



FASNating News

FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL NURSES

Volume 20, Issue 1

Fall 2016

FASN strives to improve the health and educational success of students and the school community by developing and providing leadership to advance school nursing practice.

Inside this issue:



President's Message	2
Nurses In The News	3
FASN Key Focus: Advocacy	4
Conference Updates	5
Director's Report	6



Welcome Back to School!

New Definition of School Nursing:

School nursing, a specialized practice of public health nursing, protects and promotes student health, facilitates normal development, and advances academic success. School nurses, grounded in ethical and evidence-based practice, are the leaders that bridge health care and education, provide care coordination, advocate for quality student-centered care, and collaborate to design systems that allow individuals and communities to develop their full potentials.

Approved by the NASN Board of Directors June 2016."

Advocate for School Nurses!

What would happen if all of the school nurses across the state decided to spend some time introducing themselves to their state senators and representatives? Is NOW the time for you to Take Action – Speak Up and Be Heard?

What would a Florida school nurse need to do to prepare for such a visit with a legislator?

First – locate your legislators! This information can be found [here](#).

- Visit their website and contact the local office to request an appointment
- Invest in some business cards and have them handy
- Dress for church ☺ and bring just what you need for the visit into the office

- Introduce yourself, shake hands, make eye contact, and smile! Explain who you are, describe your role and responsibilities; including the number of schools and students that you serve.
- Thank the senator or representative by name for having the courage to be a public office holder and for the service they provide to your community

Key points to consider:

- Make the connection between yourself as a representative for school nurses across the state of Florida
- Keep to the point – concentrate on one issue.; the principles

(Cont. on page 4)



President's Message

Paula Alford, RN
President, FASN



Welcome Back Everyone!

I hope each and every one of you has had some time to rest, relax, enjoy family, and time for self-reflection these past few weeks. As a nation, and world, we've experienced some tough situations these last few months. For those of you personally affected, I'm sorry. My heart hurts for you and those you love. Professionally, I encourage anyone having difficulties to seek help, I care, and your FASN board cares!



August somehow brings the thought of, NEW! New school clothes, new shoes, and new backpacks. Classrooms are fresh; the floors have been cleaned and waxed. Bulletin boards are fresh with new ideas. Students, teachers, school staff, and administrators are excited; it's a new year. The slate is clean; we have the power to succeed beyond our wildest expectations.



Yes, the School Nurse is part of the team. It's a new year, dream it, but most importantly, be a part of it! You can't just work this profession, you have to embrace and love the service you are able to provide the children and families encountered. Your proficient, you're a clue seeker, a problem solver, and a very good listener.

A work environment that supports the school nurse is huge with regard to outcome success. Sometimes, the school nurse has to set the tone. Be the above, but also be an informed professional. I would strongly encourage every school nurse, know your stuff. Read and study the information being provided by NASN and FASN with regard to the Framework for 21 Century School Nursing Practice. Understand what ESSA is about and your role as a school nurse. Advocate for yourself, but be informed. Data speaks louder than Whine!

The [Framework for 21st Century School Nursing Practice](#) which parallels [Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child](#), know it. The school setting provides for a collaborative environment with regard to Health and Education. The model indicates, learning and health are interrelated. I implore each and every one of you, be the informed school nurse. FASN is working for you but we can't do it without you. Florida is lagging behind other states in the provision of recognition with regard to our role as professional school nurses. We need to work together to provide leadership within our state accurate and professional data that is indicative of the difference school nurses (RN) make with regard to academic success of students.



Advocate for school nurses and the job we do! FASN needs you and every professional school nurse to join and advocate for our profession.

Have a great start to your new school year!



Bee a Pollinator for FASN



Promote FASN—Like Us on Social Media

School Nurses In the News!



Do You Know Someone Who Should Be Recognized?

