



Defense Health Agency (DHA) Clinical Communities Speaker Series

Children and Youth: Advanced Practices for the Pediatric Health Care Provider

The Other Eight Hours: The Pivotal Role of the School Nurse in the Health of the Military Child

Resource List

School nursing is a specialty nursing practice that protects and promotes student health, facilitates optimal development and advanced academic success. These professionals are trained in ethical and evidenced-based practices, leaders in bridge the gap between health care and education, coordinate care and are ultimately advocates for the student. With its origins starting in 1968, the National Education Association established the Department of School Nurses (DSN) dedicated to advancing school nursing as a specialty and the health of school-age children. The following years, the DSN pushed for each state to develop school nursing credential standards, which was accomplished by the end of the decade. In 1974, President Gerald Ford proclaimed the fourth Wednesday in January as National School Nurse Day in recognition of their contributions to the education system and the welfare to our youth. Throughout its history, the [National Association of School Nurses](#), established in 1979, lead the transformation of school health, which continues to day. It partners with various national health organization to develop educational programs and conduct research that ultimately benefits the students.

The [Department of Defense Education Activity \(DoDEA\)](#) operates a network of 163 schools across 11 countries, 7 states and 2 territories. All of these school are accredited by regulation and accreditation agencies, therefore, one can ensure that the curriculum provided at these schools are comparable to civilian public school systems. DoDEA primarily operates elementary and secondary school systems to ensure that its students are qualified and ready to attend college or enter the workforce. For those students not eligible to attend a DoDEA school, it can arrange and support education requirements for eligible dependents. A field activity aligned under the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), 79,000 students are enrolled and educated through this system.

According to an American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Policy Statement, the [Role of the School Nurse in Providing School Health Services](#) includes seven core responsibilities which directly contribute to child and adolescent health and educational success. The school nurse provides direct care to the students. School nurses are leaders in the provision of care. As a result of their assessments, school nurses act as the conduit to refer the student for additional medical support. They also promote a healthy school environment, as well as health; many of their initiatives are focused on advancing wellness within the student body and faculty. School nurses act as leaders when developing health policies that can directly affect the school and are the liaison between student, parent, and other supporting agencies should the student need anything further.

Associating [US Students and Chronic Health Conditions](#), these children and adolescents depend on trained school staff and a healthy school environment to help them manage these conditions. A good working partnership between students, school nurses, clinicians, school staff, and administrators, can help reduce absenteeism and improve academic achievement. Several strategies have been developed to address the synergy between the role of school health services in the health and academic outcomes of students with chronic health conditions.



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