

THE SCHOOL NURSE BULLETIN

MAY 2019

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*Happy National School Nurse Day!
May 8, 2019*

School nurses optimize student health and learning every day of the year. But, on National School Nurse Day, we take special time to celebrate and recognize the contributions that school nurses are making to the health and learning of our nation's 50 million children. The Connecticut State Department of Education wishes all Connecticut school nurses a happy School Nurse Day!

MAY 8, 2019

NATIONAL SCHOOL NURSE DAY



**School Nurses:
Making the Grade on School Health**

Celebrate Your School Nurse!

Connecticut's School Nurses





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

School Nurses Economic Value

- ✓ Provide health services that increase school attendance
- ✓ Prevent and control the spread of communicable disease
- ✓ Administer specialized services to students (medications, insulin pumps, ventilators, tube feedings)
- ✓ Verification of immunizations
- ✓ Screening and make referrals for vision, hearing, BMI
- ✓ Provide health professional input and direction for school and community policies and programs
- ✓ Educate students and staff on managing their own health and wellness

National Association of School Nurses (NASN)

Celebrating National School Nurse Day

2019 Theme: School Nurses: Making the Grade on School Health

Silver Spring, MD – **National School Nurse Day, May 8, 2019**, is a time to celebrate the specialty practice of school nursing. In 1972, the National Association of School Nurses (NASN) created National School Nurse Day to recognize school nurses and acknowledge their role in the educational setting. NASN applauds the contributions school nurses make every day to improve the safety, health, and academic success of all students.

The theme this year is, *School Nurses: Making the Grade on School Health*. This theme recognizes that school nurses play an integral role in the health of not just students, but the overall schools in which they work. School nurses optimize student health and learning every day of the year. But, on National School Nurse Day, we take special time to celebrate and recognize the contributions that school nurses are making to the health and learning of our nation's 50 million children.

NASN believes all teachers deserve to have school nurses in their buildings so that teachers can focus on instruction and students' individual educational needs; and parents deserve to feel secure that children are safe at school and their health needs are met every day by specialized school nurses. School nurses have the skills to plan and implement care for students with chronic and medically complex conditions and prepare school staff to recognize and respond appropriately to potential emergencies. Prevention is key in school wellness and safety, but planned emergency response and disaster preparedness is an essential part of the important role school nurses play.

The full release from NASN is located at <https://www.nasn.org/advocacy/school-nurse-day>



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