Research and evaluations have demonstrated that school-based health centers represent cost-effective investments of public resources:

- A study by Johns Hopkins University found that school-based health centers reduced inappropriate emergency room use, increased use of primary care, and resulted in fewer hospitalizations among regular users. (6)

- A study of school-based health center costs by Emory University School of Public Health attributed a reduction in Medicaid expenditures related to inpatient, drug and emergency department use to use of school-based health centers. (1)

- The total annual cost of hospitalizations decreased by 85 percent (nearly $1,000 per child) for children in Cincinnati schools with school-based health centers. (3)

- Emergency room visits for asthma were more than halved for students in New York City schools with school-based health centers compared to those in schools with no school-based health centers. (7)

- Adolescents with Medicaid in Denver were four times less likely to access urgent and emergent care if they used school-based health centers. (4)

- In South Carolina, prevention-oriented health care provided in school-based health centers can decrease utilization of emergency departments. (5)

- New York’s school-based health centers saved approximately $3 million in hospitalization inpatient costs for children with asthma in 2004. (2)

- Adolescents with commercial managed care insurance and school-based health center access in Denver had an after-hours care visit rate of 38-55% less than those without school-based health center access. (4)