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New Online Resource for School-Based Health Centers Provides Free Access to Comprehensive Planning and Technical Assistance Tools

Washington, DC, January 28, 2008 – Today, the National Assembly on School-Based Health Care (NASBHC) officially launched the *SBHC Road Map*, an online dynamic web tool that will soon become THE school-based health center (SBHC) technical assistance and training tool. Developed with support from the Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati, the *SBHC Road Map* provides the most current resources and technical assistance to aid SBHC administrators from the initial planning phase through all stages in an SBHC's operation.

SBHCs provide access to comprehensive health and mental health care services where children learn and grow, strengthen health equity for our nation's most disadvantaged youth and foster greater opportunity for learning readiness and academic success. They are a critical part of the health care safety net to combat inadequate and unaffordable access to essential preventive health services including well-child exams, dental care, health education, immunizations, mental health care and chronic disease management for conditions including asthma and diabetes.

There are more than 1,700 SBHCs in 44 states, yet NASBHC's research shows that the number of SBHCs needed nationwide to serve every 1,000 school-aged children without health insurance is close to 6,000. When considering school-aged children living in federally designated health professional shortage areas, the number of needed SBHCs jumps to nearly 10,000.

Opening a new SBHC is a time-consuming, challenging, but rewarding endeavor that requires new skill sets. In response to the daily technical assistance requests from the SBHC community, NASBHC created the *SBHC Road Map* to improve, update and assemble technical assistance materials for SBHCs in the most efficient and user-friendly way.

The *SBHC Road Map* is filled with resources, tools, policies and procedures, samples and links that will make the SBHC journey a little easier. Each category, or "exit," has resources broken down into types: tools, presentations, NASBHC policy and procedure templates, SBHC samples and reference materials. In addition, there are links or "detours" to other websites for additional resources and organizations.

Early feedback on the *SBHC Road Map* is resoundingly positive. After several presentations over the past month, NASBHC Director of Training, Laura Brey said, "The *SBHC Road Map* is enormous in its scope and potential. More communities can start a SBHC who might not have been able to because of previous limitations in our capacity to provide technical assistance. The *SBHC Road Map* streamlines the process in a user-friendly, interactive, and comprehensive way."

NASBHC is offering the *SBHC Road Map* FREE to all interested parties for the next six months. Visit ww2.nasbhc.org/roadmap TODAY to start your free trial and become a SBHC expert!

The National Assembly on School-Based Health Care is a not-for-profit membership association whose mission is to promote and support school-based health centers to assure that all children receive high quality, comprehensive health care.