

Board of Education

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PRESS RELEASE

DECEMBER 10, 2021

MOBILE HEALTH SERVICES ROLLING INTO THE SCHOOL DISTRICT *Early Diagnosis + Early Treatment = Earlier Return to Class*

Pickens County School District is the first public school district in Georgia to offer mobile health services to its students and staff Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. when school is in session. The district has been working on this initiative for quite some time and is pleased to announce that beginning January 4, 2022, mobile health services provided by Pickens Primary Care/Pickens Urgent Care will be available at all school locations.

The goal of providing a service like this is to allow children to receive an earlier diagnosis and treatment for illnesses, minor injuries, and chronic health conditions so they can have an earlier return to class. Diagnosis and treatment are available for illnesses such as fever, cough, sore throat, nausea, pink eye, etc. The mobile unit will also be able to provide testing for flu, strep, RSV, and COVID. Students will continue to see the school nurse and if a referral is recommended, the parent/guardian will receive a phone call from school personnel.

Families will be able to register for this optional service beginning December 15, 2021. The district will send a registration link to all families via Infinite Campus and email, as well as posting the registration link on the webpage. Parents must complete all registration forms before a child can be seen by the mobile health staff. Additionally, if the school nurse determines a referral to the mobile unit would be beneficial, parents who have registered will be notified by phone to give verbal permission for the child to be seen.

Pickens Primary Care/Pickens Urgent Care accepts Medicaid, most commercial insurance plans, and CMOs. Families are responsible for all copays. If a family does not have insurance, a sliding scale fee will be used and payment will be based on income. Families without income should reach out to their school's nurse for assistance.

Mrs. Gail Smith, Director of Health Services, believes that by providing this service to families, parents will be able to have their children seen by trained healthcare professionals without having to leave work unnecessarily. Of course, parents always have the option to pick their child up from school if the illness is interfering with their ability to learn. Superintendent Tony Young is excited about this endeavor and says, "This is a unique opportunity for our community and will allow us to continue promoting a healthy and safe learning environment for students and staff."



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