



The Partnership for School Based Telehealth

Guilford County, Cone Health,
Guilford Education Alliance,
and Guilford County Schools
together

A Common Goal to Prepare Students for Success in Life

Our Title I schools are positioned to help disadvantaged children succeed in education.

Historical inequities drive institutional poverty.

Equitable access to health and well-being must exist as part of the answer.

Early dismissal and absenteeism are major causes of lost instructional opportunity.

A major goal of the school based telehealth program is to return as many children as possible to the classroom. At Bessemer, over **90%** of the students seen in our clinic return to learning the same day!



Health Literacy in Guilford County

The areas in red are in the lowest quartile

Health Literacy Data Map

North Carolina Health Literacy Scores

State: North Carolina

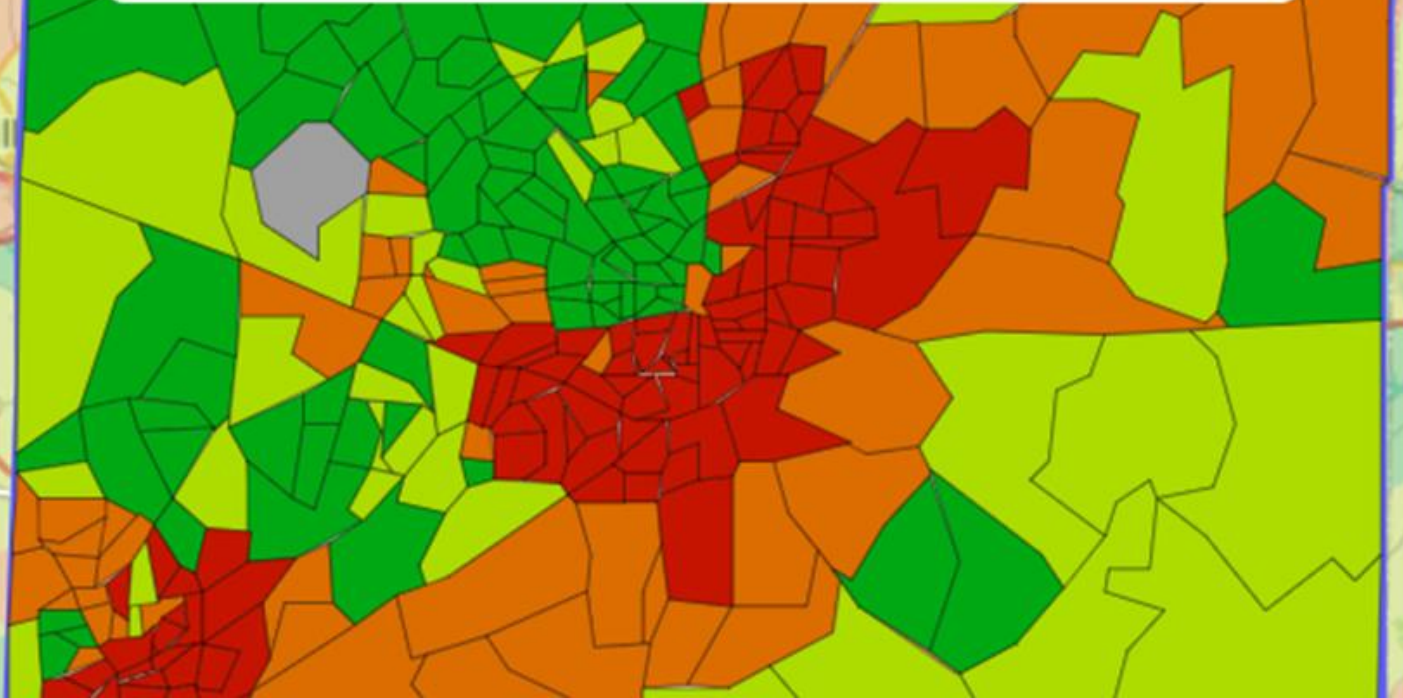
Census Block:

