

NOVEMBER 2026

Screened for Success:
The Essential Role of School Nurse Health Screenings



Thriving students rely on a healthy foundation. School nurses play an essential role in promoting student well-being through routine health screenings. Screenings for vision, hearing, and scoliosis can aide in identifying hidden physical barriers that can quietly disrupt a child's development, health, and classroom learning.

ACADEMIC PROMOTION

These quick health screenings make sure students can see the board clearly, hear the teacher's instructions, and are able to sit comfortably at their desk without spinal strain.
When kids can see and hear clearly without any back pain, it is much easier for them to learn to read, pay attention, participate, and enjoy their school day.

SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL PREVENTION

Healthy development extends beyond academics—it's also about making friends and feeling confident. Kids with hidden vision or hearing difficulties may miss social cues, which can make them feel left out or anxious around their classmates. Similarly, catching spinal changes early can also prevent future posture issues, back pain, and body-image struggles. Prevention is key in helping students stay confident and socially active.

BEHAVIORAL PREVENTION

When kids are unable to see or hear well, they may present behaviors including becoming easily frustrated, losing focus, or being disruptive in class. This can look like a behavior problem but may actually be a health issue. These screenings aide school nurses in catching these problems early, so students may receive the appropriate help and resources.



As children grow, regular monitoring in schools help track changes in vision, hearing and spinal alignment. If a screening flags a potential concern, the school nurse will reach out and send a referral home to follow up with the students' primary care provider, as well as connecting them with available community healthcare resources.

Jackson Elementary School
S. Bonilla-Susano, RN-BSN