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AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTH; ENACTING A NEW SECTION OF THE
PUBLIC HEALTH ACT TO CREATE AND OPERATE SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH
CENTERS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. A new section of the Public Health Act is
enacted to read:

"SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH CENTERS--CREATION AND OPERATION.--

A. The department shall provide funding, technical
assistance, clinical oversight and other necessary support
for the creation and operation of school-based health
centers.

B. School-based health centers receiving funding
from the department shall be regulated by the department to
provide services pursuant to Subsection E of this section.

C. School-based health centers shall be
established in schools, within the boundaries of school
campuses or within safe walking distances from school
campuses as determined by the school and the school-based
health center operator, in communities based on:

- (1) need for services;
- (2) operator availability; and
- (3) support from local educational

authorities.

1 D. School-based health centers shall work in
2 cooperation with schools and school districts and be operated
3 by licensed health care providers, including hospitals,
4 federally qualified health centers, the department's public
5 health nurses and other qualified health care providers.

6 E. School-based health centers shall provide
7 services through licensed providers, including:

- 8 (1) primary health care;
- 9 (2) preventive health care, including
10 comprehensive health assessments and diagnosis;
- 11 (3) treatment of minor, acute and chronic
12 conditions;
- 13 (4) mental health care;
- 14 (5) substance use disorder assessments,
15 treatment and referral;
- 16 (6) crisis intervention; or
- 17 (7) referrals as necessary for additional
18 treatment, including inpatient care, specialty care,
19 emergency psychiatric care, oral health care and vision
20 health care services.

21 F. The department shall adopt and promulgate rules
22 for the regulation, operation and oversight of school-based
23 health centers receiving funding from the department.

24 G. For purposes of this section:

- 25 (1) "department" means the department

1 of health;

2 (2) "mental health care" means services
3 related to emotional, psychological and social well-being;

4 (3) "preventive health care" means services
5 that include screenings, checkups and patient counseling to
6 stop or slow the progression of illness, diseases and other
7 health problems; and

8 (4) "primary health care" means health care
9 services that include providing preventive care, promoting
10 wellness and treating common illnesses."

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