



Memorandum

TO: Satpal Sidhu, County Executive
FROM: Erika Lautenbach, Director
RE: Mount Baker School District – School-Based Health Center Interlocal Agreement
DATE: JULY 26, 2024

Attached is an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and Mount Baker School District for your review and signature.

■ Background and Purpose

This Agreement provides funding for minor renovations to an office space at Mount Baker High School (MBHS) to be utilized as a school-based health center for MBHS students and operated by Sea Mar Community Health Centers.

100% of Mount Baker School District (MBSD) students live in an area that is geographically isolated from healthcare services for young people and many struggle to access affordable healthcare. Transportation times to healthcare appointments for many residents are over 45 minutes and 50 miles roundtrip. Because of the high rate of poverty in the district, many individuals can't afford transportation to medical centers or rely on public transit, often making appointments 5-6 hours with travel time. School staff frequently share that students miss full days of school to attend medical appointments.

School-based health centers prevent learning loss and support student academic achievement and improved health outcomes. As of 2022, there were 3,900 operational school-based health centers in 49 states ([2022 National Census of School-Based Health Centers](#)). There is currently one operating school-based health center in Whatcom County, and over 70 throughout Washington State in over 30 school districts.

■ Funding Amount and Source

Funding for this Agreement, in an amount not to exceed \$30,000, is provided by the Washington State Department of Health's Consolidated Contract. These funds are included in the 2024 budget. Council authorization is required per RCW 39.34.030(2) for agreements between public agencies.

Please contact Ann Beck, Community Health & Human Services Manager at 360-778-6055 (ABeck@co.whatcom.wa.us) if you have any questions.

Encl.