County: Guilford

Score: N/A

Percent basic or below basic: N/A

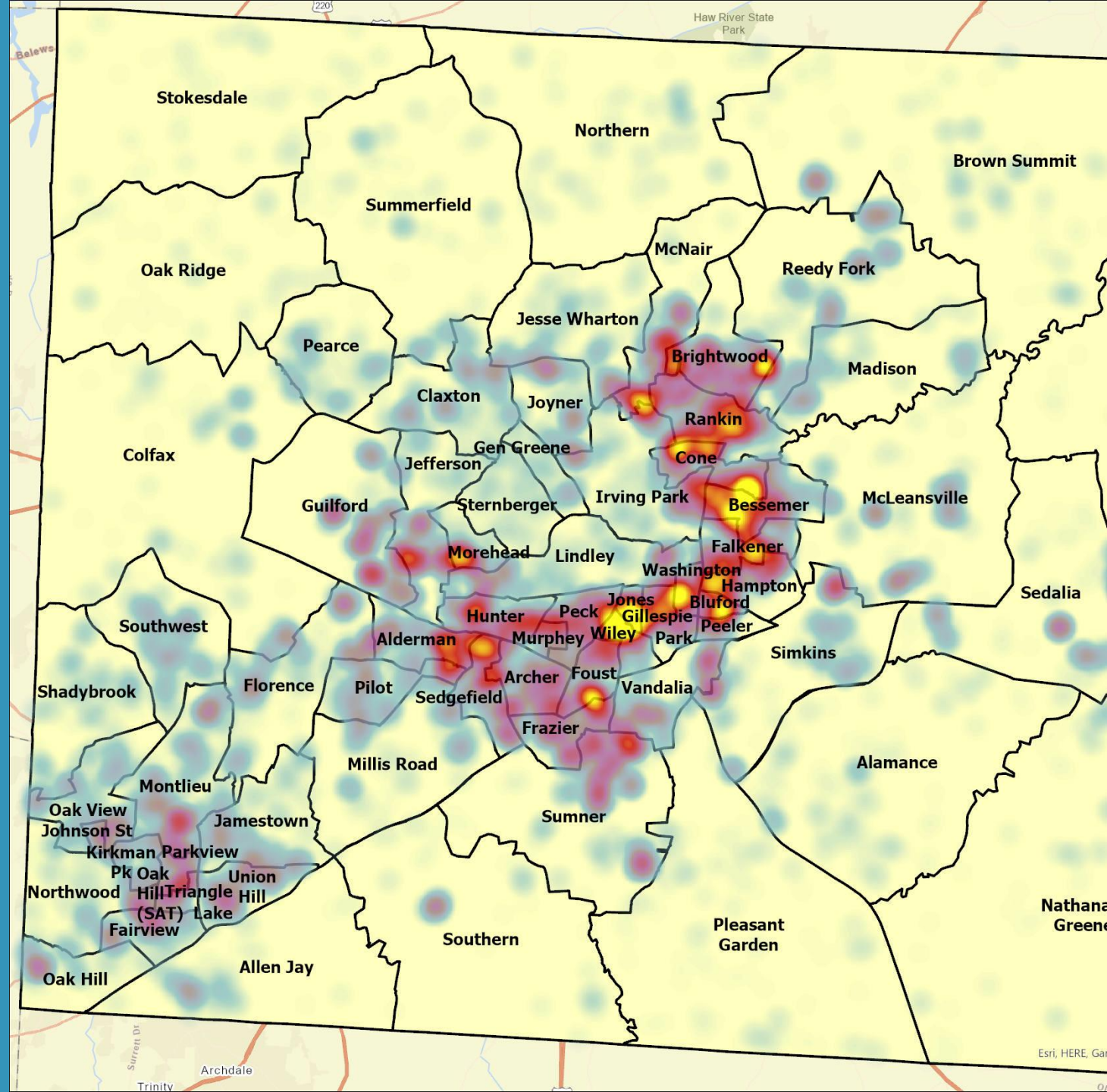
[Zoom to North Carolina](#) 



