

POWERPOINT NOTE PAGES
Making a Difference
School Nursing:
Impacting Student Achievement Everyday
March 2011

- 1) NASP
Stress that school nurses assist in helping students succeed academically as well as learn about healthy lifestyles while keeping them safe at school. Healthy students learn better.
- 2) NASP
Much has changed in the past 20-30 years since many of us have been in school.
- 3) NASP
Stress that these remarks are based on true stories. Any time you, the presenter, can provide your own personalized stories, the presentation becomes more interesting.
Stress that every age level comes with different problems that school nurses help to address.
- 4) NASP
- 5) NASP
- 6) NASP
What we know from YRBS data...
Worthy to note, 2009 YRBS results for alternative high school students are considerably more concerning:
11% have attempted suicide
19% are obese
57% have consumed alcohol in the past month
82% have had sexual intercourse
- 7) NASP
In response...
- 8) NASP
- 9) NASP
- 10) NAP, opt S
- 11) NAP, opt S
- 12) NA, opt S
Students today face increased social issues as well as the need for preventative services and interventions for acute and chronic health issues
NCES – National Center for Education Statistics
NSCH – National Survey of Children’s Health
- 13) NA, opt S
- 14) NA, opt S
- 15) NA, opt S
The rapid restructuring of the health care delivery system has dramatically impacted school health service programs.

16) NA, opt S

Attendance in the early grades is correlated with school achievement and dropout. School nurses support attendance by providing needed health services in school. They use assessment and interventions skills to keep students in classrooms where education takes place.

17) NA, opt S

NSCH – National Survey of Children’s Health

Another example of curtailing absenteeism is through prevention and proper treatment of acute injuries, increasing immunization rates, and infectious disease surveillance.

Communicable and infectious diseases impact school attendance and require school nurse surveillance and reporting.

School nurses are the most appropriate leaders to improve the accuracy of reporting school injuries and informing administrators who should ensure hazard correction, student supervision and safety education.

18) NA, opt S

NCHS – National Center for Health Statistics

Parents of homeless children and those without health insurance often look to the school nurse to help meet their health care needs and/or connect them to resources.

19) NA, opt S

NCHS – National Center for Health Statistics

20) NA, opt S

Specifically services such as:

First aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR)

Administration of medication, immunizations

Identification and treatment of acute or chronic illnesses

Case management of asthma or diabetes, dental problems

Prenatal care and identification and treatment of sexually transmitted infections

21) NASP

NASN – National Association of School Nurses

22) NASP

23) NAP, opt S

Planning and provision of emergency care should be emphasized. It should be stressed that the school nurse’s office is similar to a walk-in clinic with the school nurse often being the only health care provider staffing the clinic. A school nurse must be prepared for anything that comes in the door, whether that be a child with a fractured arm or high fever, a staff person having a stroke or other medical crisis, or a volunteer who has slipped and fallen twisting his/her ankle or hitting their head.

24) NAP, opt S

25) NAP, opt S

For chronic diseases, asthma is a major cause for student absenteeism. In 2008, asthma accounted for an estimated 14.4 million lost school days in children.

26) NAP, opt S

27) NAP, opt S

28) NAP, opt S

29) NAP, opt S

30) NA, opt S,P

A formula exists for calculating the needed/recommended staffing for a particular school. It includes categorizing students and some simple math.

1:1 - student requiring ventilator support

1:125 – students with asthma, diabetes, life-threatening allergies and those requiring procedures such as catheterization, tube feeding.

1:225 - students taking a daily medication

1:750 - The remaining students who have mandated screenings and acute care issues constitute “well” students

(Garcia A. Convincing My School District to Lower the Nurse to Student Ratio to 1:750. *NASN School Nurse*; 2009 24:198)

31) NA, opt S,P

School nurses must have a wide variety of experience and skills to manage the numerous, ever-changing needs of the school population.

32) NP, opt A&S

The next 2 slides comprise a list of the various nursing fields. The bold text displays overlaps between other nursing fields and school nursing. School nurses are generalists who must have experience in many of the various fields of nursing. School nurses regularly provide nursing care in the educational setting that often draws from a number of other nursing fields.

