

## ROLE OF THE SCHOOL NURSE IN DELIVERING SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES

***Multiple studies have indicated school attendance predicts student dropout and achievement and those without a high school diploma are at greatest risk for shorter lives, worse health, more risk factors, and greater disability. School health services help all students remain in the classroom, improving their academic success and increasing their chances of graduating on time.***

School nurses...

- ✓ Use their specialized knowledge, assessment skills and judgment to manage children's increasingly complex medical conditions and chronic health conditions.
- ✓ Administer specialized nursing services to students (insulin pumps, medications, ventilators, tube feedings, etc.).
- ✓ Screen for conditions that impact students' access to education (vision, hearing, BMI).
- ✓ Provide early access to care, when children's cognitive development is at its peak, by providing referrals and connecting students and families to medical homes.
- ✓ Prevent, control, and mitigate communicable disease.
- ✓ Lead and train emergency response teams that save lives and property.
- ✓ Manage student mental health concerns that impact academic achievement (by mental health promotion) through universal and targeted interventions, screening to identify early warning signs, referral to mental health providers, and crisis planning and interventions. ***School nurses spend 32 percent of their time providing mental health services.***<sup>1</sup>
- ✓ Provide health services that increase school attendance. ***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.***<sup>2</sup>
- ✓ Save time for principals, teachers and staff. ***A school nurse in the building saves principals almost an hour a day, teachers almost 20 minutes a day and clerical staff over 45 minutes a day.***<sup>2</sup>
- ✓ Promote wellness and disease prevention to improve health outcomes for our nation's children.
- ✓ Serve on the frontlines as a safety net for the nation's most vulnerable children.

References:

1. National Association of School Nurses (NASN). School Nurses: Supporting Education, Advancing Student Health. Available at: [http://www.nasn.org/Portals/0/about/making\\_the\\_connection.pdf](http://www.nasn.org/Portals/0/about/making_the_connection.pdf). Accessed January 5, 2016.
2. NASN, Five Ways a School Nurse Benefits the School. Available at: <http://www.nasn.org/Portals/0/about/FiveWays.pdf>. Accessed January 5, 2016.