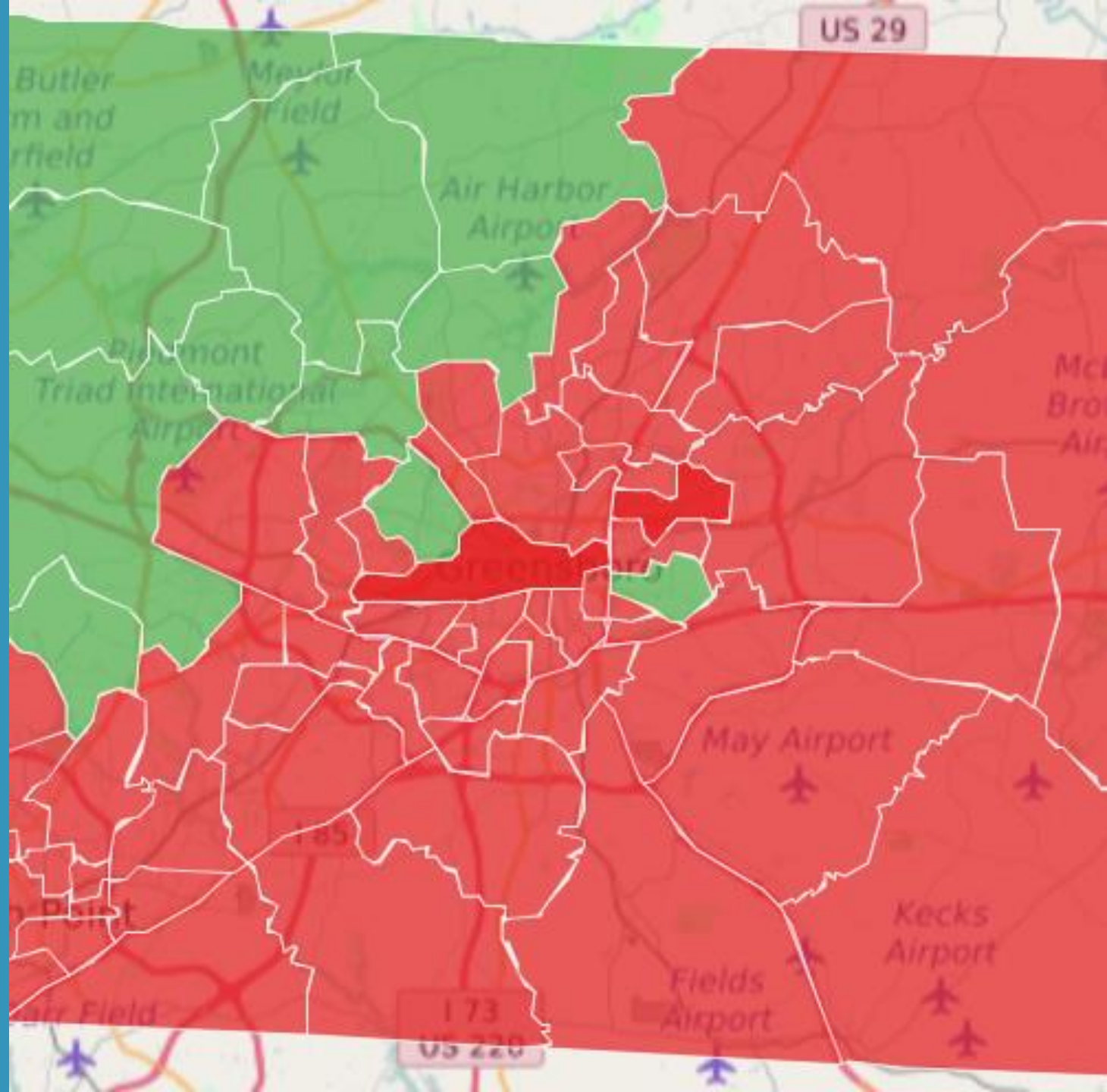
The Emergency Department has Become the Site of Routine Care

This map shows where children aged 4 to 12 go to our emergency department for routine care.