Do you know a nurse or have you been recognized in school nursing? Have you made a special presentation that enhances school nurse skills or recognizes the importance of school nursing in helping students stay healthy? Has the media: TV, radio or newspaper made a point of covering school nursing or the health of students or contacted you to get the school nurse's perspective? Has an organization such as the PTA or Lions Club supported school nursing by sponsoring an FASN membership or registration to our state conference? Please let FASN know! We would like to recognize our school nurses in the newsletter and present them with a certificate. We can honor them as they have honored us. Please send the information to: FASNCommunications.

A Great Article and Policy Statement by our very own Kathleen Rose!



" Medical emergency response plans are designed to enhance safety for students, staff and visitors across school districts. Essential to creating a safe school environment is a Cardiac Emergency Response Plan, which has been proven to save lives

in the event of a sudden cardiac arrest."



Advocate for School Nurses! (Cont. from page 1)

of policy – those that affect school nurses, schools and students. Consider preparing a one-page fact sheet and be sure to share your personal story (that had a direct effect on the health of a student; improved academic outcome).

- Be concise and to the point – 2 - 3 minutes/ one paragraph. Do not provide too many details but make them understand that if they want more information, you are the expert they should come to.
- Never attack; always attract. Be positive and persuasive. Remember that nurses are seen as trusted professionals ☺

Remember – you also have a local Superintendent, School Board and School Health Advisory Committee (SHAC) to consider as well! And don't forget the media – a very powerful tool!

If you prefer not to schedule a face-to-face visit – USE SOCIAL MEDIA! - Email, Facebook and Twitter are other means of communication available to you. Just remember that the personal visit has the most influence!



Free Online Resources for School Nurses

[Become a NASN Member](#)

[FASN.net](#)

www.schoolnurse.com

www.gonoodle.com/plus-for-schools

www.cdc.gov/headsup/schools/index.html

[Advocacy](#)

www.aap.org

www.floridahealth.gov/index.html

<https://patiented.solutions.aap.org/handouts.aspx>

www.sads.org/

www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/medlineplus.html



Advocacy

The FASN Board has been working hard for you over the summer!

Please review our statement for the FDOE ESSA Public Input Opportunity below:

The Florida Association of School Nurses (FASN) welcomes the opportunity to play a key role in Florida's ESSA needs assessment in support of healthy schools and student health and wellness. FASN as an affiliate of the National Association of School Nurses (NASN) is the representative organization for school nurses across the state. FASN is available to provide additional data and resources related to the critical specialty practice area of school nursing and its direct impact on the health and academic success of Florida's students. The following are aspects of ESSA, Title I, IV and VIII provisions that FASN feels should be considered by FDOE:

The NASN recognizes that students with chronic health conditions require access to a registered professional school nurse all day, every day. It is estimated that one in four students in the U.S. may have a chronic health condition and some may have multiple conditions (Halfon & Newacheck, 2010). That means that in Florida, over 25 percent of students with a chronic health condition come to school every day, often lacking access to a school nurse. A recent review of data available at the Florida Department of Health website demonstrate the significant increases in student health needs in recent years. From 2008 to 2014, the FDOH reported a 33% increase in students with health conditions overall, and a 62% increase in those with identified mental health concerns (FDOH State School Health Summary reports).

Such students encounter daily challenges with respect to adherence to treatment, disease acceptance and lifestyle modification (Resave & Pollock, 2015) - all areas that can be managed effectively with school nurse support. Students with chronic health conditions are at risk for below-average performance on standardized achievement tests, may experience bullying, display disruptive behaviors, and are often unengaged in the learning process (Forrest, Bevans, Riley, Crespo, & Louis, 2011). Particularly in light of the American Academy of Pediatrics' June 2016 policy statement recommending a minimum of one professional school nurse in every school, Florida policy makers should consider additional school health supports for students at Title I schools. A focus on expanding direct school health supports for students, including a school nurse at all Title I schools, would benefit all students; although it is widely known that adverse health conditions disproportionately impact students from low socioeconomic backgrounds, and can hinder their ability to learn.

