



California School Nurses Organization

Position Statement

SCHOOL NURSE ASSIGNMENT

STATEMENT

The California School Nurses Organization asserts that each school district in California needs the services of credentialed school nurses. Professional caseloads for school nurses must be determined so students with health related barriers can be identified and receive the health services necessary in order to reach their full potential and become productive learners. Financial concerns or nursing shortages are not legitimate reasons to for not providing Credentialed School Nursing Services for California Students.

Credentialed school nurse-to-student ratios need to be set to ensure that each student is afforded appropriate preventative, health promotion, early identification and intervention services. The maximum nurse-student ratio recommended by the California School Nurses Organization is as follows:

- 1:750 for the general school population – at least one full-time credentialed school nurse on every campus
- 1:225 for the students that require daily professional school nursing services or intervention
- 1:125 for the population with complex health care needs and multiple daily nursing interventions
- 1:1 (or based on individual student needs) for the population with medically fragile conditions requiring continuous nursing monitoring, invasive procedures, and professional assessment

RATIONALE

All children and youth have a right to have their health needs safely met while in the school setting. The delivery of quality school nursing services is affected by the nurse/student ratio. The credentialed school nurse has assumed a variety of pivotal roles: primary health care provider, case manager, health services care coordinator, child advocate, health educator, counselor, and supervisor of health care in the educational setting. Furthermore, credentialed school nurses have the expertise to oversee programs including: coordinated school health and safety, student and staff wellness programs, environmental indoor-outdoor air quality.

Credentialed school nurse caseload assignments are further influenced by multiple other factors:

- mandated functions
- needs, goals and objectives of the school district
- social, economic and cultural status of the community
- number of students with chronic or acute health conditions
- mobility of the community
- training and supervision of licensed or unlicensed assistive personnel
- number of schools served
- distance between school sites

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