



# Creating Opportunities for Ohio's Children to Thrive

**Schools have a new resource to help students get ahead this year by connecting them to the behavioral health care and support they need, when they need it, through telehealth.**

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. With the help of the Ohio Department of Development's office of BroadbandOhio, children in your community can connect with a behavioral health provider any time during the school day to get the care and support they need.

BroadbandOhio is partnering with OCHIN, a national nonprofit leader in health care technology and consulting, to expand access to telehealth in Ohio's schools. This state-funded program helps ensure young Ohioans can thrive in school and beyond, wherever they live—**at no cost and limited time commitment for school districts.**

## Why offer telehealth for Ohio students?

- **It's convenient.** It's easy to make referrals, and both parents and students will enjoy the flexibility of a telehealth visit.
- **It's discrete and confidential.** Telehealth provides the same level of privacy, personalized care, and confidentiality as in-person visits, in a 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 experience.

## No-cost steps to support school districts' telehealth programs

1. Complete the [Ohio School District Telehealth Pre-Survey](#) in about five minutes.
2. Kick off the process with a brief meeting to discuss the program and how we can tailor it to your district's unique needs.
3. OCHIN conducts a comprehensive needs assessment at each of your district's schools. The efficient process takes about half an hour per school.
4. Based on assessment findings, OCHIN provides a customized action plan for each school, designed to maximize the benefits of telehealth.
5. With your collaboration, OCHIN shares this information with the State to pave the way for next steps in supporting your district.

Beyond evaluating physical space or capacity, this assessment helps transform how schools address their students' well-being, especially regarding behavioral health.

## 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 the OCHIN team at [ohiotelehealth@ochin.org](mailto:ohiotelehealth@ochin.org).

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



**Department of  
Development**