
School Nurses
have the education and
expertise to function
successfully in the inseparable
complex systems of education
and health.

Optimal learning
requires
good health.
The School Nurse
is the most qualified
person to provide this service
for students.

“You can’t educate a child who isn’t healthy
and you can’t keep children healthy who
are not educated”

Jocelyn Elders
Former Surgeon General



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Colorado Department of Education

Exceptional Student Leadership Unit
School Health Services

School Nurses
Make a
Difference



*Every child needs a
School Nurse*

Healthy Children Learn Better

Who is the school nurse?

- * A professional registered nurse (R.N.) licensed to practice nursing by the Colorado State Board of Nursing.
- * Licensed by the Colorado Department of Education as a Special Services Provider.
- * A professional nurse, 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 and Federal Laws, rules and regulations.
- * The most appropriate professional with educational expertise to manage, deliver and delegate health care in the school setting.

The 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.

School Nursing and School Performance: A Vital Partnership

To learn, students must be in school, in class, safe and ready. Nurses can help keep students in school by:

- * Providing services so students can return to class.
- * Providing health care services to students with special needs.



School Nurses: are committed to School Improvement by:

- * Developing health services goals that support school improvement.
- * Providing expert guidance in school health standards.
- * Connecting school, family and community resources.
- * Participating on the RtI and multi-disciplinary Special Education teams.
- * Providing staff development to enhance teachers' comfort levels in working with students with special health care needs.

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.
- * Chronic disease management and education
- * Health assessments and participation in Individualized Education Plan development and 504 plans.
- * Individualized Health Care Plans and services for students with disabilities or health conditions that interfere with learning
- * Health screenings such as vision and hearing
- * Health promotion education for students and staff
- * Providing care and case management for children with chronic health problems.
- * Providing training, delegation and supervision to school staff of specialized health care procedures
- * Recommending health curriculum and activities to promote health and prevent consequences of risk taking behavior.
- * School/parent/community/health care provider liaison
- * Crisis team participation