



MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF  
**HEALTH &  
SENIOR SERVICES**

# Partnering with a Purpose

LPHA 2026 Spring Regional Meetings

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“Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much.”

- Hellen Keller

# What We Will Discuss in the Next Hour



School Health in Missouri

Local Public Health in Missouri

Power of Partnership

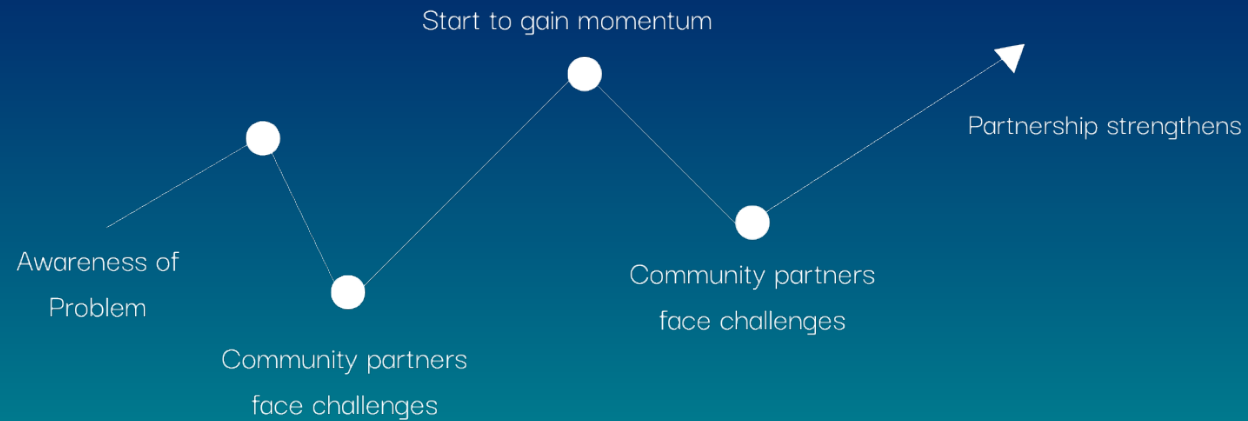
Looking Ahead

Call to Action

# What we thought systems work looked like



# What it actually looks like







**Section 01**

**School Health in  
Missouri**

# History of School Health in Missouri



**1902**

- Lina Rogers was hired as the first school nurse as part of a pilot program aimed at reducing absenteeism in schools due to preventable illnesses. Her work was a success, leading to the hiring of additional school nurses

**1984**

- Nela Beetam was named the first Missouri State School Nurse Consultant

**1993**

- The Missouri General Assembly passed legislation (RSMo 167.603) designed to increase access to health care. This law allowed for schools to increase access to health care for school-age children by creating or expanding basic school health services programs. The program was funded through the Health Initiatives Fund (HIF) through a tax on tobacco products

**2010**

- The School Health Program continued to provide technical assistance and consultation, and trainings to manage chronic health conditions in students

**2026**

- Serve 600+ Public, Private, Charter and Parochial schools
- Serve 900,000+ students served
- The School Health Program continues to provide technical assistance, consultation, trainings to manage chronic health conditions in students, and has expanded to include additional focus on workforce development for school health staff



# Revenue Sources

Local  
Taxes

Grants

State  
Funds

Federal  
Funds

Fees



**STUDENTS WITH DISEASE AND CHRONIC HEALTH CONDITIONS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS, MISSOURI 2025-2026**

Data collected from the School Health Online Reporting System (SHORS).

Special Health Care Need	Number	Special Health Care Need	Number
Allergies - Alpha Gal Syndrome	1,631	Sickle Cell Disease	604
Allergies - life threatening - Food	25,658	Heart disease w/activity restrictions	1,017
Allergies - life threatening - Insect	3,675	Hemophilia/bleeding disorder	1,159
Allergies - life threatening - Latex	1,061	Hydrocephalus w/shunt	641
Asthma - on meds at home or school	68,727	Kidney disease	1,412
Blind/Visually Impaired	10,283	<b>Mental Health</b>	
Cancer - History, not on medication	804	ADD/ADHD	83,351
Taking Chemotherapeutic Medication	179	Anxiety	32,928
Chronic Infection (e.g. Hepatitis, etc.)	115	Austism Spectrum Disorder	23,764
Cleft lip and palate	471	Bipolar	1,490
Cystic Fibrosis	279	Depression	11,991
<b>Daily/PRN Health Care Procedures</b>		Obsessive Compulsive Disorder	2,013
Blood Sugar check	2,565	Oppositional Defiant Disorder	5,521
Catheterization care	258	Post - Traumatic Stress Syndrome	3,515
Ostomy care	180	Tourette Syndrome	1,226
Tube feeding	862	Migraine headaches	12,761
Ventilator dependent	20	Neuromuscular disorder non-progressive	2,078
Suctioning	176	Neuromuscular disorder progressive	456
Nebulizer treatment	767	Organ Recipient	192
Deaf/Hearing Impaired with no assistive devices	2,533	Orthopedic disability - permanent	2,192
Deaf with FM systems	767	Orthopedic disability - temporary	3,965
Deaf with hearing aids	2,533	Scoliosis requiring treatment	1,155
Deaf with cochlear implants	596	Pregnancy	222
<b>Diabetes</b>		Teen Parenting	322
Type 1	2,424	Rheumatoid Arthritis	443
Type 2	491	Autoimmune disease (e.g. Lupus)	1,588
Eating Disorder	845	Routine medications at school	25,522
Gastrointestinal Disorders (e.g. IBS)	7,582	Seizure disorder	7,753
Crohn's Disease	464	Students with DNAR order	36
Ulcers	203	Traumatic Brain Injury	683
Bowel/Bladder Incontinence	5,120	504 Plans	35,969
Chromosomal Abnormalities	2,858		

\*\*Totals include 545 out of 558 public school districts that reported data to DHSS. The enrollment in these districts was 883,164, representing 99% of all students enrolled in public/charter schools (885,637) in the 2025-2026 school year. [425,749 of the 883,164 students included in the report indicate having health care insurance.



MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF **HEALTH & SENIOR SERVICES**

**CHRONIC HEALTH CONDITIONS MISSOURI STUDENTS 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR**

**883,164**

**Student Population Reporting**

545 out of 554 Public Charter Schools are reflected in this report.

**Chronic Health Conditions Diagnosed by a Health Care Provider**





# STATE OF MISSOURI SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES STAFFING 2025-2026

Data collected from the School Health Online Reporting system (SHORS).

## 2025-2026 School Nurse Staff



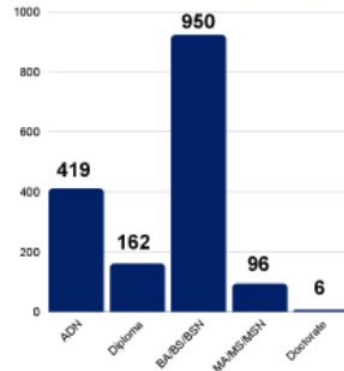
Student Population of Reporting Schools  
884,869 out of 885,367

Number of School Districts with No Nurse  
58 out of 554

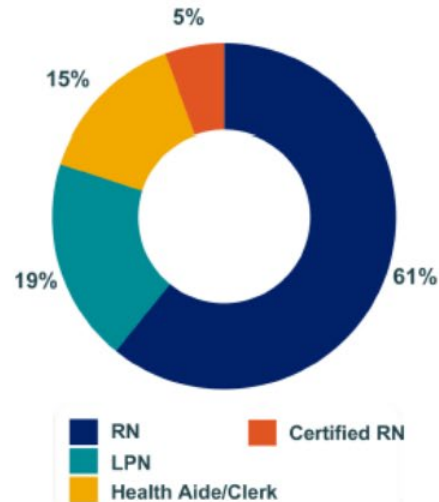
## Nurse-to-Student Ratio



## Professional Health Services Staff by Degree



## Health Staff Positions



# School Health Services Student Encounters

## 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR

384 out of 558 public school districts reported data to Missouri DHSS School Health Program. The enrollment of these districts was 672,054 representing 75% of all students enrolled in public schools (893,012) in the 2024-2025 school year.

6,269,394

Total sum of visits to the health office



5,979,497

Number of health office visits resulting in the student being returned to classroom for learning



286,147

Number of health office visits resulting in the student being sent home due to illness, injury or other



