

Key Points regarding Credentialed School Nursing Practice

Credentialed School Nurses Positively impact School Attendance

Estimates indicate that in the 2012-2013 school year, approximately one million elementary school children in California were truant and almost 83,000 were chronically truant (missing 10% or more of the school year – calculated from the date of enrollment to the current date – due to unexcused absences).

Attorney General Kamala D. Harris commissioned a study to examine the scope, causes and effects of truancy and absenteeism in California.

- More than 250,000 elementary school students in California are estimated to miss 10% or more of the school year.
- Factoring in the costs of incarceration and lost economic productivity and tax revenues, dropouts cost California an estimated \$46.4 billion per year.
- 82% of prisoners in America are high school drop outs.
- Mental and physical health problems in students and parents, housing and/or financial instability, parental substance abuse, and other family crises all are significant drivers of student absence in elementary schools.

According to the CDC; asthma is one of the leading causes of school absenteeism. CDC recommends “Use a coordinated, multi-component and collaborative approach that includes school nursing services, asthma education for students and professional development for school staff.”

California Education Code 48321 states; “The county school attendance review board, if established, shall include, but need not be limited to, all of the following: A representative of school or county health care personnel; A representative of school, county, or community mental health personnel.” School nurses can have a positive effect on SARB outcomes .

Socioeconomically Disadvantaged Students need Resources

Credentialed School Nurses are in many local areas the Health Care Provider for the socioeconomically disadvantaged student which is defined by the California Department of Education (CDE) as:

A student whose parents both have not received a high school diploma

OR

A student who participates in the free or reduced-price lunch program, also known as the National School Lunch Program (NSLP)

According to the CDE, in 2011-2012, 60% of the students in Ca Schools are socioeconomically disadvantaged.

There are 68,000 migrant education students in California schools (CDE 2012-2013).

Modification to remove existing school health services that are provided at no cost to students enrolled in Ca schools may negatively affect the majority of students in CA schools.

Screening, follow-up, intervention and referral to community resources are critical for student intervention and success in California schools.

Communicable Disease Control

Credentialed School nurses have advanced training in communicable disease control, recognizing signs and symptoms of communicable disease.

Many Credentialed school nurses possess a Public Health Credential.

Credentialed School nurses are the link between the schools and the public health department.

Why do schools need a Credentialed School Nurse?

“School nurses serve 48 million young people in the nation’s schools. School nurses can assess student health and development, help families determine when medical services are needed, and serve as a professional link with physicians and community resources. School nurses can improve school attendance.” National Health Statistics Report, April 2, 2012.

Screening, follow-up, intervention and referral to community resources are critical for student intervention and success in California schools.

Many local outreach agencies will only accept referrals after the student has been screened and a referral made by the school nurse.

Parents do not know where or how to find local outreach.

Credentialed School Nurses have access to resources not available to the public, such as the VSP Sight for Students program which provides vision screening and makes glasses if needed, for no cost to the socioeconomically disadvantaged.

According to the CDC in 2006, about 88% of schools had one or more students with a food allergy.

Children with food allergies are two to four times more likely to have asthma or other allergic conditions than those without food allergies. The prevalence of food allergies among children increased 18% during 1997–2007, and allergic reactions to foods have become the most common cause of anaphylaxis in community health settings.

Credentialed School Nurses keep students and staff safe in a medical crisis; in addition, they provide medical information to parents, staff and students.

Credentialed School Nurses assist the school community to comply with legal guidelines, ie, California Education Code, Health and Safety Code, California Code of Regulations, etc.