



Grand Rapids schools receives \$2.6 million to continue school-based health clinics

Published: Friday, May 27, 2011, 11:38 AM Updated: Friday, May 27, 2011, 11:39 AM



By **Monica Scott | The Grand Rapids Press**

GRAND RAPIDS – Grand Rapids Public Schools announced today it has **received a \$2.6 million grant** to continue serving students at three, on-site high school clinics.

“You can come to the clinics without insurance and get quality care,” said Dr. Lisa Lowry, a clinic physician on staff with Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital. “Many people don’t know we are full functioning clinics with state of the art equipment.”

The five-year grant is for Creston, Ottawa Hills and Union high schools. The press conference was held at Creston Health Center. The grant was awarded by the state Department of Community Health and uses state and federal funds. Students receive medical, dental and counseling services Monday through Friday.

The health centers are supported through partnerships with Spectrum Health, Kent School Services Network and Cherry Street Health Services, which manages the grant for the district.

“The grant allows us to continue our mission to serve underserved children,” said Mary Beth Campbell, facility manager for the school based centers with Cherry Street.

Grand Rapids’ first school-based health program opened at Union High in 1999. In 2005, the district was awarded a \$1.6 million grant to expand health clinic to Ottawa Hill and Creston for the 2005-06 school year. There have been 35,483 total visits since then.

“We hope we are about to impact the community even greater,” said Lowry.

She said having services conveniently located at the schools allows students to miss only an hour or so of school, rather than a half or full day.

The program serves students, ages 10 to 19. Services will be available during the summer from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursdays. If students have insurance, it’s billed, otherwise services are free.

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