



The Value of a School Nurse



Students

- There has been a dramatic increase in the acuity of student/childhood illness
- School nursing involves so much more than band aids!
- School nursing is managing diabetes, asthma, life-threatening allergies, mental and emotional illness, safety issues, administering medications and the list goes on and on . . .



Parents

- Parents send their healthy child to school each day
- They have a right to expect their child's health will be safeguarded while at school



Situations within New York State:

- Monroe County: Student collapsed in the gym during physical education class. He appeared to be having a seizure and became unresponsive.
- Oneida County: School security comes upon a student who is staggering and mumbling. They take him to the nurse's office.
- Livingston County: A school nurse is called to an elementary classroom where a teacher has collapsed. She is bleeding profusely from the back of her head and is shaking.



Care and Prevention

- School Nurses:
 - Promote health through nursing assessment (health history, review of symptoms)
 - Provide care in both routine and emergent issues for students and staff
 - Prevent life threatening situations





A School Nurse

The National Association of School Nurses defines school nursing:

“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;

A School Nurse

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."



National Association of School Nurses



School Nurse

- In New York State:

A school nurse is
defined as a
registered professional nurse

*Education Law, Article 19 §902
Commissioner's Regulations §136.1*



The Value of a School Nurse

Why is it important
that our students
have access to a
school nurse?



School Nurses

- Provide Emergency Care as needed
- Plan for health related emergencies
- Provide nursing assessment of health concerns
- Establish care and medication regimens in order to keep children in the classroom - promotes student achievement and success
- School Nurses save lives!



School Nurses

- One of the greatest values of a school nurse is the ability of a nurse to perform assessment
- A nursing assessment determines if a child is experiencing mild asthma or progressive respiratory distress
- A nursing assessment verifies if a student has a simple raised rash or hives that indicate a life-threatening allergic reaction



School Nurses

- A nursing assessment can make the difference between treatment or a rapidly progressing coma for a student with diabetes
- No other professional in the school setting is trained or qualified to perform a nursing assessment
- As the only healthcare professional in the school setting, the skills and experience that a nurse provides becomes a vital component in educating the whole child
- There are often tragic results when non-nurses attempt to care for sick children



The Value of a School Nurse

What does a
school nurse do?



School Nurses:

- Triage student health concerns
- Assess physical and emotional issues
- Provide Nursing Diagnosis - relates to the student's response to a medical condition
- Provide primary healthcare to students and staff - first aid and chronic condition care
- Counsel students on health and emotional issues



School Nurses:

- Administer medication on a daily and as needed basis
- Refer health issues to healthcare providers for further care and treatment as needed
- Provide health screenings - vision, hearing and scoliosis per state regulations
- Monitor health appraisals for mandates and sports participation



School Nurses:

- Write Emergency and Individualized Healthcare Plans
 - Directs care
 - Provides a student with what they need in order to be at school and learning
- Teach students to manage their own healthcare concerns
- Act as a liaison between the home and the student's medical provider



In New York State:

- Only a school nurse can:
 - Administer Diastat for emergency care for seizures
 - Administer a non-patient specific order for Epinephrine (an emergency medication for a life-threatening allergic reaction)
 - Administer medication to non-self-directed students



In New York State:

- Only a school nurse can:
 - Perform state mandated health screenings (*licensed health professionals*)
 - Develop and implement Emergency Health Care Plans
 - Administer a nebulizer treatment to a student with asthma who is struggling to breathe
 - Provide a safe and healthy environment for all students at school



Situations within New York State:

- The student who appeared to be having a seizure in the gym:
 - The nurse knew he had a history of a cardiac condition
 - Student appeared gray, had no pulse
 - CPR was instituted, the AED was used, 911 was called
 - The student had a pacemaker and internal defibrillator inserted. He's doing well academically and physically.



Situations within New York State:

- The student that security brought to the Health Office:
 - The nurse knew this student had diabetes.
 - The nurse checked the student's blood glucose level - it was 560 (normal range= 70 - 120)
 - 911 was called, the student was transported to the hospital - this was a medical emergency
 - Stayed in hospital for five days
 - Nurse assisted him in obtaining an ID bracelet to wear to notify others of his health condition



Situations within New York State:

- The teacher who collapsed in the elementary classroom:
 - Students were removed from the classroom
 - Teacher went on to suffer a full seizure
 - Suffered the laceration to the head when collapsed
 - 911 was called and the teacher transferred to the emergency room
 - The teacher was diagnosed with a brain tumor



In the State of Mississippi:

- A Superintendent wanted to address his school district's drop out rate that was at 30%
- He hired school nurses who focused on prevention
- The drop out rate decreased to 2%
- There is a demonstrated link between student health & student learning





What is the value of a school nurse?

One child whose life is saved by a school nurse is worth every penny.

Just ask the child's parent . . .

Or the school attorney.



*School Nurses are
making the difference
as they care for New York's
children and youth!*