

Certified School Nurses



Certified school nurses are licensed and certificated health care professionals who support health and wellness in their school communities, and manage evermore complex health needs to ensure that each student has the opportunity for academic success.

Certified school nurses provide services necessary to keep students healthy and ready to learn



Medical Case Management



Medication Administration



Immunization Compliance



Vision, Hearing, Scoliosis & Growth Screenings



Illness & Injury Prevention & Intervention

The work of certified school nurses benefits the entire school community by:

- ✓ Reducing the occurrence and spread of **preventable disease** by tracking and enforcing immunization requirements.
- ✓ Caring for **students with disabilities or complex medical needs** who require feeding tubes, breathing treatments, blood glucose monitoring, insulin injections, seizure management, and many other daily interventions.
- ✓ Serving as **health advocates** and care coordinators to connect students and their families with school and community-based resources to get the services they need.
- ✓ Identifying **medical issues** in students who require further evaluation.
- ✓ Providing crucial first aid and potentially **lifesaving care** to the entire school community in emergencies.
- ✓ Sometimes serving as the only health care professional to which students have access.
- ✓ Often being the first professionals to identify and treat the psychosomatic symptoms of a child struggling with **mental health issues**.
- ✓ Developing and implementing **Section 504 plans**, the health portion of Special Education Individual Education Programs (IEPs) and Individualized Health care plans.

The health needs of our student population have changed dramatically since 1949, and yet the law has remained static.

RECOMMENDED RATIO:

1 certified school nurse per
750 students¹



CURRENT RATIO IN STATUTE:

1 certified school nurse per
1,500 students - unchanged since 1949

CURRENT RATIO IN PA:

1 certified school nurse per **809** students²

1. Per the National Association of School Nurses, 1:750 students in the healthy student population, 1:225 students for populations requiring daily professional nursing services, and 1:125 students for populations with complex healthcare needs. *NASN School Nurse Workload: Staffing for Safe Care*.

2. *School Safety Task Force Report, August 2018*.

Certified School Nurses

Certified school nurses complete specialized training to be ready to meet the needs of today's students.



- ✓ Bachelor's degree in nursing
- ✓ PA license as a registered nurse
- ✓ 12-21 credits of advanced coursework for certification
- ✓ 100 hours of supervised clinical experience

SUPPORT
SENATE BILL 650
& HOUSE BILL
1500

Certified School Nurses are **responsible for understanding** the **complex health needs** and managing the care of up to **1,500 students** in their respective school districts.

School-based nursing care looked much different in **1949** when this ratio was established.



At a ratio of 1 certified school nurse to 1,500 students, certified school nurses must:

Divide their time among multiple school buildings covering many miles, including private and parochial schools.



Balance mandated screenings and chronic care with first aid and illnesses for 1,500 potential patients.

Work very hard to forge the relationships of trust that allow them to identify emerging problems and truly support students' needs.

Worry that an emergency will occur when they're at a different building.

Certified school nurses are **PASSIONATE, CARING PROFESSIONALS** who strive to provide the best possible care to students. It's our **STUDENTS** who suffer most when the health services they rely upon are stretched too thin.