

## *Who is the School Nurse?*

- A registered nurse (R.N.) licensed to practice nursing by the state board of nursing
- A professional, accountable to practice in accordance with current
  - 1) Professional Standards of School Nursing Practice, as stated by the National Association of School Nurses (NASN)
  - 2) state laws, rules and regulations
- A nursing professional who advocates for children's health and safety within the educational setting

## *What Preparation Does the School Nurse Need?*

The National Association of School Nurses recommends:

- A baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university
- School Nurse Certification through the National Board of Certification of School Nurses

A School Nurse needs expertise in the following areas:

- Pediatric, public health and mental health nursing with strong health promotion, assessment and referral skills
- Education and health laws impacting children
- Teaching strategies for the delivery of health education to students and staff

## *What Does the School Nurse Do?*

The primary role of the School Nurse is to support student learning. The nurse accomplishes this by implementing strategies that promote student and staff health and safety.

A School Nurse, with appropriate preparation, takes a leadership role in serving as the coordinator of all school health programs in the following manner:

- ◇ Health Services – serves as the coordinator of the health services program and provides nursing care
- ◇ Health Education – provides health education to students, staff and parents
- ◇ Healthy Environment – identifies health and safety concerns in the school environment and promotes a nurturing school environment
- ◇ Nutritional Services – supports health food services programs
- ◇ Physical Education/Activity – promotes healthy physical education, sports policies and practices
- ◇ Counseling/Mental Health – provides health counseling, assesses mental health needs, provides interventions and refers students to appropriate school staff or community agencies
- ◇ Parent/Community Involvement – promotes community involvement in assuring a healthy school, serves as school liaison to a health advisory committee
- ◇ Staff Wellness – provides health education and counseling, promotes healthy activities and environment for school staff

## *What Services Does the School Nurse Provide?*

As the health services expert, the School Nurse serves as the health professional for the school community and provides the following services:

- Illness, injury assessments and interventions
- Identification, assessment, planning, intervention and evaluation of student health concerns
- Health assessments/participation in Individualized Education Plan development
- Pediatric nursing procedures: ventilators, gastrostomy feedings, tracheostomy care, catheterization
- Screening for health factors impacting student education
- Activities and education to promote health and prevent teen pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, tobacco use and alcohol and substance abuse
- Chronic disease management and education
- Individualized Nursing Care Plans and services for students with disabilities and/or health conditions that interfere with learning
- Medication administration
- Assessment and interventions for students with mental health needs
- Crisis team participation
- Health curriculum recommendations
- Guidelines for school district health policies, goals and objectives
- School/community/health care provider liaison



**SCHOOL NURSES  
MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

## *What Difference Does a School Nurse Make?*

- ◇ School nursing interventions improve student health to impact achievement and success.
- ◇ School Nurses collaborate with administrators to promote a healthy, safe, and nurturing environment.
- ◇ Parents are confident their student's health needs and injuries are appropriately handled during the school day.
- ◇ Teachers are freed up to devote their time to educating students because the School Nurse coordinates the health care needed by students.

School Nursing is a specialized practice of professional nursing that advances the well being, academic success, and life-long achievement of students. To that end, school nurses facilitate positive student responses to normal development; promote health and safety; intervene with actual and potential health problems; provide case management services; and actively collaborate with others to build student and family capacity for adaptation, self-management, self-advocacy, and learning.

According to a recent survey of School Nurses:

**98%**

HAVE SAVED A CHILD'S LIFE

**82%**

HAVE IDENTIFIED AN ABUSED CHILD

**67%**

HAVE COUNSELED  
A DEPRESSED/SUICIDAL STUDENT

### **SCHOOL NURSES**

- DECREASE ABSENTEEISM
- DECREASE DISCIPLINE REFERRALS

*National Association of School Nurses, Inc.*

### **THE ROLE OF THE SCHOOL NURSE**



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