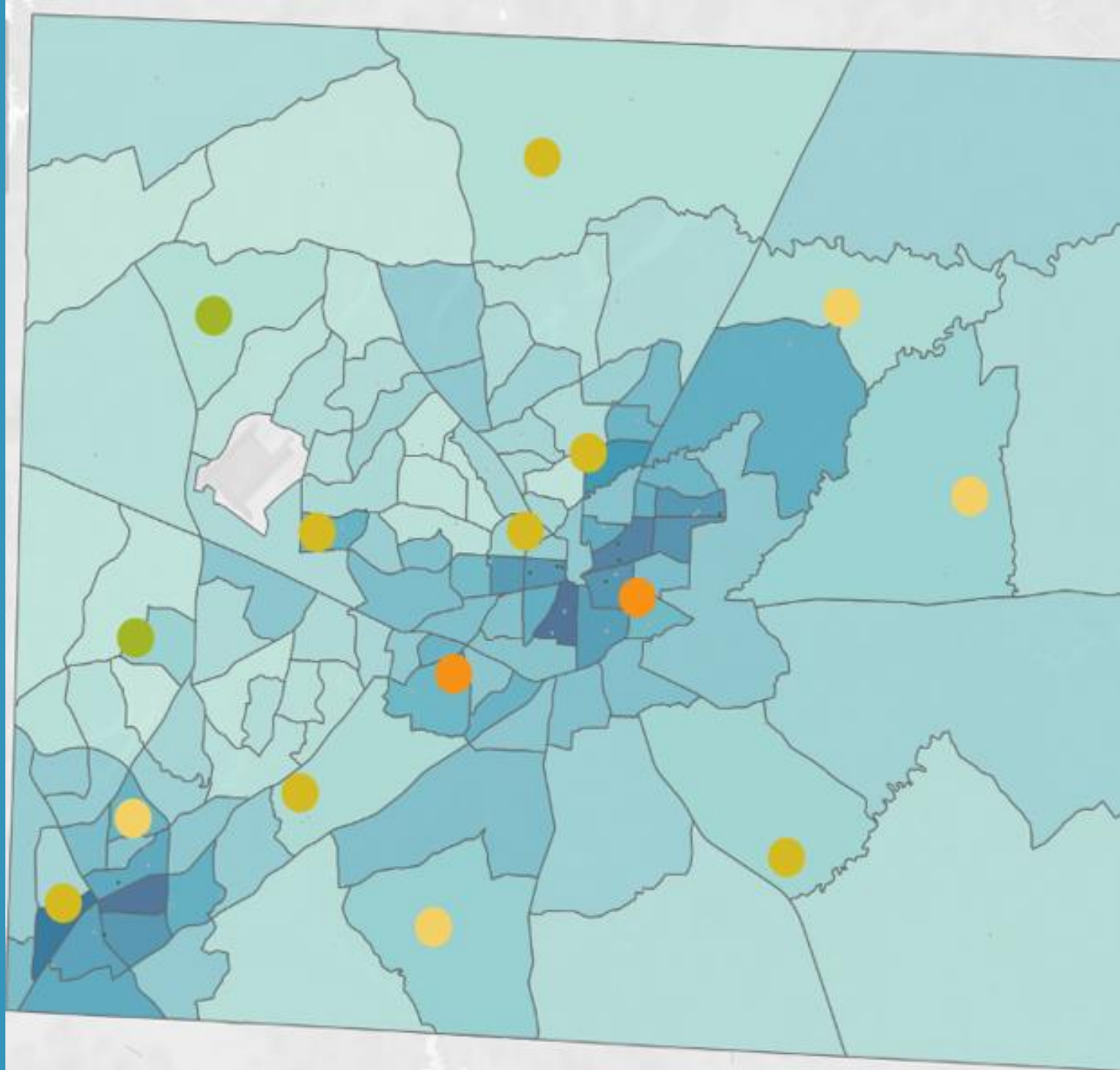
Since 2019, more than 15,000 elementary students have been seen in the ED for simple conditions that could have been met by a telehealth visit.



Title I Elementary Schools Attendance Zones



The Pattern Repeats with Endemic Poverty and Low Graduation Rates





**Poverty, race, and health equity
should not continue to be
determinants of school success.**

The Bessemer Story

The school based telehealth program was opened at Bessemer Elementary School in April 2021.