Although ESSA references (in Title VIII) school nurses as a member of the Specialized Instructional Support Person-

nel (SISP), it is significant to note that the state of Florida does not. According to F.S. 1012.01(6)(a), school nurses are classified as education support employees who perform "professional job functions which are non-administrative/non-instructional in nature". Conversely, F.S. 1012.01(2)(b) includes certified school counselors, social workers, career specialists, and school psychologists as staff providing Student Personnel Services. Yet, both Florida's Student Services Personnel Evaluation Model and Guide (2011) and the Integrated Student Services in Schools: Action Guide (2013) reference school nurses as interdisciplinary team members who bring "essential expertise to the field of education". Clearly Florida's legislative body needs to be in alignment with these recent significant works and best practice.

ESSA (in Title IV) acknowledges the school nurse's role in leading "chronic disease management" in schools. The school nurse has the primary responsibility for assessing and clarifying a student's health status for the school community; acting as the bridge between the educational environment and the healthcare system; delegating and coordinating in-school health care; and advocating for appropriate and effective health interventions in the educational setting. By assisting students to manage their chronic health condition, the school nurse's efforts directly impact return to class rates, absenteeism, academic achievement and translate into cost savings for families, educational settings and healthcare systems (CDC, 2015; NASN, 2015).

FASN appreciates the opportunity to contribute to the state plan and supports the state's commitment to make significant connections between student engagement, achievement and life readiness and student health, safety and wellness. If we are indeed focusing on creating a whole child approach to education, we must consider the Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child (WSCC) model as recommended by ASCD and CDC and be prepared to reflect on the demands of the 21st century in order to fully prepare students for college, life, career, and citizenship. Florida must recognize that school nurses, as health leaders, are important members of the interdisciplinary support teams who can make a significant and sustainable contribution to students' academic success, and life long health. Thank you.



Conference Updates:

For the most up to date information—[Click here](#)



21st Annual FASN Conference

January 27-28, 2017

At the
Florida Hotel and Conference Center
Orlando, Florida
Stay tuned for more Information.

Are you the next School Nurse of the Year?

Within all of us as School Nurses, there is a greatness that sets us apart from our colleagues, makes us shine if you will. It's who we are and why we do what we do daily for our students, staff and school campuses. For each of us there is that uniqueness and strength that drives us to excel. It might be our ability to assess and triage and implement that outcome, to self-evaluate and grow professionally, to educate our students, families and staff, to collaborate and communicate within our communities. It can be all of these and more! Florida is looking for the 2017 School Nurse of the Year! The purpose of the School Nurse of the year is to recognize the contributions of School Nurses by focusing on one School Nurse who has demonstrated excellence in School Nursing Practice and Leadership in School Health. The standards are high and are based on criteria adapted by the National Association of School Nurses. A full explanation of the selection criteria and application directions may be accessed @ [School Nurse of the Year](#). While lengthy and at times wordy, please do not let this deter you from applying. You are also able to nominate a colleague or other school nurse in the state who you feel is a candidate. We are constantly evolving our School Nurse practice and from growth come greatness. We know that Florida has some awesome school nurses that have been doing an outstanding job. This is what we are looking for in our next School Nurse of the year! It might just be you!

**It's not too early to start thinking about Baskets! FASN State Conference
Create a basket of Sunshine to make your county SHINE at our conference!**



Scholarships for the 2017 Annual Conference will be offered. Look for the scholarship application later this fall, posted on www.fasn.net with information on how to apply and the deadline.



FASN Director Message

Lisa Kern RN, MSN, NCSN
FASN Director

For this FASNating Directors Message, I thought I would share the personal comments that I posted on the Florida Department of Education

website related to the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and the opportunity this presents for our state to improve health services for students. I welcome your comments on Twitter @Lkern12 or via email at FASNDirector@outlook.com Thank you for all that you do to support the health and wellbeing of students every day! Students with chronic health conditions require access to a registered professional school nurse all day, every day. It is estimated that one in four students in the U.S. may have a chronic health condition. The American Academy of Pediatrics' June 2016 policy statement recommends a minimum of one professional school nurse in every school.

