

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

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

Healthy Children = Academic Success
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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

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