90% of students seen have returned to the classroom the same day.

Schools are trusted spaces.



The program places a trained nurse telepresenter with specialized technology in the school. Teachers and staff refer students to the clinic. *To be HIPAA and FERPA compliant these visits must occur in a secure clinic space.*



The telepresenter contacts the parent and provides a link for them to virtually join the visit “room.” Interpreter services are available. The pediatrician then joins. The wait time is less than 10 minutes!



A specialized camera and digital stethoscope allow the doctor to virtually examine the child in real time while sharing the exam and plan of care directly with the parent.



Visits are on-demand and may result in a clinical intervention or a prescription. Most children can return to class. All children get care sooner to enable a quick return to school.

Parents do not have to travel to school for early dismissals. Most parents state they would have taken the child to the ED if this service did not exist.

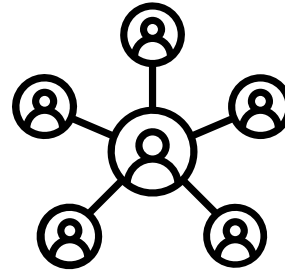
Why forge a partnership with Cone Health for School Based Telehealth?



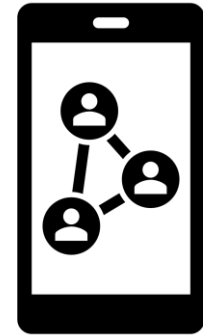
Expertise in delivering high value care through telehealth



Relationships with the area's providers



Collaboration with other programs across North and South Carolina through the School Based Telehealth Learning Collaborative



A meaningful partnership with schools, parents, and the community to solve for health and well-being

The Vision for Partnership

- Compliant clinical space in every school
- Vertical expansion across 51 Title I elementary schools over 3 to 5 years
 - Application for GC ARPA funds
 - Pursuing additional grants and gifts
 - Lobby for state support
- Creating a new digital workforce in partnership with AHEC
- Adding virtual behavioral health services
- Adding teacher and staff access to care through portal
- Coordinating services with school-level prevention activity
- Total child/total school care
- Could become a neighborhood hub of wellness



[Return to Headlines](#)

GCS to Expand Telehealth Clinics in Schools

April 12, 2022 – Guilford County Schools is expanding its telehealth clinic at Bessemer Elementary to two additional elementary schools. The clinics, which operate through a partnership with Cone Health and grant support from the Duke Endowment, will be added to Cone Elementary and Washington Montessori this spring.

The telehealth clinic at Bessemer Elementary opened in April 2021. The clinic allows parents and students, in separate locations, to join in a virtual doctor's visit. A specialized camera and digital stethoscope allow the doctor to virtually exam the child in real time while sharing the exam and plan of care directly with the parent.

The clinics will operate in areas where families historically lack access to routine medical care and instead visit the emergency room for non-emergency needs. Providing clinics in the school setting gives families easier access to care and limits lost instructional time. Of the 300 patients seen at the Bessemer Elementary clinic since it opened, 240 returned to the classroom the same day.

Guilford County Schools envisions adding these clinics to all Title I elementary schools in the future and expanding access to include employees.

A collaborative goal!

ARPA Funds Use Case

2.2 million dollars over three years:

- Operationalize 20 telehealth clinics in Title I elementary schools.
- Provide on-demand medical care for more than 9,000 students, designed to keep them in school.
- Support the recruitment of a new digital workforce for school health.
- Launch an on-demand virtual behavioral health program.
- Create value:
 - Digital health providers cover more schools at a fraction of the cost of site-based providers.
 - A digital clinic could be the site of many types of care, including acute, prevention, behavioral health, and adult care for teachers and staff.

Program Results

- Reduce early dismissals for illness and non-violent behavioral health incidents
- Reduce burden on families
 - Early pick-ups
 - Day care
 - Locating medical care
 - Income disruption
- Reduction in state Medicaid costs for preventable ED utilization
 - Partnership with DHHS to review Medicaid expenditure
- Increase instructional time and school performance
 - Partnership with GCS and Department of Public Instruction to monitor school performance indicators



School Based
TELEHEALTH