2,730

Number of health visits resulting in emergency medical services or 911

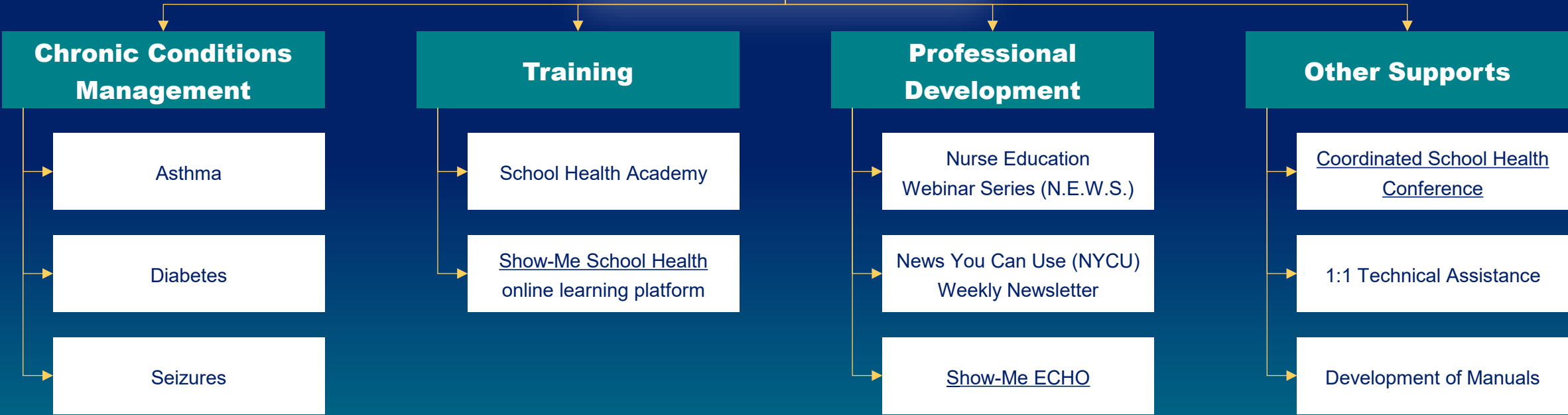


# Adolescent and School Health Program (ASHP)



## Supports School and Community Health

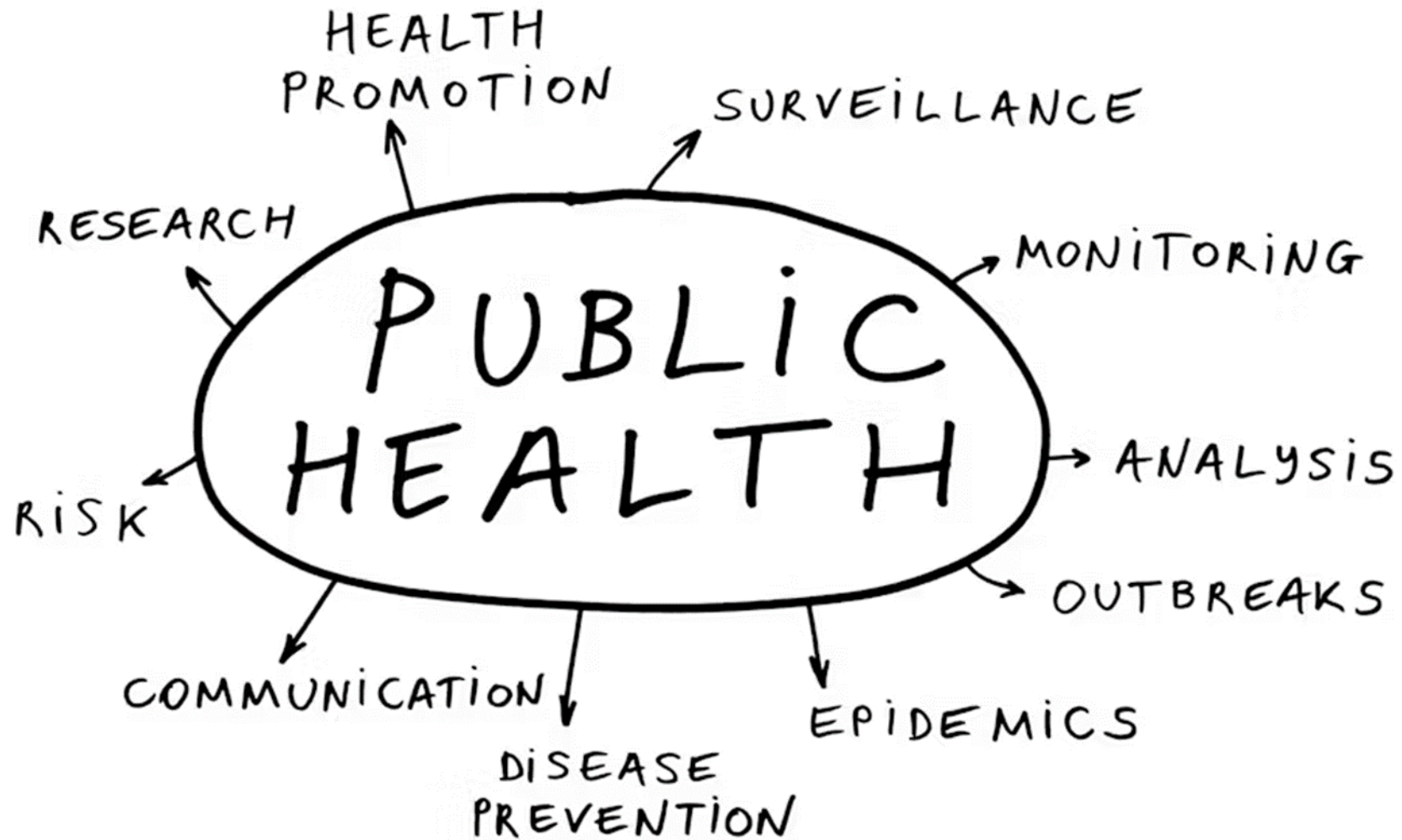
**ASHP**

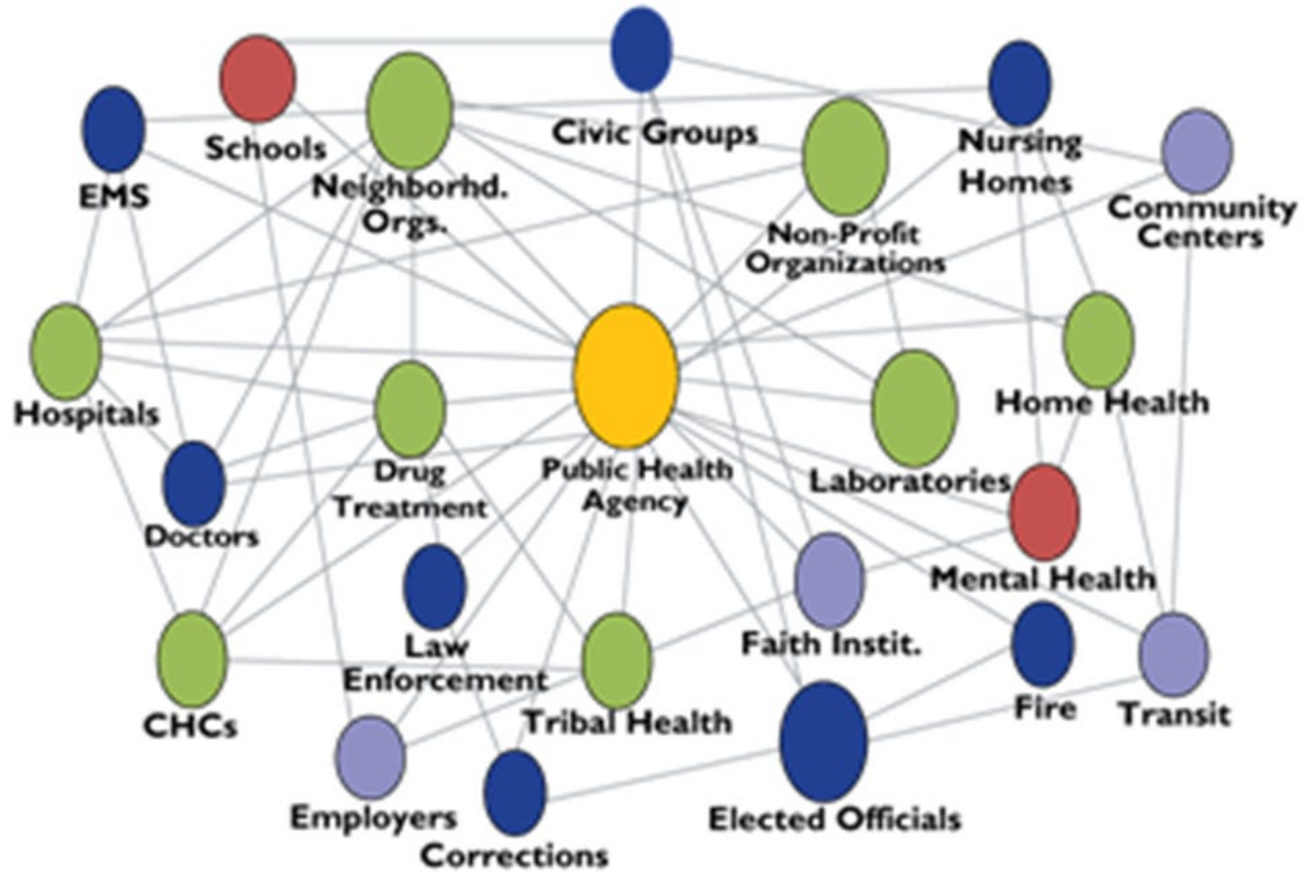




## Section 02

# Local Public Health in Missouri





Public Health is  
a **SYSTEM** and  
goes beyond  
our buildings

# LPHAs by Governance

**County Health Centers –  
County Board of Trustees**

**Health Depts / Units –  
Commissions or Charter**

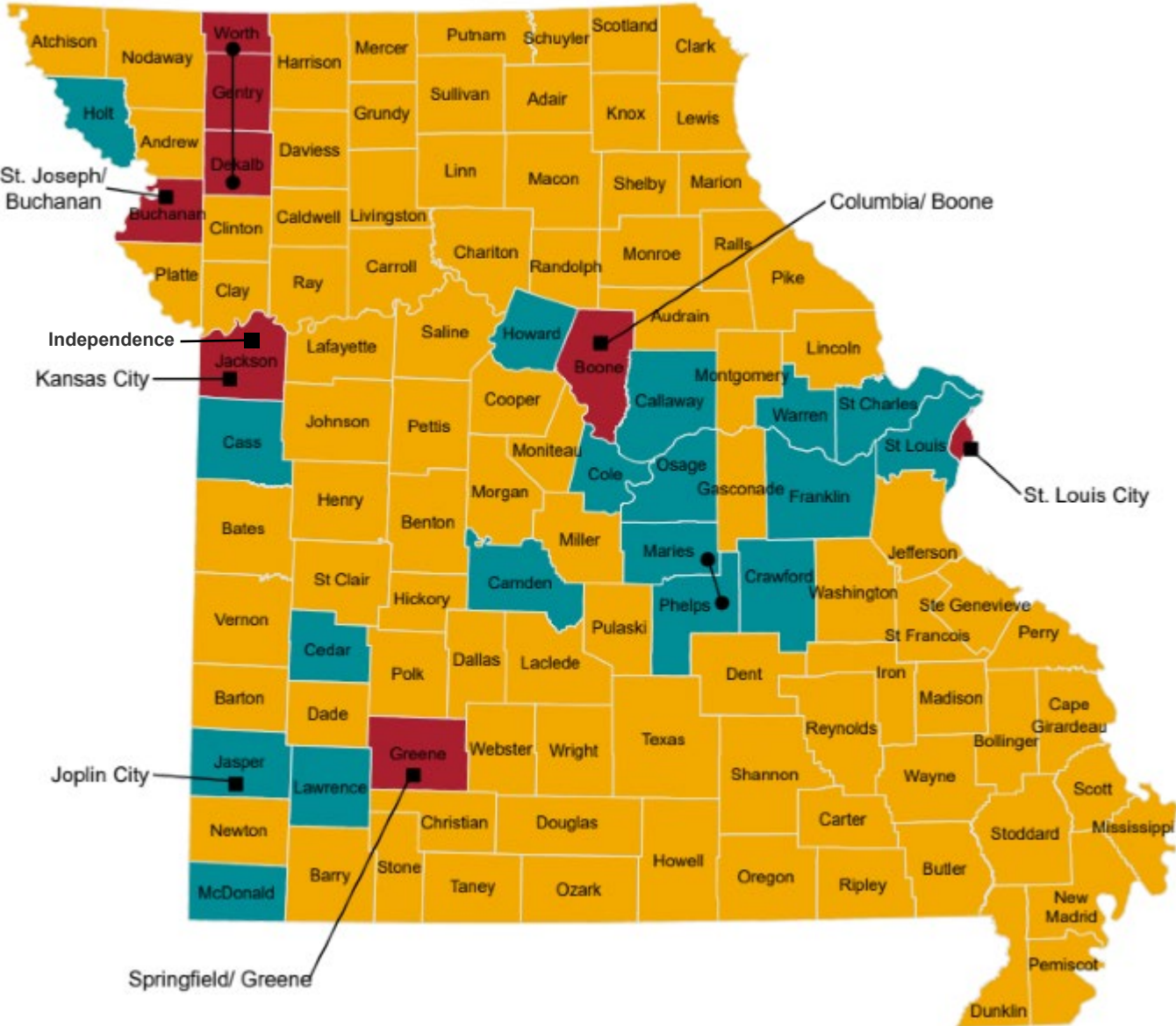
**Other Forms of Governance**

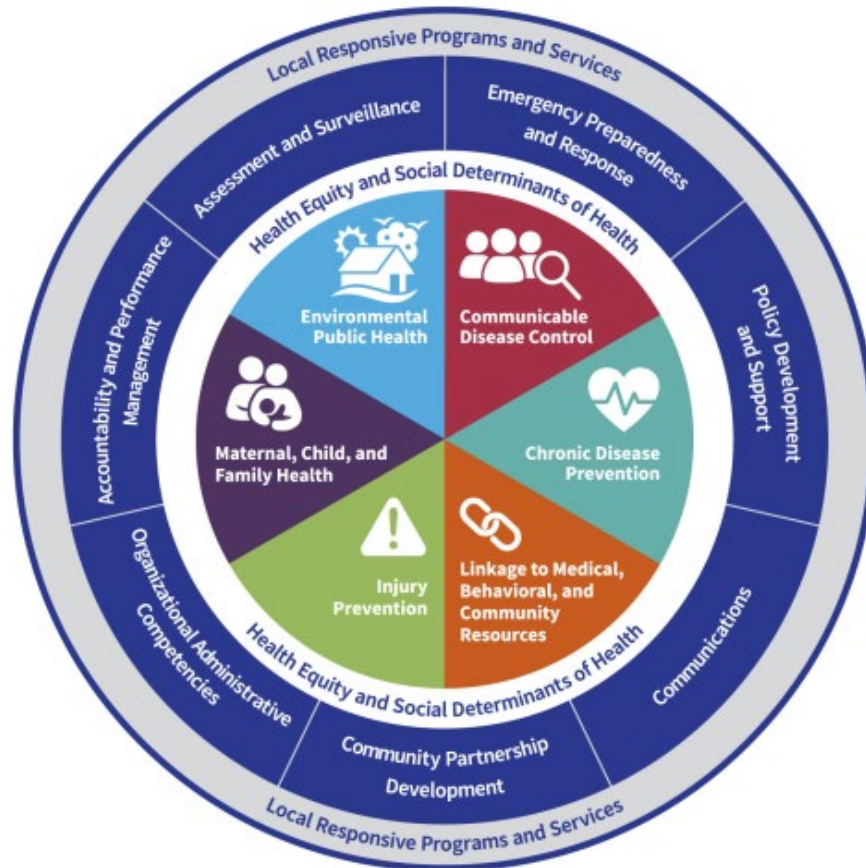
**City or City-County Departments**



**Multi-County Departments**

2026, Slide courtesy of Daniel Bogle, Health Policy Director,  
Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services





 Foundational Capabilities
  Foundational Areas