33) NP, opt A&S

34) NA, opt S,P

Luann Powers, school nurse at Auke Bay Elementary in Juneau, finds a teachable moment for proper hand washing technique with her student. Every encounter is an opportunity to educate and influence the healthy habits that will follow a student through their lifetime.

"I never knew school nurses could have such an impact on a child's success in school until I filled these shoes. Being the lone medical resource person in my school building lends itself to a need for good communication with each child, his family, his educational community and medical community. When a school nurse performs health screenings and assessments with follow up referrals, teaches and supports health education, and fosters a healthy school environment inside the building and in the local community, she or he is supporting the goal of "lifelong learning". Luann Powers RN BSN

35) NA, opt S,P

This slide presents information on school nursing coverage in Alaska from 2 different perspectives

Public school students served include the age range from pre-school (age 3) to age 21 for students with special needs

The numbers of students do not reflect the private school students. There are small number of private schools (out of 85 statewide in 2009) in AK that hire a school nurse.

FY 2010 enrollment numbers for the larger, more urban school districts who employ school nurses are:

Anchorage School District - 49,592

Fairbanks North Star Borough School District - 14,553

Juneau Douglas Borough School District - 5065

Kenai Peninsula Borough School District – 9,368

Kodiak Borough School District – 2,595

Mat-Su Borough School District – 16, 770

36) NA, opt S,P

In this map the Southeast school districts are not well delineated but are named. Seventeen school districts lie in the AK Panhandle.

The link at the bottom of the screen provides a more detailed and color version of this map.

37) NA, opt S,P

To note here is that nursing services are not mandated by state statutes. School districts operate by “local rule” and may or may not choose to employ or contract nursing services to provide the above mandated health services.

Alaska Regulations exist for immunizations and TB testing for school children. Physical examinations and screenings are not addressed in regulation.

38) NA, opt S

School nurse positions are funded through various mechanisms in Alaska. Most are employed directly by their school district. Some positions are funded through community health center grants. Some school districts contract with independent nurses for school nursing services, which may not be comprehensive, or only address state-mandated health services.

While not ideal, schools located in remote and rural Alaska communities rely on State or health corporation itinerant public health nurses and community health aides to provide those services mandated by the state, specifically health screening such as TB testing, vision and hearing screening, and updating immunizations. Some health education in schools may be provided by public health nurses.

Other options exist for funding a school nurse. These include: Title One, Medicaid, No Child Left Behind Act, and other federal funding as well as community sponsors and potentially the State budget.

39) NA, opt S

Again there are no state statutes regulating school nurses. Each school district can determine their own hiring requirements for school nurses and the nurses may be associated with bargaining units, either teaching or support staff.

40) NA

ASD and MatSu hold Type C teaching certificates and the same professional status as teachers. School nurses in other districts are classified employees or support staff along with janitorial, food, and secretarial services. Certified staff are paid on a vastly higher pay scale, making wages that are almost double those of a non-certified school nurse. Often retirement, health, and

other benefits are provided at a higher level for certified staff. School nurses who are classified or support staff often feel less district support for their professional status especially when physical therapists, occupational therapists and other health professionals are in certified positions.

41) NA

School nursing salaries vary greatly in Alaska. The above average school nursing salaries are based on data from the 6 largest school districts with school nursing services (more than one school nurse in the district). As you can see, school nursing wages vary greatly between districts.

When comparing wages with other registered nurses statewide, it is interesting to see that the average hourly wage is not terribly different but the annual wage is considerably less for a school nurse. School nurses usually work 9-10 months a year vs. the 12 months for the RN in other nursing fields. Annual income may influence recruitment and retention of qualified school nurses. Some school nurses (single family wage earner, etc.) must work a second job in the summer to make ends meet. Even the highest average school nurse wage of \$62,059 is \$10,000 less than the average registered nurse wage for the state. This means even in the highest paid district, school nurses are making less than the average RN makes statewide.

The information for registered nurses statewide is for all registered nurses including community, school nurses, and clinic nurses. A point could be made that the average wage for Alaska registered nurses has been watered down. Community, school, and clinic nurses typically make far less than a hospital RN so their wages are essentially lowering the average. Therefore, these are conservative numbers and there likely is an even greater wage gap. Source for wages for registered nurses Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development and U.S Bureau of Labor Statistics.

