

## **SCHOOL NURSE ASSIGNMENT**

### **STATEMENT**

The California School Nurses Organization believes that each school district in California needs the services of credentialed school nurses. Professional caseloads for school nurses must be manageable so students with health related barriers can be identified and receive the health services necessary in order to reach their full potential and become productive learners.

The maximum nurse-student ratio recommended by the California School Nurses Organization is as follows:

- For the general school population - one credentialed school nurse on every campus or no greater than 750 students per school nurse
- For the mainstreamed population in special education - one credentialed school nurse to no more than 225 students
- For the population with chronic illness or developmental delays - one credentialed school nurse to no more than 125 students

For the population with medically fragile conditions - a ratio based on individual student needs taking into consideration student acuity and student safety at all times

### **RATIONALE**

All children and youth have a right to have their health needs safely met while in the school setting.

The delivery of quality school nursing services is affected by the nurse-student ratio. The credentialed school nurse has assumed a variety of pivotal roles: primary health care provider, case manager, health services care coordinator, child advocate, health educator, counselor, and supervisor of health care in the educational setting.

Caseload assignments are influenced by multiple factors:

- mandated functions
- needs, goals and objectives of the school district
- social, economic and cultural status of the community
- special health problems
- mobility of the community
- training and supervision of licensed or unlicensed assistive personnel
- number of schools served
- distance between school sites

*Reference: NASN 1982  
California School Nurses Organization By the Year 2010  
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