



California School Nurses Organization

Position Statement

SCHOOL-BASED/SCHOOL-LINKED HEALTH CENTERS

STATEMENT

The California School Nurses Organization strongly supports development of health care delivery systems that provide children with accessible, high quality health services to support educational success by enhancing health and well-being. The implementation of a coordinated school health and safety program benefits the students, their families, and the school community.

School-based/school-linked health centers and mobile services provide additional resources and easy access for medically under-served children and their families. The California School Nurses Organization supports integration of school-based/school-linked health centers with existing school health programs in order to provide comprehensive care, including health education, mental health services, assessments, diagnostics, tracking, follow-up and case management.

The California School Nurses Organization further supports parental involvement in the design of the health center and an advisory board with community representation aimed at encouraging long-term success of the school-based/school-linked health center.

RATIONALE

Credentialed school nurses are in a unique position to provide the critical link between the health care system, the students, their families, and the community. School-based/school-linked health centers can provide accessible health care services through assessment, treatment, and monitoring of children with medical needs who might otherwise not receive them. The credentialed school nurse, as the school health professional, should be integrally involved in the design, development and implementation of school-based/school-linked health centers to insure comprehensive health care for students.

Working collaboratively with school-based/school-linked health centers, credentialed school nurses can help ensure compliance with treatment plans, monitor outcomes of care, provide case management, collect data, tracking, documentation, and assisting in meeting student's health needs.

Credentialed school nurses and School-Based Health Center (SBHC) personnel share an important mission: protecting and advancing the health and well-being of students in the educational system.



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