42) NA

Standards vary as do expectations for school nurses from school to school and district to district. Even within the same districts, administrators have varying expectations for the school nurse. For example, in one school the school nurse may have administrator support for immunization requirements, not admitting the student with incomplete immunizations. In another school in the same district, the principal may admit the student and then require the parents to obtain an immunization update within the week. Problems arise when a family has siblings in both schools with differing requirements for school entry.

One example of variation between districts is lice policies and procedures. Some school districts have "no-nit" policies, while others have updated to current best practice standards which excludes only those students with live lice at the end of the school day. Another example is school district policies and procedures around state-mandated school physicals. Some districts require nurses to complete a nursing assessment to fulfill the requirement when the family has not complied. Other districts have not enforced the requirement and have made it 'optional' because of the expense to families.

In some school districts the school nurses may be supervised and coordinated by a non-nursing leader who may not be able to fully understand the role and scope of school nursing practice in which to base decisions affecting school health and school nursing practice

43) NA

School nurses often find it difficult to attend continuing education offerings (including webinars) during the school day when most are offered due to inability to find coverage in the health office (including substitute nurses), costs, and/or lack of administrator support. Live continuing education is less frequently offered in the summertime and often involves travel and expenses to attend (annual NASN conference).

44) NA, opt S

45) NA

Communication and collaboration with others is a frequent and important part of a school nurse's role. School nurses are required to communicate frequently with students, parents, teachers, school administrators, health care providers, and other community members to positively influence student academic outcomes.

However, communication and collaboration opportunities are rare due to school nurses working independently within school districts and throughout the state. Every opportunity should be encouraged as the collegial support and conferencing with each other helps elevate the school nurses ability to think critically and creatively in order to solve the many difficult and sensitive issues in our schools today.

46) NA, opt S &P

The Alaska School Health & Safety Plan provides the Department of Education & Early Development (DEED), school districts, and partners with the essential steps to build infrastructure for improving health and educational outcomes for students in Alaska. Currently the plan is under review by the Alaska Department of Education & Early Development. When fully approved, it will be available in printed booklet form as well as electronically on the DEED website.

The next 5 slides break down the 5 Essential steps of Health Services (one component in the Coordinated School Health Program model) in the Alaska School Health & Safety Plan.

If all 5 slides are not utilized in the slide presentation a summary might include: For health services, essential steps address statewide standards, increased access to health and nursing services, data collection, and professional development.

47) NA, opt S &P

Examples of potential statewide guidelines for schools include: Measuring Height & Weight and Calculating BMI, Infectious Disease, Vision Screening, Hearing Screening, Oral Health and Dental Screening, Medication Administration and Training of Unlicensed Assistive Personnel, Students with Special Health Care Needs, Documentation & Confidentiality, Emergency Care and Emergency Preparedness, Child Abuse and Neglect, Reproductive Health Counseling, Behavioral Health

48) NA, opt S &P

School nursing services for all schools meets best practice standards determined by the NASN, American Academy of Pediatrics, Healthy People 2020, and others. Accomplishing this step

could include sharing resources, contracting services, and the other means mentioned earlier when funding school nurses was addressed.

49) NA, opt S &P

Many students need to have increased access to health services. School nursing is part of the whole. Others include: pediatricians and other specialists, family physicians, nurse practitioners, dentists, audiologists, and other community health professionals. School based health centers, especially in schools with under-served populations, are providing numerous benefits including: access to affordable and/or free medical services, less class-time lost, less time away from work for parents, better follow up care, behavioral risk assessments, among others.

50) NA, opt S &P

Data collection for purposes of identifying gaps and evaluating health services programs will allow for better planning and implementation of quality health and nursing services in schools.

51) NA, opt S &P

Professional development is another aspect of quality assurance. Trainings for school nurses as well as school staff in health services procedures will improve delivery of services, employment of qualified personnel, and increase the safety of students.

These Five Essential Health Services steps will serve as a 5 year strategic plan for the Department of Education, school districts and partners.

52) NASP

53) NASP

54) NA, opt S &P