



TEXAS SCHOOL NURSES ORGANIZATION
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85TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION PRIORITIES

Spinal Screening

Problem: As the statutes stand, spinal screening is done on all 6th and 9th graders. The American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons recommends screening twice for girls between ages 10 and 12 (5th -7th grade) and one screening for boys at age 13-14 (8th or 9th grade). The statute needs to be updated to reflect current research.

Solution: A bill that allows:

- For spinal screening according to industry Evidenced-Based Practice standards. Without prescribing specific grades, that allow for changing HHS rules as the research changes.

Nurse in Every School

Problem: Texas children are at risk because of lack of access to healthcare in many Texas schools. School nurses facilitate the success of students with chronic illness and increasingly complex health problems, who are promised access to school by the Free Appropriate Public Education Act (FAPE) under Section 504 of the Individualities with Disabilities Act (IDEA).

Solution: Support legislation that works toward putting a school nurse in every Texas School.

- Perhaps accomplish through Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). TSNO has been invited by TEA to join their meetings along with other various organizations that represent instructional support personnel in the implementation of their state plans.
- Advocate for parent notification bill in order for parents to make arrangement for safe care for their child at school.

MISSION: To promote, protect, and enhance professional school nurse practice through advocacy, evidence-based education, collaboration, and partnerships that support each student's well-being and readiness to learn.

School Finance

Problem: Oppose vouchers, TSNO is concerned that Educational Savings Accounts (ESA) and school choice will negatively impact access to healthcare for Texas students especially for lower-income students with disabilities. Unlike some other states, Texas has no law that requires schools to employ a school nurse. It has been demonstrated that having a school nurse increases academic performance and decreases parent time lost at work.

Solution:

- Oppose ESA and school choice.
- Work to make sure that every Texas child has access to healthcare in the form of a school nurse.

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