Considering the Profession of School Nursing?

What is School Nursing?

School nursing is a specialized practice of professional nursing that advances the well-being, academic success and life-long achievement and health of students.

To that end, school nurses facilitate positive student responses to normal development; promote health and safety including a healthy environment; intervene with actual and potential health problems; provide case management services; and actively collaborate with others to build student and family capacity for adaptation, self-management, self advocacy, and learning. (NASN, 2010)

Want to know more about school nursing?

Visit the School Nurse Organization of Washington website at www.schoolnurseorganizationofwashington.org

The School Nurse Organization of Washington (SNOW) is a non-profit professional organization started in 1956 as an outgrowth of the Washington State Nurses Association.

SNOW Mission Statement: SNOW supports school nurses in the delivery of health services designed to improve the health and academic success of students.

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Like us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/schoolnurseorganizationofwashington

Also visit the National Association of School Nurses Website at www.nasn.org

Better Health Better Learning™

Day in the Life of a School Nurse...
A sampling what school nurses do daily to help students be healthy, safe & ready to learn.

How do I Become a School Nurse?
- School nursing requires advanced skills to address the complex health needs of students within an educational setting.
- In Washington State, a School Nurse is defined as an RN with a BSN & state (ESA) certification.
- There is no mandate for nurses working in Washington schools to be a School Nurse.
- Depending on the specific school district’s policy, there may be nurses with varying educations working in schools.

Why a BSN?
- Baccalaureate nursing education develops skills in leadership and critical thinking; the ability to translate research into nursing practice; and knowledge of population based health.
- These important skills are not addressed in an associate degree nursing (ADN) education.

Why Become a School Nurses?
- Advanced independent nursing practice
- High level of job satisfaction through impacting your community daily.
- Atypical nursing schedule that is family friendly by having weekends, holidays & summers off.
- Fast paced work days with constant variation.
- Salary advancement for continuing education if hired on a teacher’s contract as a certified employee (BSN or above & ESA certified)

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Who Hires School Nurses?
- Public School Districts
- Local Education Agency’s Boards of Education (OSPI, PESB)
- Departments of Health
- Public Health Departments & Agencies
- Hospitals, hospital districts

Where do I Find a School Nurse Job?
- Public School District website particularly in the late Spring/Early Summer hiring for the upcoming fall.
- Other above employer’s websites.
- SNOW website