

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).

Adopted: August 2019

References

American Nurses Association and National Association of School Nurses. (2017). *School nursing: Scope and standards of practice* (3rd ed.). Silver Spring, MD: Authors. Page 61.

Metzler, M., Merrick, M.T., Klevens, J., Ports, K.A. & Ford, D.C. (2016). Adverse childhood experiences and life opportunities: Shifting the narrative. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 72, 141-19. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2016.10.021>

Nurius, P.S., Green, S., Logan-Greene, P., & Borja, S. (2015). Life course pathways of adverse childhood experiences toward adult psychological well-being: A stress process analysis. *Child Abuse and Neglect*, 45, 143- 153. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chiabu.2015.03.008>

Suggested citation: National Association of School Nurses. (2019). *Safe and humane treatment of refugee and immigrant children* (Position Brief). Silver Spring, MD: Author.

All position briefs from the National Association of School Nurses will automatically expire 18 months after publication unless renewed and recommended for position statement or other NASN document development.