



# *California School Nurses Organization*

## Position Statement

### **PUBLIC POLICY, LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY PARTICIPATION**

#### **STATEMENT**

The California School Nurses Organization strongly endorses any opportunities and requests for credentialed school nurses to be active in public policy issues. It is imperative that credentialed school nurses be involved in the policy arena to impact the health and education of students and the practice of professional school nursing.

Furthermore, credentialed school nurses must take timely and appropriate action regarding any public policy, legislative or regulatory activity related to school health issues and the school nurse role and scope of practice in the school setting. This includes staying current on health issues, appropriate correspondence, and addressing individuals, groups and organizations regarding issues, key policies and regulatory areas that impact school nursing practice and the health and safety of school children. CSNO supports the employment of a legislative advocate to facilitate these actions.

#### **RATIONALE**

Credentialed school nurses have the background and expertise to enhance student academic success and promote the practice of professional school nursing. Credentialed school nurses advocate for the removal of health-related barriers to educational success through action in the public policy, legislative and regulatory processes. Failure to do so may result in detrimental changes to school health policy and the school nursing role. This may decrease overall accessibility of credentialed school nurses to students and students to credentialed school nurses. Credentialed school nurses and the California School Nurses Organization (CSNO) need to take active roles in educating local, state and federal legislators and policy makers about the improved academic success, increased graduation rates and positive health outcomes that result from having credentialed school nurses in our schools.

#### **Reference:**

American Academy of Pediatrics Policy Statement. (2008). *Role of the School Nurse in providing school health services*. Retrieved from <http://www.aappolicy.aappublications.org/cgi/content/full/pediatrics;121/5/1052>

National Association of School Nurses Position Statement. *Government Relations: Public policy, legislative, and regulatory advocacy*. (2003).

**Adopted:** 11/99, Position Statement **Government Relations: Public Policy, Legislative and Regulatory Participation** and Position Statement **Legislation** combined in this statement 11/02, Revised 10/05, 11/08, 11/11, Board of Directors, California School Nurses Organization.