How do school nurses help children learn?

- Assessing student health status and making referrals
- Identifying vision and hearing problems that impact learning
- Delivering emergency care
- Administering medication and vaccines
- Performing health care procedures
- Disaster preparedness
- Providing health counseling and wellness programs

What benefits can I expect from hiring school nurses?

- Help students manage chronic illness, increasing attendance
- Improved attendance = academic success
- Addressing health concerns keeps students at school and parents at work
- Allows teachers to teach instead of providing health care for children
- Reducing number of 911 calls
- Health professional input on wellness programs for the school community

How many school nurses are there in the United States?

According to the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), there are 73,697 registered nurses working as school nurses (HRSA, 2010).

Is school nursing losing ground?

No. School nursing remains a necessary investment for our children’s health. Between 1999 and 2009, 38 states improved their number of school nurses.

How many school nurses does my district need?

NASN and Healthy People 2010 recommend a needs-based formula approach for determining full-time school nurse-to-students ratio. For example:

- 1:750 WELL students
- 1:225 in the student populations that may require daily professional school nursing services or interventions such as Special Ed inclusions
- 1:125 in student populations with complex health care needs
- 1:1 may be necessary for individual students with multiple disabilities

Is there a shortage of school nurses?

No. There is a shortage of funded school nurse positions.

How are school nurses funded?

Local school district budget, state budget, EPSDT, Title I, Medicaid (accessed by only 42% of schools), and community sponsors.

Can a secretary, teacher, or paraeducator fill this role?

Not safely, or in some states legally - due to inadequate medical training.

What types of health concerns are found among students?

- 24% of children have vision deficiencies
- 13% of children are prescribed medication more than 90 days
- 10% of children have mental/emotional behavioral problems
- 10% of children have asthma
- 6% of children missed more than 11 days due to illness/injury
- 5% of children have food allergies
- 5% of children have a seizure disorder
- 5% of children have hearing deficiencies
- 5% of children have ADHD
- 47% of 12th grade students report “lifetime” use of an illicit drug
- 65% of 12th grade students are sexually active