



## Five Ways a School Nurse Benefits the School

**Attendance - School nurses** improve attendance through health promotion, disease prevention and disease management. Students with a full-time school nurse have about half the student illness- or injury-related early releases from school where no school nurse is present.

**Academics** – Improved attendance means the healthy student is in the classroom and ready to learn. **School Nurses** enable better performance, which also contributes to reducing drop-out rates.

**Time** – **School nurses** save time for principals, teachers and staff. A school nurse in the building saves principals, teachers, and clerical staff a considerable amount of time that they would have spent addressing health concerns of students.

**A school nurse** in the building saves:

- Principals almost an hour a day
- Teachers almost 20 minutes a day
- Clerical staff over 45 minutes a day

***“We know that students need to be healthy to learn. School nurses play a vital role in making sure children are healthy and ready to learn.”***

-- Arne Duncan, Secretary,  
U.S. Department of Education

**Staff Wellness - School nurses** improve the general health of staff. According to school reports, principals, teachers, and clerical staff are **VERY** satisfied with having school nurses in their schools for several reasons:

- Teachers can focus on teaching
- Office staff spend less time calling parents and sending students home
- Healthy staff means increased attendance and productivity

**Accountability - School nurses** help schools stay accountable.

- Promoting compliance with federal and state law mitigates lawsuits
- Advocating for adequate staffing aligns with Healthy People 2020 recommendations of the ratio of one school nurse per 750 well students (1:750)
- Preparing for emergencies saves lives and property
- Addressing student mental health links to academic achievement

**School nurses** are instrumental in the identification and referral to community resources for health risks and are often the only health professional who see students on a regular basis.

**School nurses are responsible for:**

- Significantly decreasing the amount of days missed due to asthma, the leading cause of school absenteeism, accounting for more than 14 million missed days annually
- Managing students with chronic conditions such as diabetes and seizures to allow them to stay in class
- Identifying and treating accidents and injuries
- Counseling students about physical and emotional issues

### **School Nurses Economic Value**

- ✓ Provide health services that increase school attendance
- ✓ Prevent and control the spread of communicable disease
- ✓ Administer specialized services to students (medications, insulin pumps, ventilators, tube feedings)
- ✓ Verification of immunizations
- ✓ Screening and make referrals for vision, hearing, BMI
- ✓ Provide health professional input and direction for school and community policies and programs
- ✓ Educate students and staff on managing their own health and wellness

**Healthy Children = Academic Success**  
[www.nasn.org](http://www.nasn.org)

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