Copyright © 2019 Missouri Public Health Association (MPHA), 722 E Capitol Avenue, Jefferson City, Missouri. Adapted from the Public Health National Center for Innovations' (PHNCI) national FPHS model. Developed by public health professionals in Missouri and adopted for statewide use by the #HealthierMO Initiative's Executive Committee, December 2019.

Missouri's Foundational Public Health Services (FPHS) model defines a minimum set of fundamental public health services and capabilities that must be available in every community. The model builds on the 10 Essential Services and Core Public Health Functions to achieve a simplified operational framework upon which public health agencies can explain the vital role of governmental public health in a thriving community, identify capacity gaps, determine the cost for assuring foundational public health capabilities and areas, and justify funding requests.



## Care Coordination

- Foster developmentally appropriate independence and self-advocacy
- Collaborate with school, community, students, and families

## Quality Improvement

- Participate in data collection
- Use data to transform practice
- Engage in ongoing evaluation

## Leadership

- Interpret data and educate students, families, school staff, and policymakers
- Advocate and influence decision-making, policies/procedures

## Community/Public Health

- Teach health promotion
- Provide health expertise



© National Association of School Nurses, 2024

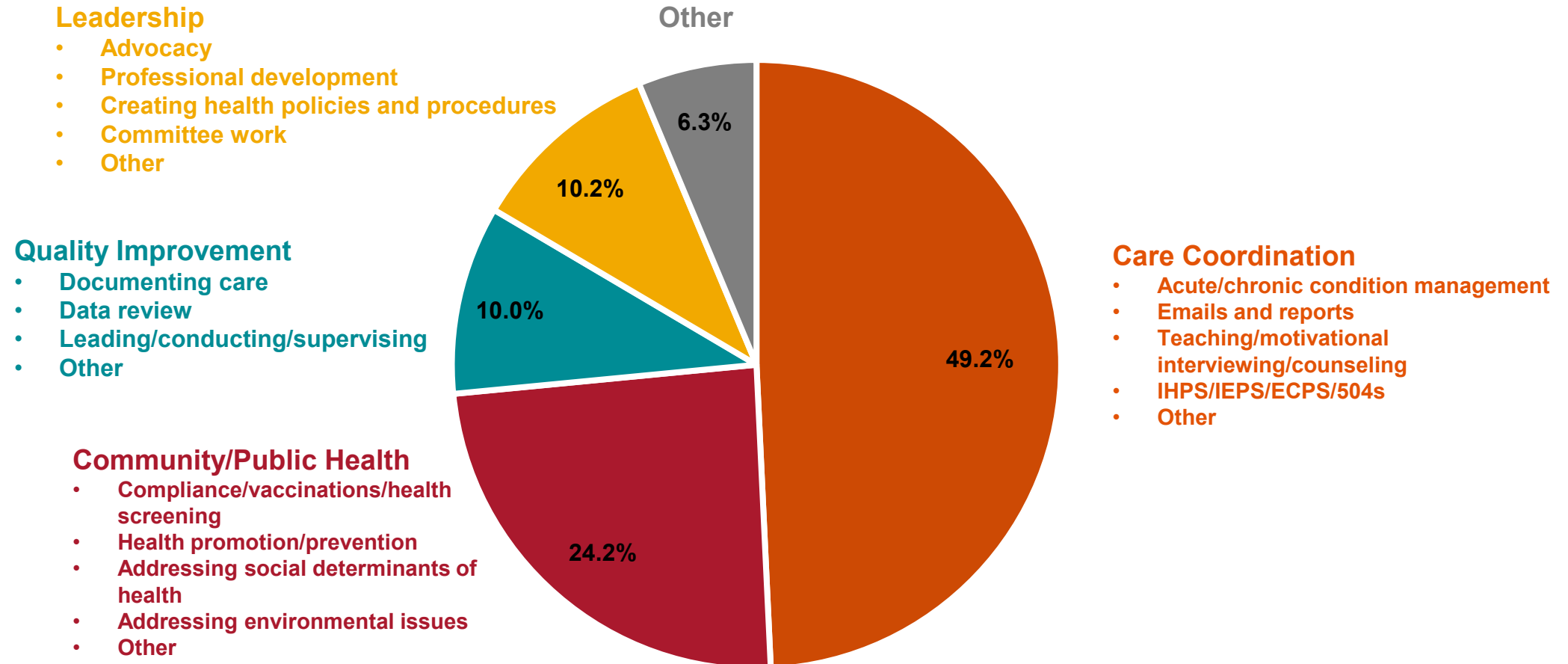
BETTER HEALTH. BETTER LEARNING.™



## Community/Public Health

- Provide culturally sensitive, inclusive, holistic care
- Conduct health screenings, surveillance, outreach, and immunization compliance activities
- Collaborate with community partners to develop and implement plans that address the needs of school communities and diverse student populations
- Teach health promotion, health literacy, and disease prevention
- Provide health expertise in key roles in school, work, and community committees/councils/coalitions
- Assess school and community for social and environmental determinants of health

