



*National  
Association of  
School Nurses*

1100 Wayne Avenue, Suite 925  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910  
866-627-6767 (phone)  
301-585-1791 (fax)  
nasn@nasn.org (email)  
www.nasn.org

January 2026

## Protect the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

### NASN Position

NASN urges Congress to protect the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) by preserving its home and administration within the U.S. Department of Education.

### Why It Matters

- Congress enacted IDEA 50 years ago and it was a pivotal moment for people with disabilities, who had long been denied access to public education.
- IDEA guarantees more than 7.5 million children with disabilities access to a free appropriate public education (FAPE).
- IDEA is a foundational law focused on academic access, inclusion, and accountability within public schools.
- Moving IDEA away from the Department of Education would weaken oversight and disrupt school-based implementation.

### Why School Nurses Are Essential

- School nurses, as qualified examiners, are integral members of the Pupil Appraisal Team, responsible for conducting health assessments for students suspected of having disabilities.
- School nurses deliver health services written into Individualized Education Programs (IEPs).
- They manage chronic and complex medical conditions that affect school attendance and learning.
- They remove health-related barriers so students with disabilities can access classroom instruction.

### What Could Happen

- On November 18, 2025, the Administration announced six interagency agreements transferring management of several K-12 and postsecondary education programs from the Department of Education to other federal agencies.
- Several bills have been introduced in Congress to move education programs, including IDEA, to other agencies.
- IDEA would most likely be sent to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), even though IDEA is an EDUCATION law!

### CONGRESSIONAL ACTION NEEDED

- OPPOSE any effort to move IDEA out of the U.S. Department of Education.
- PRESERVE and PROTECT federal education oversight to ensure consistent implementation nationwide.