It is widely known that adverse health conditions disproportionately impact students from low socioeconomic backgrounds and can hinder their ability to learn. Allocating additional School Nurse supports particularly at Title I and low performing school locations, could have a direct and positive impact on the academic performance of students by improving health and attendance.

When we ask teachers to manage the daily health needs of students who are experiencing the impact of societal influences such as poverty, violence, hunger, and limited access to health care, this can have a direct impact on their ability to teach and meet the needs of the whole child. Rich data exist that make significant connections between student engagement, achievement and life readiness and student health, safety and wellness. If we are indeed focusing on creating a whole child approach to education, we must consider the Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child (WSCC) model as recommended by ASCD and CDC and be prepared to reflect on the demands of the 21st century in order to fully prepare students for college, life, career, and citizenship.

Basch (2010) describes how the provision of more intensive school health service supports can have a direct impact on closing the achievement gap as relates to students with vision problems, inattention and hyperactivity, asthma, teen pregnancy, aggression and violence, physical activity, and school breakfast. The CDC provides compelling data supporting the link between health and academic success, indicating that health-related factors such as hunger, physical and emotional abuse, and

chronic illness can lead to poor school performance.

School nurses act as the bridge between the educational environment and the healthcare system. They perform physical assessments to help identify health risks, design a plan of care to ensure student safety, share student health status with others, advocate for appropriate and effective health interventions to support student outcomes, communicate with health care provider and family, and keep children in school learning. In our state over 26 percent of our students come to school with a chronic health condition such as asthma, diabetes, severe life-threatening allergies, or seizure disorders. School nurses report a disproportionately higher number of students with health conditions (e.g., asthma) at Title I schools.

We have amazing health outreach services available across the state that can be provided on site at low performing schools which can improve the health and wellbeing of students and have a direct impact on academic performance (vision, dental, mental and physical health services). However, school nurses who are managing the coordination of health services at three or more schools have great difficulty prioritizing time to coordinate such services. These intensive supports are necessary and research has demonstrated that they can make a significant impact on student achievement and attendance.

Across the state (and the nation), we are experiencing high turnover of school nurse positions and most school nurses are leaving because of low salary and liability concerns. The training of new staff puts a drain on veteran staff who are very reluctant to invest time and support in light of this trend. The state average RN to student ratio is 1:2197. The reality is that some nurses are responsible for the health, safety and welfare of more than 3000+ students each day and they are not even present on campus every day.

Prioritizing the need for more school nurses can actually be a cost-saving measure in the long run. One study found that when there was a school nurse in the building, the principal saved nearly one hour and clerical staff about 45 minutes that they otherwise would have spent on student health. Teachers were also able to devote more time to instruction when a school nurse was present. Using these data, Baisch, Lundeen and Murphy (2011) calculated close to a \$2.20 return on investment for every dollar invested in school nursing.



End Notes



Join the FASN Website!

If you haven't joined the FASN Website already, please take a few moments and join as a follower. By joining you will receive announcements, event invites, group communications and access to the member's only areas.

The steps are easy:

- Go to the FASN website: FASN.net
- Click the "sign up" icon at the upper right hand corner of the screen
- Enter the *required ID information
- Create a password
- Click create your account

You are now ready to start receiving e-mail updates and stay connected with FASN!

**REFER
a
FRIEND!**

And Watch Us Grow!

Refer a friend for FASN membership.

It's an easy way to earn \$10 in e-commerce credit.

You can use your Refer a Friend credit to help decrease your own membership fee!



Board of Directors

President
President Elect
Past President
Treasurer
Recording Secretary
Membership Secretary
Affiliate Director

Paula Alford
Anna Conaway
Shelley Bumm
Martha Hanna
Kathy Browning
Brenda Register
Lisa Kern

Committee Chairs

Advocacy
Awards
Communication
Education
Finance
Nominating
Research

Lisa Kern
Penny Kehoe and Jill Klein
Karen Bodwell
Marcy Burnes and Janie Sailors
Martha Hanna
Margaret Polk
Shirley Gordon

