Safe and Humane Treatment of Refugee and Immigrant Children

Position Brief

The National Association of School Nurses calls on the Departments of Justice and Homeland Security to ensure that refugee and immigrant children and families have access to clean, safe housing, hygiene and other supplies necessary to maintain health, and to accelerate the reunification of refugee and immigrant children who have been separated from their families. Children subjected to unsafe and inhumane conditions may experience trauma, resulting in irrevocable damage for a vulnerable population deserving of our protection regardless of their immigration status. Studies show that adverse childhood experiences have long-term physical and mental health consequences (Metzler et al., 2016; Nurius et al., 2015). School nurses practice ethically, which is demonstrated by showing compassion and respect for all people and advocating for the rights, health and safety of children and youth (ANA & NASN, 2017).

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References


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