# How School Nurses Spend Their Day



(Willgerodt et al. 2024)



**Section 03**  
**Power of**  
**Partnership**

# Power of Partnership





# Missouri Revised Statutes

## Section 170.310, RSMo

Upon graduation from high school, students in public and charter schools shall have received thirty minutes of CPR instruction and training in the Heimlich maneuver or other first aid for choking

## Section 170.307, RSMo

Upon graduation from high school, students in public and charter schools shall have received mental health awareness training. Instruction shall be included in the district's existing health or physical education curriculum

## Section 170.045, RSMo

Each school district shall provide trauma-informed, developmentally appropriate sexual abuse training to students in all grades not lower than sixth grade, each school year

## Section 160.482, RSMo

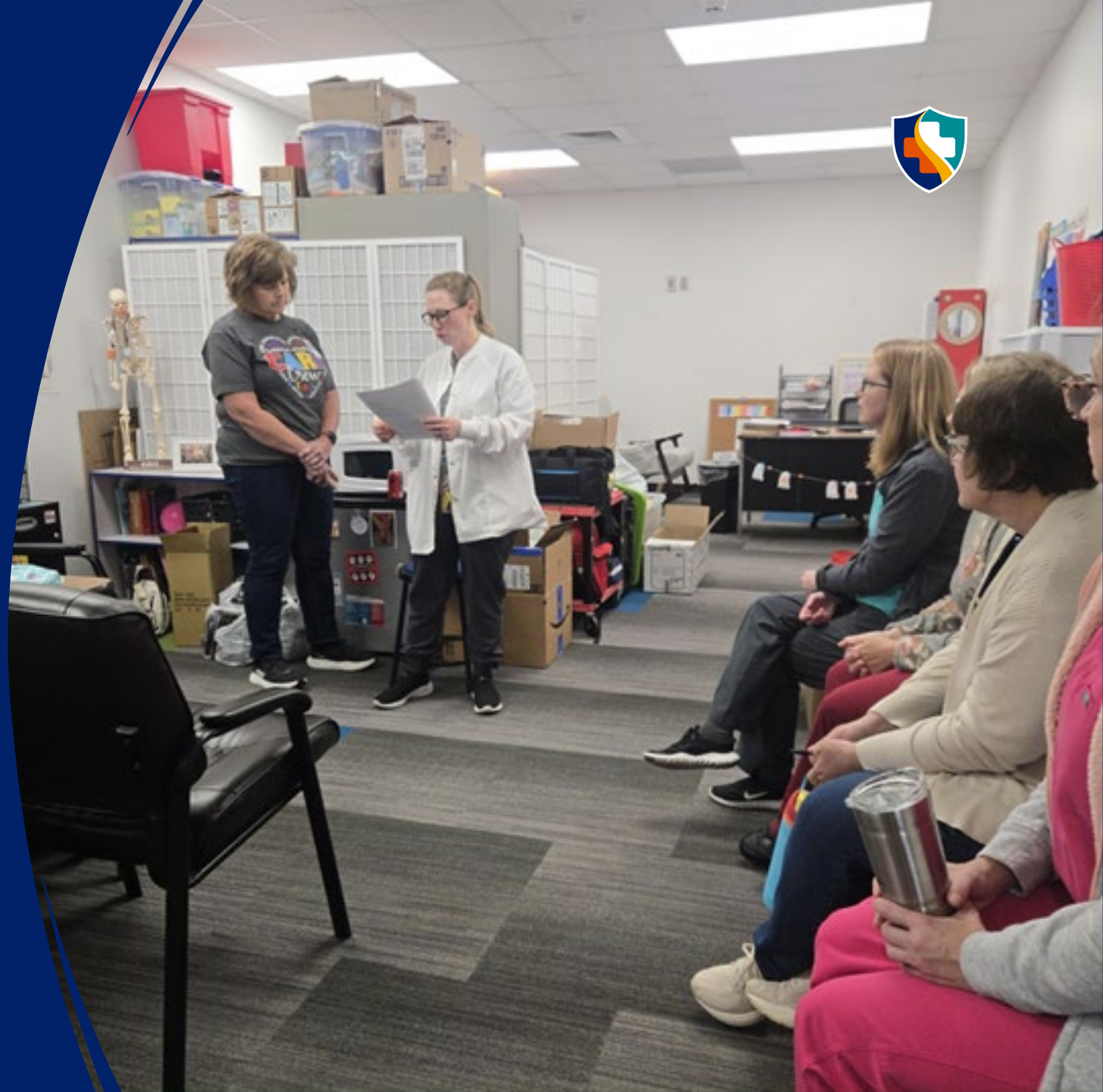
For the 2026-27 school year and all subsequent school years, this act requires every public school, including charter schools, to develop and implement a cardiac emergency response plan that addresses the appropriate use of school personnel to respond to incidents involving an individual experiencing sudden cardiac arrest or a similar life-threatening emergency while on a school campus



## Jasper County, Newton County, City of Joplin + Carl Junction School District

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- Preventive Services Program (PSP) event at school
- 326 students served
- 74 connected with resources for follow-up care





