

Memorandum of Agreement

Health Partners of Western Ohio & Tiffin City Schools

Background:

Health Partners of Western Ohio is committed to providing primary, medical, dental, vision, behavioral health, substance abuse treatment, and pharmacy services to low-income populations in Ohio. Health Partners has developed dental and vision outreach programs to offer needed services within schools to children who are living below 200% of the federal poverty level.

Health Partners dental team provide pit and fissure sealants to children in a school setting. These programs target vulnerable populations that may be at greater risk for developing decay and less likely to receive preventive care. Compared to children from higher income families, children from low-income families are more likely to have untreated tooth decay, have few or no dental sealants, and not have had yearly dental visit.

Dental sealants are thin coatings applied to the tiny grooves on the chewing surfaces of the back teeth (molars), which is where most cavities (tooth decay or dental caries) in children and adolescents occur. In addition to protecting teeth from cavities, sealants stop cavities from growing. After sealants are applied, they protect against 80% of cavities for 2 years and continue to protect against 50% of cavities for up to 4 years. School-age children without sealants have almost 3 times more cavities than those with sealants. Untreated cavities can cause pain, infection, and problems eating, speaking, and learning.

Vision services are a critical part of overall healthcare. Health Partners vision outreach team provides comprehensive vision exams and glasses as necessary. Vision is critical to the overall health and academic achievement of a child.

Health Partners and Tiffin City Schools view comprehensive health care as essential and an integral part when providing a high-quality learning environment which helps children achieve educational excellence. Health Partners of Western Ohio and Tiffin City Schools wish to bring the school-based sealant program to children within the school system who do not have a dental home and lack these services. Health Partners and Tiffin City Schools agree to work together to meet the special needs of these children.

TERM OF AGREEMENT:

This agreement will be effective on the 28th day of August 2025 and will continue indefinitely.

Health Partners of Western Ohio's responsibilities:

1. Health Partners will provide dental exams, preventive care (fluoride varnish, sealants, and prophylaxis), silver diamine fluoride and oral health education to any children without a dental home in Tiffin City Schools.
2. Health Partners will provide vision exams to children who are established Health Partners patients without an optometry home in Tiffin City Schools. Children who are prescribed glasses will be fitted for glasses by a licensed optician. Glasses will be ordered and delivered back to the school for the children.
3. Health Partners dental team will work to keep the "out of classroom" time to a minimum, typically to be less than 30 minutes.
4. Health Partners will bill Medicaid and private insurance for services rendered to all students enrolled or potentially enrolled. Children that do not have insurance will receive the care free of charge and will not receive any billing for the care. Health Partners will provide eligibility workers to help families apply for health benefits, if they are interested.
5. Health Partners will immediately accept any child who has more intense dental needs to one of our dental clinics assuring all treatment needs are met. This treatment will be completed as promptly as possible. The child's parent or guardian will be responsible for removing the child from school to go to the dental clinic. Health Partners staff can arrange transportation to help overcome barriers of care if requested by parent or guardian.
6. Health Partners will work cooperatively with Tiffin City Schools and participate in scheduled meetings as requested to problem solve and brainstorm to improve children's health outcomes and service delivery. Health Partners will identify a lead person to coordinate all activities for the program.

Tiffin City School's Responsibilities:

1. Tiffin City Schools staff will help to establish schedules annually that meet the needs of the school system.
2. Tiffin City Schools will work with Health Partners to obtain the information on all children whose parents or guardians sign them up for dental services, including demographic information (minimum name and date of birth), consent to treat, and other information needed for continuity of care.
3. Tiffin City Schools will participate in scheduled meetings as necessary to problem solve and brainstorm to improve children's health outcomes and service delivery. Tiffin City Schools will identify a lead person to communicate with Health Partners.

TERMINATION:

Either party, upon providing (90) day notice, can unilaterally terminate this agreement. Signed this _____ day of _____ 2025.

Tiffin City Schools

Health Partners of Western Ohio