

Proclamation

WHEREAS, Colorado youth learn best when they are healthy and supported; and

WHEREAS, children and youth with consistent access to high-quality health care are more likely to attend school ready to learn and achieve higher levels of educational attainment and can thrive; and

WHEREAS, Colorado schools succeed with the support of school-based health centers providing comprehensive, integrated health care; and

WHEREAS, Colorado's school-based health centers provide primary health care, behavioral health care, and many more services without barriers of transportation, cost, or insurance; and

WHEREAS, school-based health centers are proven to be powerful tools for achieving health equity and are intentionally established in communities that have been experiencing harm or discrimination; and

WHEREAS, school-based health centers maintained their commitment to their communities by pivoting quickly during the COVID-19 pandemic and incorporating telehealth into their services; and

WHEREAS, school-based health centers have demonstrated their ability to increase access to health care, improve academic achievement, reduce emergency room use, lower Medicaid costs, and increase the use of sensitive services like behavioral health services; and

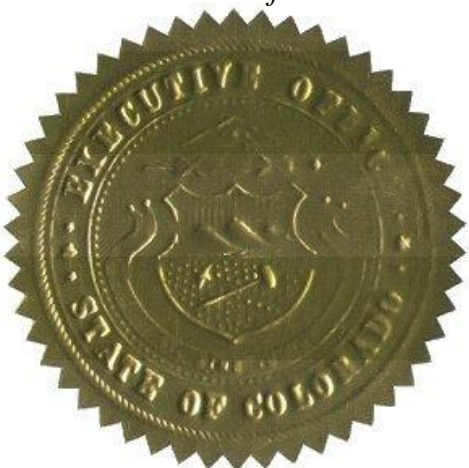
WHEREAS, in this time of continued COVID-19 infections and disruptions to life activities, school-based health centers provide a strong connection to behavioral health supports; and

WHEREAS, school-based health centers are critical components of Colorado's education and health care infrastructures;

THEREFORE, I, Jared Polis, Governor of the State of Colorado do hereby proclaim the period of time between February 1 and February 28, 2021, as

NATIONAL SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH CENTER AWARENESS MONTH
in the State of Colorado.

GIVEN under my hand and the Executive Seal of the State of Colorado, this first day of February, 2021



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jared Polis".

Jared Polis
Governor