## Washington County + Potosi High School

- School-based assembly
- Approximately 650 students
- Speaker, Cara Filler
- *Power of Choice: safe driving, risk-taking, and peer pressure*

## Shannon County + Winona R-III School District

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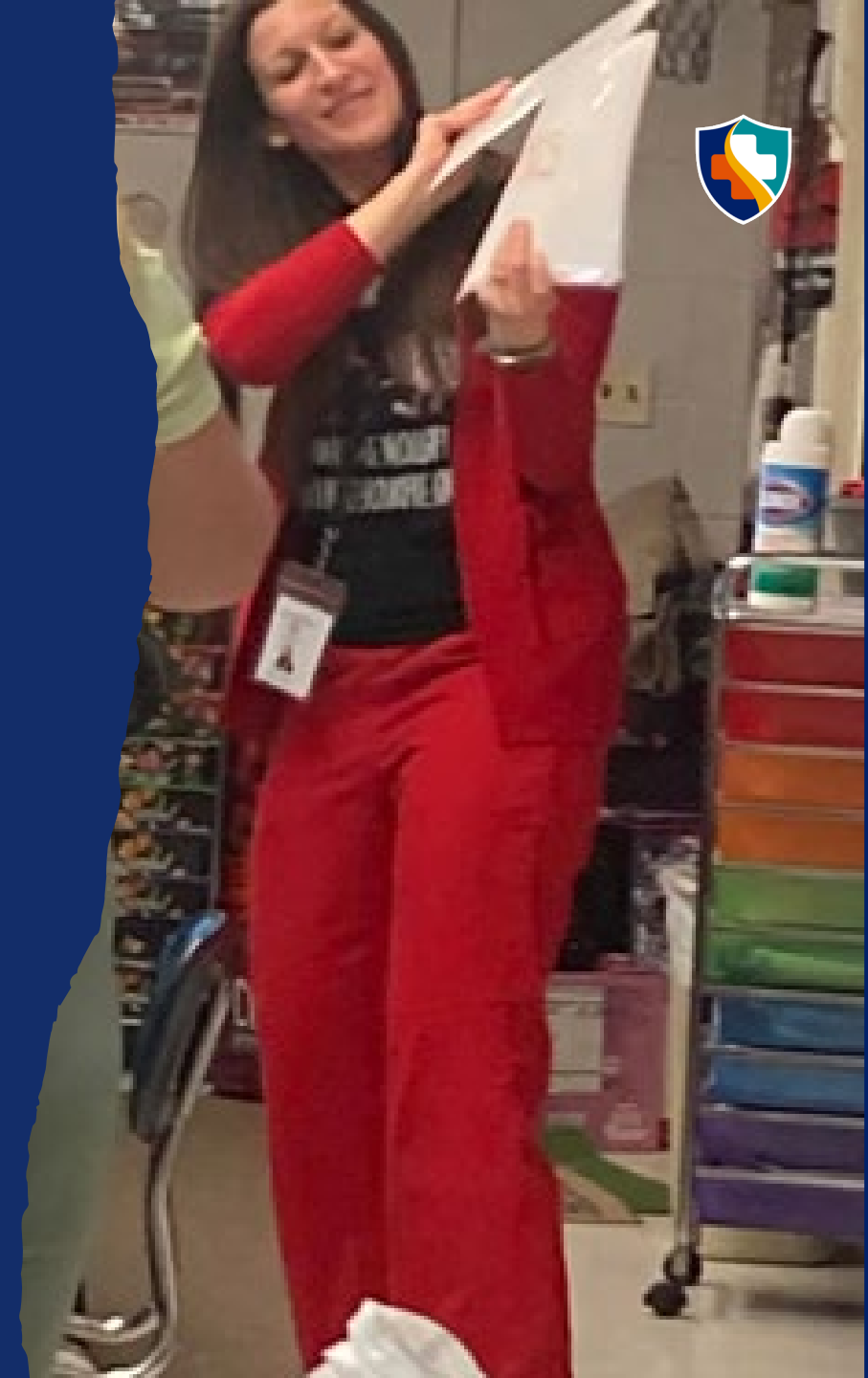
- Shannon County Health Center Childhood Obesity Prevention Program
- Implement with 5<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms
- On-site at school, once a month for one hour
- 30 minutes nutrition education
- 30 minutes of physical activity





## **Dallas County + Dallas County R-1 School District**

- Piloted The Walking Classroom
- Helps to strengthen the physical, mental, and academic health of children
- 22 students in one fourth grade classroom
- Students reported mood and learning positively impacted





## Camden County Health Department + Camden County School Districts

- ½ day of learning and networking
- Four public school districts serving a total of 4,752 students





## Osage County Health Department + Osage County School Districts

- 1.5 hours of learning and networking
- Four school districts in attendance serving approximately 1600 students





## Carter County + East Carter School District

- Shared training day to complete ACS Stop the Bleed
- Assist with training needs to satisfy HB 266/SB 268, effective 01/01/26
- CPR skills check-off instructor for both local school districts
- Co-host CPR trainings with both local schools districts several times throughout the year
- Serve in a substitute school nurse capacity as needed





**Shelby County +  
North Shelby School  
District**

- Attended two school board meetings
- Instrumental in school adopting a school-based cross-country program
- Middle and high school students
- Expanding to 6<sup>th</sup> grade students in upcoming school year
- Building camaraderie, endurance, and discipline

## Lewis County + Highland High School

- Attended after-prom event
- Provided Buckle Up Phone Down education
- Provided a simulation experience using fatal vision goggles
- Approximately 100 students





## Cedar County + Stockton R-1 School District

- Hosted Arrive Alive tour
- 149 students participated in the simulation
- 80 students surveyed before and after simulation and 94% shared they will *never* drive distracted again





