

**To:** Dr. Charles Johns  
Board of Education

**From:** Dr. R.J. Gravel  
Dr. Kim Ptak

**Date:** Monday, May 9, 2022

**Re:** School Health Center Capital Project

### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Board of Education authorize the administration to:

1. Finalize the school district's application for Congressionally Directed Spending projects with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services;
2. Develop bid specifications for the construction of a school health center at Glenbrook South High School during the summer of 2022; and
3. Prepare and distribute a request for proposal for professional services to operate the school health center at Glenbrook South High School beginning Fall, 2022.

### **Background**

Over the past two years, we have learned about the benefits of offering basic health services such as COVID-19 testing and vaccinations to our students and staff in our school facilities. Providing convenient access to students and staff before, during, and after school has contributed to keeping our school community healthy and keeping students and staff in school for in-person learning.

In addition to our COVID-related services, we have also experienced success offering health physicals and immunizations required for student attendance. However, limited resources from local community agencies result in much greater demand than capacity. Every year there are approximately 300 students who have not completed a health physical before the first day of school, and an equivalent number who have not received required immunizations. Additionally, many students experience a mid-year expiration of their athletic physical, requiring prompt action to remain eligible to participate in athletics.

As the school district prepares for the 2022-23 school year, we believe that there are considerable benefits to continuing to offer these health services to our students and staff within the district. After evaluating options to fulfill these services, we propose establishing a school health center next school year.

The health center would serve as a hub of care for all students and staff to receive basic health care services, such as:

- Required physical exams for all freshman and transfer students;
- Athletic physical exams for students participating in interscholastic athletics;
- Required immunizations;
- COVID-19 testing and vaccinations;
- General health care exams (e.g., sore throat, nausea, eye irritation); and

- Supplemental mental health services, similar to those offered by community health agencies.

With parental consent, students would be able to access the health center through:

1. A referral from the school nurse;
2. Visiting the health center during operating hours as a walk-in patient; or
3. Scheduling an appointment for services (e.g., physical, immunization, vaccination appointment).

By offering services in the school district, students and staff will be able to seek support from a nurse practitioner during the school day, without the challenge of seeking an appointment from their primary care physician, who often requires a visit during the school day. Most importantly, when a student is not feeling well, we want to make sure that they can access care that will enable them to (1) receive a diagnosis and an action plan to address their illness and (2) keep them in school or get them back to school as quickly as possible.

With summer school taking place at Glenbrook North, the school health center would be located at Glenbrook South. To support students at Glenbrook North, a shuttle bus that serves a variety of purposes during the school day will be made available so that all students can access the health center's services. Additionally, we are pursuing telehealth-based solutions to support students who are enrolled in other attendance centers (e.g., Glenbrook Off Campus, transition program). We are also pursuing the implementation of a school health center at Glenbrook North for the 2023-24 school year.

All basic health care services would be provided at no charge to students. Staff members who participate in the school district's health benefits program would have the ability to utilize their insurance benefits at the health center.

To operate the health center, the school district would enter into a professional services agreement with a local health services organization. The agreement would provide for all of the staffing, services, and supplies necessary to operate the clinic. In preparation for this agreement, we have engaged with Mr. Justin Petrarca, the school district's legal counsel, and SSCMP, our liability consortium, to address potential liability concerns that may arise from this professional services agreement. We are confident that any liability exposure can be adequately addressed through the professional services agreement that will be created.

In developing the proposal, the finance and facilities committees met on Monday, April 18, 2022. At the two separate meetings, members of the Board of Education asked clarifying questions and offered feedback. With that feedback, the administration refined the proposal and offers the following timeline:

- Monday, May 9, 2022 - Presentation to the Board of Education
- Monday, May 23, 2022 - Board of Education approves School Health Center proposal
- Monday, May 24, 2022 - District releases capital projects bid specifications and professional services agreement request for proposal
- Tuesday, June 7, 2022 - Capital projects bids and professional services agreement RFP responses due to the District
- Monday, June 13, 2022 - Board of Education approves capital projects bid and professional services agreement

To offer a visual perspective of the clinic's location and structure, Figures 1 and 2 have been prepared by our architects.

