

Council Order: 2024-057

**Introduced by: Town Manager Brian Howard
November 18, 2024**

**Approval of School Based Health Center
To Be Located In The Randolph High School**

That the Town Council of the Town of Randolph hereby approves the location of a School Based Health Center in the Randolph High School and further declares as follows:

The Town Council approves of any determination by the Randolph School Committee that the space designated in Randolph High School for a School Based Health Center is surplus space available for lease/license for that purpose, so long as the declaration of the space as surplus is conditioned on the proviso that such space shall be deemed surplus only to the extent that the space is, and will continue to be, used for the purpose of housing a healthcare facility with appurtenant administrative office space which will be used, in part, as a school-based health center for students of the Schools. The Town Council approves of the anticipated lease/license agreement with Codman Square Health Center for the implementation and operation of a School Based Health Center, as described herein. The School Based Health Center will be used as a health center serving the school community and also as a health center serving the general public.

This project is to be funded, in large part, by state and Federal grants. The Town Council recognizes the importance of these grant funds in helping to fulfill vital community healthcare needs.

The absence of accessible healthcare in Randolph exacerbates health inequities and healthcare costs. There is a significant gap in financially and culturally accessible healthcare for a town in which more than one-third of residents participate in MassHealth, nearly one-third are recent immigrants to the United States, and 5% speak limited English. In addition, one in five Randolph residents travels out of town for healthcare services. This travel costs Randolph residents time and money, and places a particular burden on residents who do not have access to personal transportation. Where there are no pediatric care practices in Randolph, the burdens of travelling out of town to see a doctor doubly impact youth and their families. Youth miss out on valuable time learning in school, and caregivers often have to take time away from work.

School Based Health Centers offer primary health care and behavioral health services right where young people spend most of their time - at school. They respond quickly to routine health problems like ear infections and sore throats, and manage chronic health conditions like asthma to prevent crises and treat symptoms immediately. The goal of this type of care is to keep kids healthy and prevent them from missing precious time in class. School Based Health Centers are aligned with the major concern of schools: academic achievement. Beyond a focus on primary health care, School Based Health Centers aim to meet the social and emotional needs of children to help them reach their individual potential. The integration of health and education makes good sense; healthy kids learn better. And, students who feel confident about their studies and are better learners are more likely to graduate and become healthy, productive adults.

The School Based Health Center will be established within the west wing of the main building of the Randolph High School closest to Highland Avenue and will have its own, separate, address. There will be two entrances to the Health Center. One entrance will provide access to the Health Center from inside the School; this entrance will be a secure entrance used by High School students and School and Health Center personnel only. The other entrance will provide access to the Health Center from outside of the School. Both entrances will be ADA accessible.

A composite summary of the current proposed draft plan for the School Based Health Center is attached. It is expected that the layout of the Health Center will be substantially similar to that shown on the attached draft plan. Construction is expected to take place beginning in early 2025.