



Washington Office of Superintendent of
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION



Accessing Health and Mental Health Care for Students Experiencing Homelessness

About SchoolHouse Connection

SchoolHouse Connection works to overcome homelessness through education. We provide strategic advocacy and practical assistance in partnership with schools, early childhood programs, institutions of higher education, service providers, families, and youth.



Website

Federal and state policy advocacy

Q&A from our inbox

Webinars and implementation tools

Youth leadership and scholarship



Our Agenda:

1. State laws on unaccompanied youth's access to health care
2. Apple Health for Kids
3. OK, so how do we really DO this?



Access to Health Care for Unaccompanied Youth

A child or youth without a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence and not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.

Informed consent for health care for a minor may be obtained from a school nurse, school counselor, or homeless student liaison when:

(A) Consent is necessary for nonemergency, outpatient, primary care services, including physical examinations, vision examinations and eyeglasses, dental examinations, hearing examinations and hearing aids, immunizations, treatments for illnesses and conditions, and routine follow-up care customarily provided by a health care provider in an outpatient setting, excluding elective surgeries;

(B) The minor meets the definition of a "homeless child or youth"; and

(C) The minor is not under the supervision or control of a parent, custodian, or legal guardian, and is not in the care and custody of the department of social and health services.

**Have you, or anyone in your school district,
consented for an unaccompanied youth?**

- Poll



Access to Outpatient Behavioral Health Care: Youth Consent

RCW 71.34.530 Outpatient treatment of adolescent. Any adolescent may request and receive outpatient treatment without the consent of the adolescent's parent.




Access to Inpatient Behavioral Health Care: Youth Consent

RCW71.34.500 Self-admission of adolescent for inpatient behavioral health treatment or substance use disorder treatment—

Requirements. (1) An adolescent may admit himself or herself to an evaluation and treatment facility for inpatient mental health treatment or an approved substance use disorder treatment program for inpatient substance use disorder treatment without parental consent.

The admission shall occur only if the professional person in charge of the facility concurs with the need for inpatient treatment and it's the least restrictive environment.

Parental authorization, or authorization from a person who may consent on behalf of the minor pursuant to RCW7.70.065, is required for inpatient treatment of a minor under the age of thirteen.



Access to Inpatient and Outpatient Behavioral Health Care: Without the youth's consent

“Parent” includes:

- Stepparent
- Kinship caregiver (requires a first-degree legal relationship; for Native children “extended family member”)
RCW 74.13.031(19)(a)
Another relative responsible for the youth’s health care

Do you have any direct experience with the Adolescent Behavioral Health Care Access Act?

- Poll

How does all this really work in practice?

Danielle Duffey

HEART/ McKinney-Vento Support Specialist
Spokane Public Schools



Questions?

Selected Resources

- <https://www.k12.wa.us/student-success/access-opportunity-education/homeless-education>
- <http://www.wsha.org/wp-content/uploads/2019-Post-Session-Webinar-Family-Initiated-Treatment-July-2019.pdf>
- <https://www.wsha.org/articles/19043/>
- <https://www.k12.wa.us/sites/default/files/public/homelessed/pubdocs/sample-informedconsentformhealthcare.docx>
- https://www.wahealthplanfinder.org/HBEWeb/Annon_DisplayBrokerNavigatorSearch.action?brokerNavigator=NAV

Thank you!



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