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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**First School Based Health Center in Federal Way Opens January 2021**

*Remove barriers and increases healthcare access for students at no cost*

**Federal Way, Wash.** — Federal Way Public School students will now have access to valuable health care services through the district's first School Based Health Center (SBHC) at TAF@Saghalie.

There are students who do not have easy access to health care, but the district is fortunate to have partners like Kaiser and HealthPoint who are addressing this long-standing equity gap by making services available at TAF@Saghalie.

The SBHC opened January 25, 2021. Registration is open to TAF@Saghalie and Decatur High School students and will be expanded to other FWPS students at a later date.

The district renovated existing space at TAF@Saghalie to house the SBHC, and healthcare services will be provided by HealthPoint, in partnership with Federal Way Public Schools (FWPS).

"Now more than ever, we need to remove barriers so our scholars have equitable access to healthcare in our community," said Superintendent Dr. Campbell. "Our district's partnership with HealthPoint will bring these services directly to students to support their achievement in school and social emotional needs as well."

HealthPoint is a community health center that provides high-quality, affordable care at 19 locations in King County.

"HealthPoint's mission is to break down barriers to accessing healthcare and provide great care for all. One of the ways we live our mission is by bringing health services to schools like TAF@Saghalie," said Lisa Yohalem, President & CEO of HealthPoint. HealthPoint operates three other SBHCs in the Renton and Highline school districts, as well as two primary care clinics in the Federal Way/Des Moines area.

This will be the first SBHC in the district, and it will provide services in person and via telehealth. Services include:

- Immunizations
- Primary Care
- Mental Health Counseling
- Health Assessments and Education
- Sports Physicals
- Laboratory Services

- Acute Illness or Injury

The SBHC does not collect fees, and there is no out-of-pocket cost to students or families. The SBHC provides care to students even if they don't have insurance or can't pay.

Schools can't do it alone, and many partners were involved to make the SBHC a reality. Federal Way Public Schools applied for and was awarded two grants from Kaiser Permanente that assisted with the planning and start-up of the school based health center. In partnership with Technology Access Foundation, the district applied for and was awarded capital grant money from Washington State that was used for renovations to create a designated space inside the school for the school based health center.

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FWPS Contact: Kassie Swenson, Chief of Communications and Strategy,  
w: 253-945-2262  
c: 253-204-8388  
e: [kswenson@fwps.org](mailto:kswenson@fwps.org)

HealthPoint Contact: Kerry Gallo, Patient & Community Engagement Manager  
p: 425-203-5407 Ext 44348  
e: [kgallo@healthpointchc.org](mailto:kgallo@healthpointchc.org) :