School Telehealth Programs use Registered Nurses and technology to reduce barriers to healthcare by linking youth to health and wellness services – while they are at school.

**BENEFITS OF SCHOOL TELEHEALTH MODEL OF CARE**

- Improved care for children and teens with chronic conditions
- Increased health education and health promotion
- Reduced student absenteeism and improved convenience
- Collaboration with parents, school nurses and clinical providers
- Savings at many levels – hours of work time for parents, emergency department and physician costs


**SCHOOL TELEHEALTH IN MICHIGAN - PURSUING THREE AIMS**

- Increased access to health care
- Improved youth experience and engagement
- Reduced costs

**WHAT IS THE SCHOOL TELEHEALTH MODEL OF CARE?**

Telehealth technology and collaborative partnerships are being used to positively impact the health and well-being of students.

Registered nurses (RNs) working under physician standing orders provide high quality, comprehensive health care to students while they are at school. For care that is needed beyond what a RN can provide, they use specialized video and audio connections to link youth at the school clinic to primary care providers located in a pediatric or school-based health center in their community. Multiple RNs in different schools may link to the same primary care provider or office.
Every three years, the School-Based Health Alliance (SBHA) conducts a national survey of school-based health center (SBHC) programs. According to SBHA’s 2013-2014 report, there were 2,315 SBHCs nationwide (91 in Michigan). Over three quarters of SBHCs served schools that were Title I eligible, with student populations for whom more than half could receive free or reduced-price lunches.

Of all SBHC programs, 7.3% reported using telehealth to offer services. Rural SBHCs used telehealth in higher numbers (12.7%).

Michigan supports many SBHCs across the State. Additionally, schools, county health departments and hospital systems in Michigan have been working together to develop School Telehealth programs. Beginning 2016, these five programs have expanded clinical and behavioral health services using telehealth at elementary, middle and high schools in their areas.

- Antrim County: Health Department of Northwest Michigan
- Branch County: Community Health Center of Branch County
- Calhoun County: Calhoun County Health Department
- Detroit: Henry Ford Health System
- Detroit: St. John Providence Health System

States in green report having at least one school-based telehealth program.