

COMMENTARY

Norwalk 'fortunate' to have health care centers in schools

To the Editor:

February is School Based Health Center Month, and many in our community may be unaware how fortunate Norwalk is to have these primary health care centers in our schools.

The Dr. Robert E. Appleby School Based Health Centers, a program of the Human Services Council, operate in our three high schools and Nathan Hale Middle School, providing accessible, high quality health care to students while school is in session.

The school based health centers provide essential health services to those who need it most, where

they need it with no out-of-pocket cost.

Last year, over 6,500 Norwalk adolescents utilize the medical and mental health services available in our School Based Health Centers. At least 28 percent of those students are uninsured, and the numbers are now climbing higher.

As more families are experiencing the loss of employment and employer-sponsored health insurance, students are turning to the Centers for needed medical care and help with family stress. School Based Health Centers keep students healthy and in school.

I would like to thank the staff of

the Dr. Robert E. Appleby School Based Health Centers in Norwalk for their professionalism and dedication to the students we serve, along with our community partners that assist us in our mission to improve the overall physical and emotional health of students in order to maximize their educational experiences and potential. "Healthy Kids learn better."

Sincerely,
Rhonda Capuano, Director
Dr. Robert E. Appleby School
Based Health Centers