



**Erie County Health Department**  
An Accredited Public Health Department

**Erie County Community Health Center**  
A Federally Qualified Health Center

**Peter T. Schade, MPH, REHS**  
Health Commissioner



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Oral Health Services Expansion Awarded to ECHD/ECCHC School Based Health Center in Margareta**

*Erie County Health Department and Erie County Community Health Center Awarded \$900,000 to Expand School-Based Health Center Services in Margareta School District*

*New facility will offer primary care, mental health services, expanded dental care, and integrated pharmacy support*

**Sandusky, Ohio — February 13, 2026 —** The Erie County Health Department (ECHD) and Erie County Community Health Center (ECCHC) are proud to announce they have been awarded \$900,000 in funding from the Ohio Department of Health to expand School-Based Health Center (SBHC) services in the Margareta School District, increasing access to essential health care for students, families, and the surrounding community.

This initial award supports the implementation of primary care and mental health services at a new School-Based Health Center located within the Margareta School District. In February, ECHD/ECCHC received an additional expansion award to incorporate dental services, further strengthening the comprehensive care model offered through the facility.

As part of this expansion, the new center will include three fully equipped dental chairs, allowing students from both Margareta Schools and Townsend Community School to receive preventive and restorative dental care directly on-site. Community members will also be able to access comprehensive health and dental services through the center.

The facility is expected to open in Spring 2026.

“School-Based Health Centers are one of the most effective ways to reduce barriers to care for children and families,” said Peter T. Schade, Erie County Health Commissioner. “By bringing health services directly into the school setting, we are ensuring students have access to the care they need to stay healthy, succeed academically, and thrive. This investment represents a significant step forward for our community and the broader region.”

SBHCs play a critical role in addressing health disparities by offering convenient, trusted access points for care—especially for families who may face challenges such as transportation limitations, lack of providers, or missed work time for appointments.

In addition to medical, mental and behavioral health, and dental services, the new center will integrate pharmacy care through the Erie Community Pharmacy, supporting patients with convenient access to prescriptions and medication management as part of a coordinated care approach.



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“This expansion reflects our commitment to delivering truly comprehensive, community-based care,” said Joseph Palmucci, CEO of Erie County Community Health Center. “By combining primary care, mental health support, dental services, and pharmacy access under one roof, we are building a model that supports students, families, and the entire region, making care more accessible and more connected than ever before.”

The Margareta School-Based Health Center will serve as a hub for coordinated health services, improving outcomes for children and helping families access preventive care close to home.

ECHD/ECCHC’s continued investment in School-Based Health Centers aligns with their mission to provide care that is closer to care by meeting individuals where they are and strengthening community health across Erie County.

For more information about the School-Based Health Center initiative or services offered through Erie County Community Health Center, please visit our website at [www.ErieCoHealthOhio.com](http://www.ErieCoHealthOhio.com)

### **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. The Erie County Community Health Center is part of the Erie County Health Department and operates eight convenient locations across Erie, Huron, and Ottawa counties, ensuring accessible primary care, dental, and behavioral health services throughout the region.

For more information about Health Department or Health Center services, visit [www.ErieCoHealthOhio.com](http://www.ErieCoHealthOhio.com).

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