

SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH CENTERS AND SCHOOL NURSES

A COLLABORATIVE EFFORT TO ADDRESS THE HEALTHCARE NEEDS OF STUDENTS

School-based health centers (SBHCs) and school nurses know healthy students learn better, and because of that, they share the important mission of providing preventive care for all students they serve with the ultimate goal of keeping students in class.



School-based health centers provide:

- Primary care (including Health Check services)
- Chronic disease management (i.e., asthma, diabetes, sickle cell, etc.)
- Immunizations
- Vision and hearing screening
- Lab testing
- Diagnosis and treatment of acute and chronic illnesses and minor injuries
- Dental care
- Behavioral health services (individual, family, and group counseling)
- Sports physicals
- Eye exams for prescription glasses (where applicable)
- Referrals to other specialists



School nurses lead the school health services team to address actual or potential barriers to student health and academic success and serve as public health champions within and across school populations.

- Develop, implement, and evaluate a student's individual health plan (IHP), individual education plan (IEP), emergency care, and disaster plans.
- Collaborate with health and education leaders.
- Monitor for symptoms of diseases.
- Screen for early detection of conditions that can lead to adverse health and academic outcomes.
- Mitigate potential health issues and school emergencies.
- Provide necessary health education to school staff.

Why both:

- SHBCs and school nurses coordinate care, providing the best student-centered care possible. Collaboration enhances students' health, academic outcomes, and overall well-being.
- SBHCs and school nurses work collaboratively to address social needs and advocate as partners for systems-level changes to work toward alleviating social determinants of health and their causes.
- SBHCs and school nurses work together to plan and implement health promotion and disease prevention programs.
- By constant communication, continuity of care is fostered inside and outside of the school setting.



Adapted from *School Nursing & School-Based Health Centers in the United States: Working Together for Student Success*, a joint statement from the National Association of School Nurses and the School-Based Health Alliance, posted May 13, 2021.

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