Communities

Alameda County Center for Healthy Schools and Communities

STAFF
The ICBC is staffed through Alameda County Health Care Services Agency. We use a multidisciplinary team of professionals with expertise in education, behavioral health, public health, and youth development.

Special thanks to Alameda County students, parents, grandparents, caregivers, service providers, and teachers for their support and enthusiasm.

Brochure Credits
Photography by Randall Homan and Mai Downs, Berkeley High School student
Production and editing, JoAnn Ugolini; Downs, Berkeley High School student
Photography by Randall Homan and Mai Downs, Berkeley High School student

Alameda County Center for Healthy Schools and Communities

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Since 1996, the Center for Healthy Schools and Communities (CHSC) has worked to improve health and education outcomes for Alameda County youth through partnership with schools, school districts, service providers, health advocates, policymakers, community partners, youth, and families.

We have built a network of partners working to ensure all youth in the county have access to the supports and opportunities they need to thrive.

Why we’re here

We envision a county where all youth graduate from high school healthy and ready for college and career.

The Challenge

Many children, youth, and families in Alameda County still live, attend schools, and work in low opportunity neighborhoods that have profound and long-term impacts on their health, education, and economic well being. Far too many communities suffer from poor health and education outcomes due to an absence of “opportunity structures” – those supports and resources, such as quality health care, economic opportunities, and safe, healthy school environments, that allow children, families, and communities to thrive.

The opportunity gap has contributed to disproportionate rates of violence, respiratory illness, childhood obesity, untreated mental health issues, sexually transmitted infections, poor chronic disease management, and low academic outcomes. Ultimately, race, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status continue to be strong and troubling predictors of academic achievement and health outcomes in our county.

Our Mission

CHSC (formerly School Health Services Coalition) fosters the academic success, health, and well being of Alameda County youth by building universal access to high quality supports and opportunities in schools and neighborhoods.

We value empowering families and youth, growing the capacity of communities to affect change, and building strategic partnerships that link health and education institutions to achieve equity.
...to change lives and achieve equity.

Our programs and initiatives bring people together with a shared goal of transforming public schools and neighborhoods and reducing the “opportunity gap” for youth. These are some of their stories:

**LETICIA**

**Healing** – My parents speak only Spanish and they were worried about me. I was going out with boys behind their back and ignoring their rules. I thought they were old fashioned and didn’t understand me. My parents went to the Our kids Our Families counselor at my school to get help. I was assigned to a clinical case manager and we met once a week for a while. Being able to talk with her helped me understand my parents’ culture and our differences. She got me involved with the youth Leadership Council. Now I work with older peer role models. Working with them makes me feel a part of the community and they help me make better choices. I don’t rebel against my parents anymore and I’m doing much better in school too.

**JALEN**

**Capacity** – My school health center counselor helped me and my parents see eye to eye on my studies and helped me do a better job at school. She realized that I come from a family of storytellers and she told me about the Oakland Oral History Project. I am now working on a team, exploring my identity and the identities of other black youth in my neighborhood. This work is teaching me about responsibility, like how to show up on time, call when I’m going to be late, and even how to communicate with strangers and get my point across. I’m also learning to appreciate and understand other people’s stories. Conducting interviews, setting up video shoots, and working on the website is helping me improve my technical skills so I can be a documentary film maker someday.

**MARCE**

**Action** – I work with a group of friends in a program called “Let’s Chat” at the REACH Ashland Youth Center. In this program, we make a difference in our community by addressing important challenges that young people face in our community. First, we get together to talk about teen issues and the problem of violence in our community. Then, because so many of our friends were becoming teen parents, we decided to raise awareness about reproductive justice and teen pregnancy. In the last few months, we conducted research and developed policy recommendations to help teens make more informed choices and help teen parents get better support at home, school, and in the community. We also started a media campaign to involve youth, adults, and decision makers in our efforts.

Supporting youth and families

CHSC is proud to support the REACH Ashland Youth Center — creating a place of safety, belonging, and possibility for Alameda County youth and families.

**Making Change Happen**

In 2004 a small group of Ashland youth participated in a powerful community meeting aimed at addressing one critical question: “How can we make life better for teens in our community?” In a community where 20% of youth live in poverty, this question was critical. Since that time, CHSC has worked with key county partners, community based organizations, and youth and their families to create the REACH Ashland Youth Center and the Ashland Youth Complex.

**REACH Ashland Youth Center**

This 51,500 square-foot facility is co-located on the Ashland Youth Complex. In total, the complex comprises over 15 acres of a recycled brownfield dedicated to healthy youth development. The complex houses the REACH facility, the first community park in Ashland, and a multi-use gymnasium and sports field.

**Vision**

Youth named the center “REACH” because it reflects a movement in many directions — reaching for what you care about, reaching for what you desire, and reaching from within to create who you will become. The name is also an acronym for the five service areas of the center: Recreation, Education, Arts, Career, and Health.

**Integrated Approach to Change**

REACH Ashland Youth Center has an integrated approach to serving youth that leverages the talents of a wide array of partners. Our approach includes three components that we integrate throughout our programming:

- **Healing** – Working on the immediate needs of youth and paying special attention to those needs resulting from critically acute or traumatic events and conditions.
- **Capacity** – Developing and cultivating life-long learning capacities, social skills, and competencies to not just survive circumstances, but to flourish, connect, love, lead, and create.
- **Action** – Providing support to lead, learn, and grow, and to be positive change agents in the world.
The Center for Healthy Schools and Communities strives for all Alameda County youth and families. Our work is guided by the core belief that it will take commitment from a broad coalition—schools and school districts, city and county departments, non-profits, students, families, community members, business and philanthropy, and political bodies—to work together to build communities of care that ensure the academic success, health, and well-being of all Alameda County youth and families.

