

Coming soon: Health care in the halls of Jackson High

By Caitlin Looney Staff Writer for The Reflector, Jackson High School newspaper

The Teen Health Center at Parkside Middle School has been providing healthcare to thousands of patients each year and the benefits of the Teen Health Center may now be provided within the halls of Jackson High. Patients ranging in the ages from from 11 through 21 have been going in and out of the doors of the Parkside Teen Health Center for almost three years now. The Center for Family Health now sees it fit to expand its services even further into the Jackson Community, the Jackson High School Community to be precise. JPS and The Center for Family Health have teamed together to receive funding for a new Teen Health Center at Jackson High.

Plans for the Teen Health Center at Jackson High are not concrete as of late, but the idea of having health services provided to our students and the surrounding area is quite an extraordinary prospect. The "TCAP" provides immunizations, physicals, health education, Medicaid outreach and enrollment, and many other health services.

Pat Brown, a registered nurse that works in triage at the Jackson Center for Family Health says, "I think it's the accessibility that makes it so helpful to the students. It makes it so much easier for students that don't have the transportation to get to the Parkside Center, or any doctor's office, for that matter. Kids can just walk to the doctor's office instead of relying on their parents to get them there."

There would be many benefits of having a Jackson High Teen Health Center . The ability to provide healthcare to the Jackson High School population would allow employees of the center to work in preventing illnesses. Preventing illnesses would then stop the illnesses from becoming an extreme health issue. Students would be able to receive medical care without the worry of parents losing wages over having to bring their children to the doctor. The ability to go into the Teen Health center instead of going to the emergency room for basic health needs would be available and the Teen Health center also serves those who are uninsured.

If you'd like to become involved with helping make the final decision check centerforfamilyhealth.org . There is a link that will guide to a survey that asks questions in regard to the need of a Jackson High Teen Center. Keeping people happy and healthy is one of the key elements to life, and if people can get a little help along the way, then that makes life much more enjoyable and easier.