Bowling Green	North Calloway
Clifton	Silox
Elsherry	Van-Far
Louisiana	Wellsville
Mark Twain	Wight City
Montgomery County	



## Lincoln County + Lincoln County R3 School District

- Partnered with six school districts
- Implemented Signs of Suicide (SOS) program
- 3,949 students in grades 6-12 have completed this program since 2022



## **Jasper County, City of Joplin + Webb City High School**

- Collaborated with Webb City Police Department
- Coordinated seatbelt check on Seniors' last day at Webb City High School
- 311 cars were stopped and Buckle Up Phone Down messaging and safe driving education were provided



## Stone County + Galena R-II School District

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- Developed a policy with school
- All student name badges have the 988 message and other mental health resources printed on them
- Approximately 500 students
- 300+ middle and high school students trained as QPR Gatekeepers (suicide prevention)

### STUDENT ID



**NATIONAL SUICIDE HOTLINE**  
1-800-273-8255


**CRISIS TEXT LINE**  
Text "HOME" to 741741

**LIFELINE + CRISIS HOTLINE**  
Call or Text 988





**Section 04**  
**Looking**  
**Ahead**



**SIKESTON SCHOOL-BASED CLINIC**

*"This clinic is a lifesaver, especially for families who cannot afford to take off work."  
Kaleigh Merideth, BSN-RN*

**SIKESTON HIGH SCHOOL**  
#WeAreSikeston

**SIKESTON SCHOOL BASED CENTER**  
Welcome to Sikeston School Based Center!  
Their Mission is to provide comprehensive, quality primary health care for all their patients in medically under-served rural communities. Their objective is to provide services regardless of the patient's ability to pay.

**KEY BENEFITS:**

- ELIMINATES TRANSPORTATION BARRIERS
- SAME-DAY TESTING AND TREATMENT (COVID/FLU/RSV/STREP), ALLOWING RETURN TO CLASS.
- IMPROVES ATTENDANCE AND SEAT TIME BY PREVENTING UNNECESSARY EARLY DISMISSALS.
- SUPPORTS IMMUNIZATION COMPLIANCE
- REDUCES BURDEN ON SCHOOL NURSES
- BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ON SITE
- SUPPORTS STAFF WELLNESS THROUGH SCREENINGS AND FLU VACCINATION.

**IMPACT AT A GLANCE:**

- ✓ FEWER EARLY DISMISSALS
- ✓ HIGHER ATTENDANCE
- ✓ BETTER IMMUNIZATION COMPLIANCE
- ✓ CLINIC HANDLES ACUTE ILLNESSES/POC TESTING
- ✓ ON-SITE PHYSICALS
- ✓ REDUCED ED VISITS
- ✓ CLINIC ELIMINATES HEALTH RELATED ABSENCES

**MORE INFORMATION :**

- ☎ 573-472-0414
- 🌐 SEMOHEALTH
- 📍 SIKESTON, MO 63801

✓ SCHOOL-BASED CLINICS ARE NOT JUST HEALTHCARE, THEY ARE AN ATTENDANCE AND ACADEMIC SUCCESS STRATEGY.

## School-Based Health Clinics

- School-based health clinics (SBHCs) provide elementary, middle, and high school students a variety of health care services on school premises or at off-site centers linked to schools
- Teams of nurses, nurse practitioners, and physicians often provide primary and preventive care, including well-child visits, vaccinations, and sport physicals, along with mental healthcare, sick visits, and oral healthcare
- Most patients treated at SBHCs are children insured by Medicaid or children without insurance

# Missouri's vision and objectives for rural health transformation

## Vision

Every rural Missourian has access to the high-quality care they need through a delivery system that is well aligned, community anchored, and built to last.

## Objectives

### Expanding access to care

Ensure rural Missourians can access primary and behavioral health providers close to home, community-based maternity options, with connections to specialists and complex care enabled by telehealth and provider interoperability

### Improving health outcomes

Strengthen health care quality through integrated care coordination, aligned incentives, and evidence-based practices – so that rural Missourians consistently experience seamless, high-value care

### Strengthening provider sustainability

Reinforce the long-term sustainability of rural providers through targeted investments in infrastructure, adoption of innovative technologies, and payment models that reflect the realities of rural care delivery

# ToRCH Care: Five Interconnected Initiatives

## 1. Regional Coordinating Networks and Hub Activation

Building the foundation of regional coordinating networks (RCNs) and local community hubs (Hubs) to coordinate local care delivery and expand entry points for physical, behavioral, and social services

## 2. Alternative Payment Models

Designing and launching alternative payment models to sustain ToRCH Care through rewarding collaboration and high quality and high value outcomes

## 4. Rural Health Workforce Programs

Creating a talent pipeline that encompasses the cultivation, recruitment, training, and retention of rural clinicians and a broad array of health care professionals



## 3. Digital Backbone

Establishing the foundational layers of technology that enable ToRCH Care to function, including platform interoperability and data modernization

## 5. Provider Transformation

Investing in operational innovations that modernize and increase the sustainability of rural providers while preserving access with strategic renovations



**Section 05**  
**Call**  
**to Action**

# Path to Partnership



## April

Connect with Adolescent and School Health Program (ASHP) team

Join News You Can Use (NYCU) email listserv

## May

Recognize school nurses during National School Nurse Day on May 6, 2026

Invite lead school nurse to attend Joint Public Health Conference in September

Add Back-to-School fair for school districts to calendar before school is out for Summer

## June

Register to attend School Health Academy

Request encounters data from school health team and discuss with school nurse(s)

## July

Complete the New School Nurse Orientation on the [Show-Me School Health](#) online learning platform

## August

Schedule the [Mobile Sim](#) to serve as shared professional development

Participate in Back-to-School fairs

**Can we provide a warm  
connection between you and  
your school districts?**



# QUESTIONS?

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**Your  
feedback  
matters  
to us!**



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**PROMOTING HEALTH AND SAFETY**