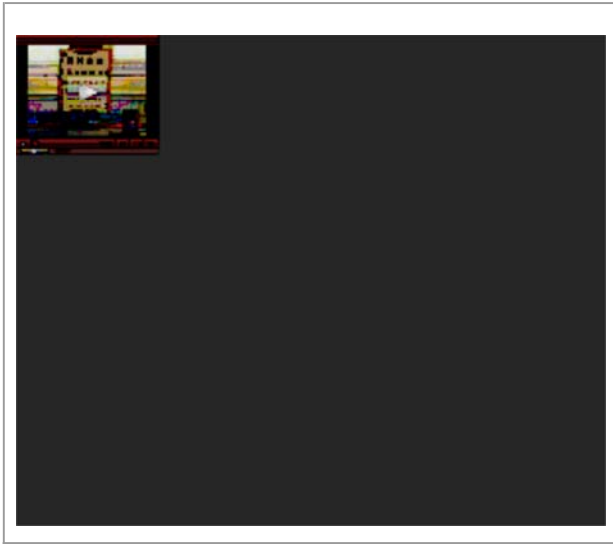


Oyler School Welcomes Eye Care Center



Published: 8/18 6:01 pm

Updated: 8/18 6:30 pm

The health department and school system are getting 500-thousand federal dollars for school health services. About three-quarters of the money will set up a health center at Withrow High School. The rest goes to Oyler School for an eye care center. Oyler calls itself "The Pride of [Cincinnati](#) Public."

As Local 12 News Reporter Jeff Hirsh shows us, the eye center is another reason to be proud.

They're so proud of the academic achievement here at Oyler that they've charted the improvements over the past few years. There are a lot of reasons for the improvement, but there's one you might not think about and that is simply this, making sure the kids stay healthy.

"How's your headache now?"

Or your stomach ... or your breathing, if you have asthma. Pretty common questions at the school-based health center here at

Oyler. Soon, there will be another question. Can you read the eye chart? Thanks to a 150-thousand dollar federal grant, Oyler will add an eye center to the clinic when the school moves to its new building next year.

Craig Hockenberry, Oyler School Principal: "What the vision clinic will do, it will catch those problems. We'll do random checks during the year. The best thing about it, we don't have to wait 6-8 months for the kid to get glasses. We're going to i-d the problem. If the children fail the exam, they'll walk right down the hall and they'll get fitted for glasses right that day."

Keep the child healthy and you keep the child learning. True everywhere, but in a low [income](#) community, like Oyler, it's tougher because a lot of kids do not have family doctors.

Dilruba Rahman, Nurse Practitioner, Oyler Clinic: "Transport is a big issue. The people are poor and can't take the kids anywhere unless they are really, really sick. They'll stay home if I'm not here and then they will end up in the emergency room."

Unless there's a school health clinic. Add vision and there's yet another reason to go to school ... learn.

"If the kids can't see real well, they can't work real well."

Read this and you might just do better in school. No new city dollars are needed for the Oyler and Withrow clinics. Federal dollars, plus corporate partners and volunteers will cover the expenses.