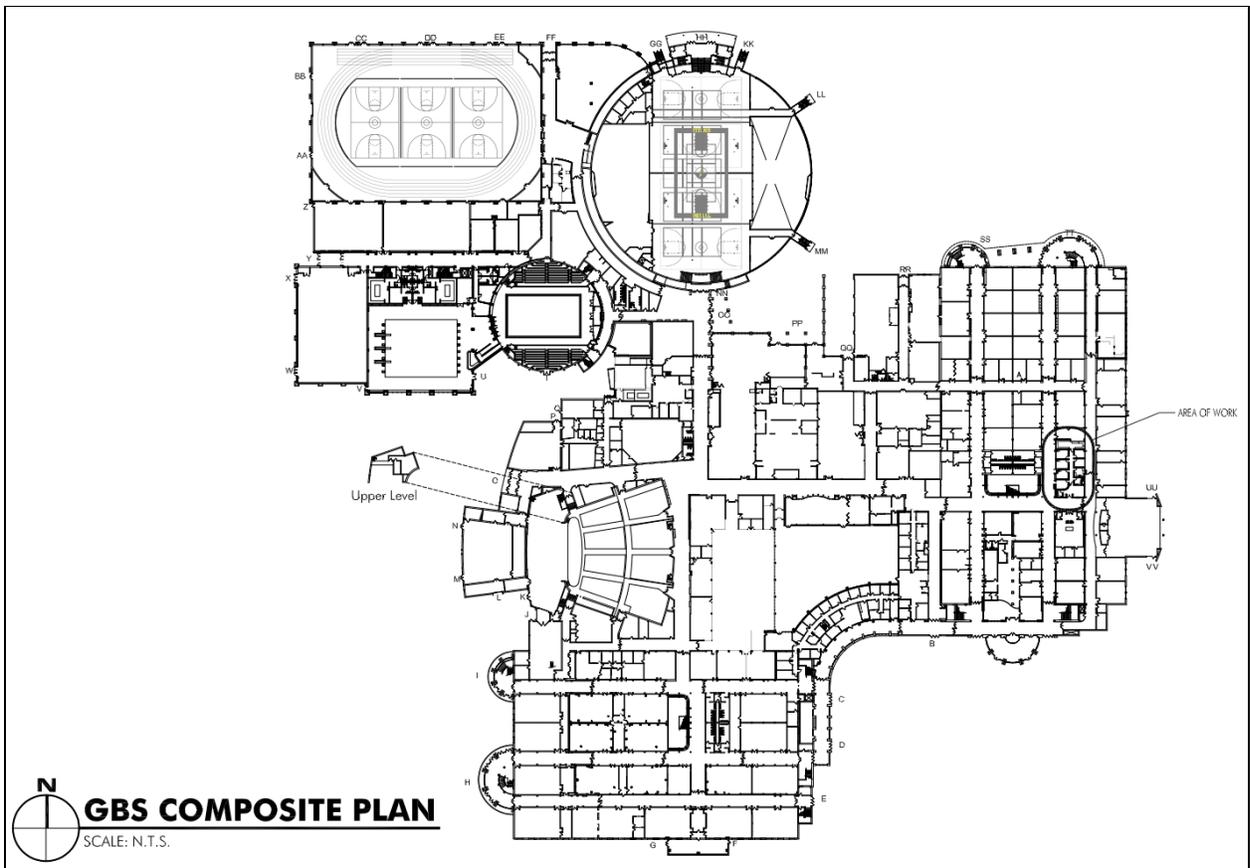
**Figure 1**

**Artistic Rendering of the School Health Center at Glenbrook South**



**Figure 2**

**Location of the School Health Center at Glenbrook South**



This project will have two expenses:

1. A one-time cost for the construction and purchase of furnishings for the school health center space at Glenbrook South; and
2. An annual cost to pay for the operating costs of the health center.

**One-time costs**

Through the support of Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky and State Senator Laura Fine, the school district has been awarded a one-time grant for \$250,000 for facilities and equipment expenses. This funding was made possible through Congress's 2021 Community Project Funding process and was recently approved as part of the recent Omnibus spending bill. Additionally, the school district received unanticipated, unbudgeted reimbursements from FEMA for \$1.09M, for previously submitted COVID-19 expenses, which can supplement the one-time construction costs for a school-based health center.

**Table 1**  
**One-Time Costs for the School Health Center**

Trade	Items Included	Cost Estimate
General Trades	General construction, demolition.	\$165,000
Mechanical, Electrical, Plumbing	Heating and cooling, sinks, drinking water tie-in, sanitary sewer, bathrooms, fixtures, lights, fire protection.	\$240,000
Other (finishes)	Acoustical ceiling, painting, glazing, doors, casework, furniture	\$185,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$590,000</b>

**Ongoing costs**

Except for providing general janitorial/maintenance and technology support, the costs to District 225 of operating a health center are limited to general supplies and personnel. It is estimated that running a health center will cost between \$350,000 and \$450,000 per year. This estimate has been developed after an extensive financial review of Evanston and Maine’s health center budgets. It should also be noted that the administration intends to seek grants from the Illinois Department of Public Health, the federal government, and community-based organizations to support the operation of the health center.

**Table 2**  
**Ongoing Operational Costs for the School Health Center**

Expense Category	Cost Estimate	
Salaries and Benefits	\$438,836	
Medical Supplies and Equipment	\$3,500	
Medications and Lab Tests	\$3,200	
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$445,536</b>