



Creating Opportunities for Ohio's Children to Thrive

This school year, children and families in our community can access affordable and confidential behavioral health care from the safety and convenience of our school.

Times are tough and young people face unique challenges to living their healthiest, happiest lives. Anxiety, depression, and other conditions are on the rise and largely going untreated—especially in smaller and more rural communities. With the help of the Ohio Department of Development's office of BroadbandOhio, children in our community can now connect with a behavioral health provider any time during the school day, ensuring they can thrive in school and beyond, wherever they live.

Parents and educators have a new resource to help students get ahead this school year by connecting to the care they need, when they need it.

BroadbandOhio is helping connect students to the care and support they need, while keeping them in the community they know and trust, by expanding behavioral telehealth in Ohio schools.

Why offer telehealth for Ohio students?

- **It's affordable and convenient.** It's easy to make referrals, and families can access this service regardless of their health insurance. Both parents and students will enjoy the flexibility of a telehealth visit. And with students never needing to leave school for a doctor visit, both parents and their kids will enjoy the flexibility telehealth provides.
- **It's discrete and confidential.** Both students and parents will enjoy the same level of privacy, personalized care, and confidentiality they experience at a traditional doctor's office, but in a much more convenient, virtual format.
- **It's reassuring and effective.** Parents can rest assured knowing their children are receiving the highest quality of care, and students will gain confidence knowing support is just an email or phone call away.
- **It meets children where they are.** Children are already comfortable communicating virtually, making telehealth a familiar and empowering experience.

BroadbandOhio is partnering with OCHIN, a national nonprofit leader in health care technology and consulting, to expand access to telehealth for children across Ohio's communities and schools.

Why Telehealth in Schools?

113,000

Ohioans age 12-17 experience depression—up 42% since 2016.

51.8%

of Ohioans age 12-17 with depression did not receive any care in the last year.

29%

Students with access to telehealth at school are 29% less likely to become chronically absent.

93%

of adolescents polled or surveyed in a recent study enjoyed telehealth visits.

Learn More

For more information, or to take advantage of this opportunity, please contact our school nurse or principal.

Data sources: Children's Defense Fund Ohio, Duke University, Frontiers in Public Health, NAMI Ohio, UNC-Chapel Hill



**Department of
Development**