

School Nurse



Roles and Responsibilities: “School nursing, a specialized practice of nursing, protects and promotes student health, facilitates optimal development, and advances academic success. School nurses, provide care coordination, advocate for quality student-centered care, and collaborate to design systems that allow individuals and communities to develop their full potential” (National Association of School Nurses, 2017).

Information about School Nurses: A school nurse is a bachelor’s degree-prepared Registered Nurse (RN) with additional education leading to an Ohio Department of Education pupil services license, specifically, the one-year temporary school nurse license, five-year professional school nurse license or school nurse wellness coordinator endorsement.

School Nurses are Trained to:

- Use the Nursing Process, a critical thinking model, to determine a course of nursing care. The school nurse conducts an assessment; develops a nursing diagnosis; provides outcomes identification; and plans and implements evidence-based coordination of care, health teaching, health promotion, evaluation of care and outcomes;
- Impact the health of students, schools, families and communities in a number of ways;
- Address health promotion and disease prevention for both individual and population health;
- Promote biopsychosocial health and well-being of school-aged children and intervene with health problems with a core focus of keeping students healthy and in school, which is essential for academic success;
- Collaborate with public health partners for screenings, referrals, follow up and communicable disease surveillance;
- Participate in health prevention activities, such as immunization, obesity prevention, substance abuse assessment, tobacco control, asthma education, and promoting health and safety;
- Understand and educate others, including staff, students and families, about normal development;
- Provide care provision or coordination, including care for chronic diseases like diabetes, asthma, epilepsy and allergies; and contribute to Individual Assessment Team (IAT), 504 plan and individualized education program (IEP) processes;
- Provide training of other school staff on appropriate health and safety procedures related to health, including emergency preparedness;
- Provide care of students and staff with acute illnesses or injuries by rendering first aid and training for school staff;
- Practice in a manner that is ethical and culturally congruent, with effective communication in all areas of practice in an environmentally safe and healthy manner;
- Act in a leadership role in the professional practice setting and collaborate with key stakeholders, including professional practice evaluation (of self and others);
- Provide program management, directing the health services program within the school and community;
- Maintain an interdisciplinary practice, including actively collaborating with educators, physicians and other health care team members to build student and family capacity for adaptation, self-management, self-advocacy and learning.

References:

- American Nurses Association (ANA) and National Association of School Nurses. (2017). School Nursing: Scope and Standards of Practice, 3rd Edition.
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- Council on School Health of the American Academy of Pediatrics. Role of the School Nurse in Providing School Health Services. Available from <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/early/2016/05/19/peds.2016-0852>.
- National Association of School Nurses Position Statement. (2016). Role of the 21st Century School Nurse. Available from <https://www.nasn.org/nasn/advocacy/professional-practice-documents/position-statements/ps-role>.
- Ohio Department of Education. (2014). Ohio Operating Standards for the Education of Children with Disabilities. Available from <http://education.ohio.gov/getattachment/Topics/Special-Education/Federal-and-State-Requirements/Operational-Standards-and-Guidance/2014-Ohio-Operating-Standards-for-the-Education-of-Children-with-Disabilities.pdf.aspx>.
- Ohio Administrative Code 4723. Available from <http://codes.ohio.gov/oac/4723>.
- Ohio Revised Code 3319.221. (2014). School nurse and school nurse wellness coordinator. Available from <http://codes.ohio.gov/orc/3319.221>.
- Ohio Revised Code 3313.68. (2015). Available from <http://codes.ohio.gov/orc/3313.68>.