



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ECHD and ECCHC Receive State Grant to Establish Fourth School-Based Health Center in Margareta School District

Sandusky, OH, October 15, 2025 – The Erie County Health Department (ECHD) and the Erie County Community Health Center (ECCHC) are proud to announce they have been awarded a competitive grant from the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) to establish a new School-Based Health Center (SBHC) within the Margareta School District. This funding marks a major step forward in expanding accessible healthcare for students and local families.

The new facility in Margareta will be the fourth SBHC operated by ECHD/ECCHC, adding to their existing successful centers located at Vermilion High School, EHOVE Career Center, and Sandusky Career Center. The Margareta SBHC will provide essential primary and mental health services as well as pharmacy services through the ECCHC. The center will open with limited hours before the upcoming holiday season, allowing staff to integrate with the district and prepare for expanded operations. The SBHC will transition to full operational hours after January 2026.

Joe Palmucci, CEO of ECCHC, said, "This center will allow us to intervene early, provide continuous support, and ensure that health challenges do not stand in the way of a student's education or a family's well-being."

The clinic will also be available for general public health appointments after school hours, extending its reach beyond the student body to benefit the entire Margareta and Castalia communities. School-Based Health Centers address critical gaps in care by offering convenient access to preventive care and managing chronic conditions right on campus. For schools, this means fewer missed class days due to illness, and for families, it means easy access to care without the burden of travel or taking time off work.

"The Margareta SBHC will be a resource for everyone in the area, not just students.," said Peter Schade, Health Commissioner. "It is about removing barriers and providing quality, preventive care where people live and work. This is a win for the students, the district, and the entire Erie County population."

The ECHD/ECCHC team is working closely with the Margareta School District administration to finalize site details and hiring. More information on specific services and scheduling will be released closer to the official opening date.

About the Erie County Health Department

The Erie County Health Department's mission is to promote and improve the health and safety of the communities and environment within Erie County while preventing disease through essential public health services. ECHD operates the Erie County Community Health Center, the region's only fully integrated Federally Qualified Health Center, the Erie Community Pharmacy, the Erie County Detox, Kaptur Rogowski House, and Compass Point, providing adult day services for Alzheimer's and Dementia patients.

For more information about Health Department or Health Center services, visit www.ErieCoHealthOhio.com.

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