**Five Ways a School Nurse Benefits the School**

**Attendance** - *School nurses* improve attendance through health promotion, disease prevention and disease management. 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.

**Academics** – Improved attendance means the healthy student is in the classroom and ready to learn. *School Nurses* enable better performance, which also contributes to reducing drop-out rates.

**Time** – *School nurses* save time for principals, teachers and staff. A school nurse in the building saves principals, teachers, and clerical staff a considerable amount of time that they would have spent addressing health concerns of students.

A *school nurse* in the building saves:
- Principals almost an hour a day
- Teachers almost 20 minutes a day
- Clerical staff over 45 minutes a day

**Staff Wellness** - *School nurses* improve the general health of staff. According to school reports, principals, teachers, and clerical staff are **VERY** satisfied with having school nurses in their schools for several reasons:
- Teachers can focus on teaching
- Office staff spend less time calling parents and sending students home
- Healthy staff means increased attendance and productivity

**Accountability** - *School nurses* help schools stay accountable.
- Promoting compliance with federal and state law mitigates lawsuits
- Advocating for adequate staffing aligns with Healthy People 2020 recommendations of the ratio of one school nurse per 750 well students (1:750)
- Preparing for emergencies saves lives and property
- Addressing student mental health links to academic achievement

*School nurses* are **instrumental in the identification and referral to community resources for health risks and are often the only health professional who see students on a regular basis.**

*School nurses* are responsible for:
- Significantly decreasing the amount of days missed due to asthma, the leading cause of school absenteeism, accounting for more than 14 million missed days annually
- Managing students with chronic conditions such as diabetes and seizures to allow them to stay in class
- Identifying and treating accidents and injuries
- Counseling students about physical and emotional issues

**Healthy Children = Academic Success**

[www.nasn.org](http://www.nasn.org)
References


