



California School Nurses Organization

Position Statement

COORDINATED SCHOOL HEALTH PROGRAM

STATEMENT

The California School Nurses Organization supports a coordinated approach to school health by improving student health and their capacity to learn. Credentialed School Nurses should assume the leadership role in these programs that bring together school personnel and community resources to provide for optimum student health and success in school. The Credentialed School Nurse is in the ideal position to coordinate the many parts of school health into a systematic approach thus enabling schools to:

- Eliminate gaps and reduce redundancies across the many initiatives and funding streams
- Build partnerships and teamwork among school health and education professionals in the school
- Build collaboration and enhance communication among public health, school health, and other education and health professionals in the community
- Focus efforts on helping students engage in protective, health-enhancing behaviors and avoid risk behaviors.

RATIONALE

The Coordinated School Health Program is a response to the varied health and social conditions that exist in today's society to the detriment of student academic achievement and lifelong learning success. It combines resources and providers within the school and community by implementing policies, procedures and activities designed to protect and promote the health and wellbeing of students and school staff. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommends Coordinated School Health (CSH) as a coordinated, systematic approach to planning and organizing all school health-related activities, including initiatives, components, policies, and partnerships to continuously improve the health and learning of all students. The components of a Coordinated School Health Program include:

- Health Education--opportunities to acquire the knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary for making health-promoting decisions, achieving health literacy, adopting health-enhancing behaviors, and promoting the health of others.
- Physical Education--school-based instructional opportunities to gain the necessary skills and knowledge for lifelong participation in physical activity.
- Health Services--ensuring access and/or referral to primary health care services, disease control and prevention, emergency care, educational and counseling opportunities to promote and maintain health.
- Nutrition Services--accommodating the health and nutrition needs by providing access to a variety of nutritious and appealing meals.

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- Counseling, Psychological, and Social Services--improving mental, emotional, and social health and including individual and group assessments, interventions, and referrals.
- Health Promotion for Staff--opportunities to improve health status through activities such as health assessments, health education, and health-related fitness activities.
- Healthy and Safe School Environment--safe physical and psychological environment supportive of learning.²
- Family and Community Involvement--enhancing health and well-being through an integrated partnership among schools, families, and the community.

The Credentialed School Nurse should assume the leadership role to manage and coordinate the CSH program by facilitating and advocating policies, legislation, and securing financing for the development, implementation, and evaluation of resources for the well-being of students, their families, schools, and the community.

References:

Centers for Disease and Prevention: *Adolescent and school health*. Retrieved from <http://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/cshp/>

Centers for Disease and Prevention. (2011). *School health programs: Improving the health of our nation's youth--at a glance*. Atlanta, GA: CDC.

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