

Certified School Nurses

Certified School Nurses are licensed and certificated health care professionals who support health and wellness in their school communities, and manage ever more complex health needs to ensure that each student has the opportunity for academic success.

CERTIFIED SCHOOL NURSES ARE EXPERTS IN:

<p>Prevention</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Illness • Injuries • Safety Teams • Immunization Compliance • Mental/Behavioral Health 	<p>Early Identification</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental/Behavioral Health Issues • Illness/Disability • Injuries • Preventable Disease Reduction 	<p>Intervention</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medication Administration • First Aid Treatment • Vaccine Management • Safety Care Team • Complex Medical Care • 504/IHP Development for Special Education 	<p>Referral</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Providers • Mental Health Specialist • Primary Care Provider • Specialized Provider • Insurance Assistance • Health Department • School Programs
<p>Health education promotion</p>	<p>Mandated screening and assessment</p>	<p>Case management and treatment</p>	<p>Collaboration between student service professionals and community providers</p>



The health needs of our students have changed dramatically, having become more complex and widespread since 1949, yet the law has remained static.

RECOMMENDED RATIO:

Access to a certified school nurse in **every school building, every day**¹



CURRENT RATIO IN STATUTE:

1 certified school nurse per **1,500** students - unchanged since 1949

CURRENT RATIO IN PA:

1 certified school nurse per **823** students²

¹ Per the National Association of School Nurses. NASN School Nurse Workload: Staffing for Safe Care, <https://www.nasn.org/nasn-resources/professional-practice-documents/position-statements/ps-workload>

² Per PA Department of Health, Division of School Health data, 2021-22 school year.

Certified School Nurses

Certified School Nurses complete specialized training to be ready to meet the needs of today's students.



- ✓ Bachelor's degree
- ✓ PA license as a registered nurse
- ✓ PDE School Nurse certification
- ✓ 180 continuing education hours every five years
- ✓ CPR certification

Certified School Nurses are mandated in PA schools. They make our schools and communities healthier and safer by navigating increasingly complex medical needs as well as the mental health needs of today's students.

WITHOUT ADEQUATE STAFFING, CERTIFIED SCHOOL NURSES MUST:



Divide their time among multiple school buildings covering many miles, including private and parochial schools, to oversee and respond to daily medical and mental health needs, as well as emergencies.

Rely on other school staff to help spot inconsistencies and emerging problems within the school community.

Balance case management, health promotion/education, communicable disease monitoring, immunization compliance, illness/injury management, state mandated screenings and exams, and medication administration as well as mental/behavioral health support for 1,500 potential patients.

Certified School Nurses are highly trained, caring professionals who strive to provide the best possible care to students. It's time to invest in our students and give them the support they need to succeed.