



DEADLINE NOVEMBER 16, 2016

TAKE ACTION **TODAY** ON BEHALF OF 5.1 MILLION TEXAS STUDENTS

The ***Every Student Succeeds Act*** (ESSA), signed into law December 2015, directly identifies school nurses as leaders of chronic disease management in schools.

TSNO represents more than 2,350 school nurse who can inform Texas' education policy. TEA Commissioner Mike Morath said, "...we need input from all parts of our state to ensure that, under ESSA, all students in Texas can receive high-quality education that prepares them for the future."

Together we can be a powerful voice to inform implementation of ESSA in Texas!

Complete the TEA Every Student Succeeds Act survey at

<http://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/3003630/ESSA-Public-Input-Survey> **LINK**
HERE

Answer all questions, ranking provided options and entering your comments in the free text space provided. Suggested comments are provided. Keep focus on student success.

Question 3: What should Texas adopt for its measure of school quality or success?

- A: School health services led by school nurses improve student attendance and academic success, particularly for the 25% of students with chronic diseases.

Question 5: How can we ensure that all Texas students have a quality education that prepares them for success, especially students with disabilities or various backgrounds (e.g., poverty, English learners, foster care)?

- A: School nurses are the bridge between education and healthcare, facilitating access in both arenas for children with chronic disease. School nurse chronic disease care increases student seat time.

Question 6: What knowledge, experiences, and skills should Texas Students possess to be ready for success in college, careers, and/or military?

- A: While this question does not lend itself to the impact of school nurses, you should use this opportunity to tell TEA what YOU think students need.

Question 7: A goal of our state is to ensure that all students-and especially our most vulnerable students- have great teachers and principals. What strategies can we use to ensure all students have access to high-quality teachers and principals across the state.

- A: Research shows that the presence of a school nurse to manage student health concerns saves valuable administrative time for principals and instructional time for teachers.

Question 8: What are the important things we can do to improve struggling schools.

- Students must be healthy to learn. Children living in poverty have more chronic illnesses. School Nurses mitigate the impact of chronic illness in children, improving readiness to learn.

Question 9: Do you have any additional input for Texas' ESSA Consolidated Plan? (*Full reference citations can be found at www.txsno.org*)

- ESSA (2015) names school nurses as leaders of student chronic disease management.

- Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child model recognizes the connection between health and education and the need for students to be healthy, safe, engaged, supported and challenged (ASCD & CDC, 2014).
- A child must be healthy to learn (CDC, 2015).
- 25% of school children suffer from a chronic health conditions, 7 % of those with multiple conditions (Michael, Merlo, Basch, Wentzel, & Wechsler, 2015; Resave & Pollock, 2015).
- Increased life expectancy for students with chronic conditions increases healthcare and educational service needs of students (Martin & Osterman, 2013).
- Reduced hospital stays return students to school requiring more nursing accommodations than previously needed (McCabe & Shaw, 2008).
- Children with chronic illness are absent an average of 16 days yearly, compared to 3 days for healthy children (McCabe & Shaw, 2008).
- Children with chronic illness are at risk for dropout, low student engagement, more exposure to bullying, disruptive behaviors, and below-average performance on academic assessments (Balfanze & Byrnes, 2012; Forrest, Bevans, Riley, Crespo, & Louis, 2011).
- School nurse care coordination activities:
 - Manage student chronic illness; reduce risk; decrease absenteeism; increase seat time; improve readiness to learn, class participation, and academic success; and, result in cost savings to families, educational and healthcare systems (Bethell, Forrest, Stumbo, Gombojav, Carle, & Irwin et al., 2012; CDC, 2015; NASN, 2015; Wang et al., 2014).
 - Provide direct care & disease related education to students, parents, staff; and, coordinate care between school and medical homes (Jacobsen, Meeder & Voskuil, 2016; NASN, 2015).
 - Coordinate intervention and evaluation services, and identify previously undiagnosed chronic health conditions (NASN, 2015; Zirkel, Granthom, & Lovato, 2012)
 - Mitigate long-term impacts of chronic health conditions on children by coordinating the interests of families, education, health care, public health, insurance and community agencies (Jacobsen, Meeder & Voskuil, 2016; McClanahan & Weismuller, 2015; NASN, 2015; Wolfe, 2013).

Back of Tent Card



"It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men." Frederick Douglass

Children's Health: By Design, Not Default