The Center for Healthy Schools and Communities strives to excel in five core competencies:

1. **Cultivating Dynamic Partnerships**
   CHSC bridges the gap between education and health by convening and nurturing dynamic partnerships with youth, families, schools, districts, health care providers, and other community stakeholders. Together, we define a shared vision, develop joint strategies, and coordinate resources into an integrated continuum of care for children and youth.

2. **Building Leadership Capacity**
   We know that the ability of individuals, institutions, and systems to make an impact together on the lives of youth and their families requires leaders at all levels to expand their roles, think across boundaries, and work creatively to solve problems. As partnerships emerge, CHSC works with youth, families, and community stakeholders to build the leadership capacity of individuals and organizations to transform systems and deliver innovative supports. We provide capacity building services that promote diverse leadership and strengthen the ability of partners to build shared goals and responsibilities. We facilitate professional development and communities of practice, and coach and consult on building integrated public and private systems that place the success and well-being of children, families, and communities at the core. Capacity building ensures the long-term success of our partnerships, and strengthens our ability to align investments toward meaningful and sustainable impact.

3. **Integrating Services and Systems**
   Through partnership and shared leadership, we work to reconfigure resources so that students have easy access to the supports they need to succeed in school and in life. We support educators, health care workers, and other stakeholders to adopt best practices, such as multi-disciplinary service coordination teams that address the needs of the whole child from a strength-based perspective. These practices not only increase student access to services, but enhance young people’s connection to school and community, helping all the adults in a child’s life to better understand and support them.

   At a systems level, we nurture the development of collaborative school governance structures that integrate family, school, community, and surrounding institution resources to maximize supports for youth. Following our full service community schools framework, we work to align resources and partners around common indicators and outcome goals to leverage our collective strength and achieve common results.

4. **Seeding Innovation**
   School health services, school-based behavioral health programs, youth centers, and community schools are examples of how we seed innovation. We focus on best practices from promising models locally and across the nation.

   We then develop, customize, and bring to scale effective service delivery models to address the needs of the many diverse communities in the county. In this way, we are defining a broader community of support, brokering new partnerships, and tapping into local innovation and collective wisdom to achieve sustainable solutions.

5. **Supporting Sustainability**
   With a deep commitment to quality and sustainability, CHSC develops creative finance strategies that leverage private and public funds to support youth and families. We work with our partners to secure long-term commitments and shared investments through collaborative agreements and innovative blending of resources.

   In partnership with university and research institutes, we evaluate collective efforts to improve health access, utilization, and outcomes. We use data to drive program decisions and evaluation to support sustainability.
S
ome fifteen years, we have worked to improve health and education outcomes for the Alameda County communities we serve. Our programs and initiatives combine academic and health systems to improve the educational achievement and health outcomes for students. We focus on building a quality education foundation for all of our youth.

Together with our partners, we work to create a comprehensive system of supports that is embedded in schools, provides a continuum of intensive academic supports intensive health supports targeted academic health supports targeted cultural and social conditions that shape student achievement.

School Health Centers provide a continuum of age-appropriate health and family services to today’s youth, lawmakers, and students. We support the development of a comprehensive network of services and support systems that complement and strengthen this foundation by building school-based, school-linked, and community health systems.

Our work is rooted in purposeful, responsive collaborations with youth, families, schools, and surrounding communities.

Our growth

We began as School Health Services Coalition in 1990 with a school health center in Alameda. Today, the Center for Healthy Schools and Communities has more than 200 health and education partners, school administration, and city and county government agencies to improve health and wellness services across the county.

The Center for Healthy Schools and Communities has:
- 23 Schools
- 11 Healthy Schools and Communities initiatives.
- Convened cross-sector partnerships that take a collective impact approach
- Created critically needed access to health services for youth in low-income communities, supporting over 50,000 youth health care visits each year at 26 school health centers across the county.
- Strengthened schools’ ability to offer high quality, culturally responsive behavioral health care supports by building and sustaining systems of behavioral health supports.
- Supported by strong collaborations with community health partners, school administration, and city and county government agencies, school health centers provide access to a range of integrated medical, dental, and mental health services.
- Strengthened school health centers’ ability to offer high-quality, culturally responsive behavioral health care supports by building and sustaining systems of behavioral health supports. Our work extends beyond school health centers to create community health systems that complement and strengthen this foundation by building school-based, school-linked, and community health systems.

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Healthy Schools and Communities Initiatives

Healthy Schools and Communities Initiatives are school-based, school-linked, and community health systems that complement and strengthen this foundation by building school-based, school-linked, and community health systems.

School-BASED

School-Based Behavioral Health Initiative

Founding the Healthy Schools and Communities Initiative in 1997, we launched the first of several local systems building initiatives that we now refer to as our Healthy Schools and Communities Initiatives. Focused on partnership, these initiatives bring together partners from education, health, youth development, family strengthening, and systems integration, these initiatives bring together partners from education, health, youth development, family strengthening, and systems integration.

Healthy Schools and Communities Initiatives are designed to support youth and families, and serve as a catalyst for improving health and wellness services across the county.

School Health Centers

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Community Schools

Community Schools provide comprehensive health and wellness services for our youth and families. Our work is rooted in purposeful, responsive collaborations with youth, families, schools, and surrounding communities.

We believe that healthy schools and communities are the foundation for healthy youth.

Youth Development and Family Support

Youth Development and Family Support initiatives support youth and families in building resiliency, achieving academic success, and making healthy life choices.

Our programs and initiatives that help create full-service community schools.

Healthy Schools and Communities

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