

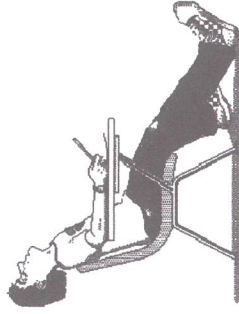
Roles of the School Nurse



- Assess and evaluate overall student health
- Plan action for elimination, minimization or acceptance of

- health problems
- Provide information and referral for health/emotional concerns
- Provide selected health services for staff
- Provide assessment, triage and care of sick and injured students and staff
- Observe school facilities and recommend modifications to maintain optimum health and safety of students and staff
- Administer medications
- Perform vision, hearing and spinal screenings
- Monitor immunization compliance
- Follow-up concerns regarding student and community health
- Provide education on a variety of health topics to students, families and staff
- Other health care and education-related responsibilities as needed/discovered

It is important to remember that good physical and mental health are essential for every child's educational development and achievement. In addition to serious health conditions there are many other health reasons for a student's lack of success in the classroom including lack of sleep, poor nutrition (skipping meals or not eating healthy foods), not enough exercise or activity and even stress or worry about personal problems. Your school nurse can explore ways to assist you and your child. Your school nurse will work with teachers and community agencies to help your student be successful during his or her educational career.



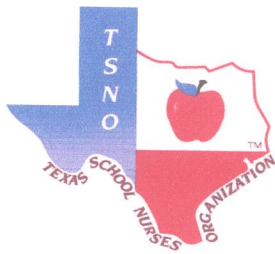
TEXAS SCHOOL NURSES



FYI for a healthy school year

- ❖ Get at least 8 hours of sleep at night
- ❖ Eat breakfast.
- ❖ Take medicine if needed for colds and other aches and pains before school
- ❖ Wear clothes appropriate for the weather
- ❖ Carry a backpack on both shoulders ; don't carry more than 30% of your weight
- ❖ Wash hands before eating, after using the bathroom, after coughing or blowing nose or carry a hand sanitizer to use frequently
- ❖ Exercise each day

SUPPORTING STUDENT SUCCESS



TEXAS SCHOOL NURSES ORGANIZATION

819 W. Arapaho Rd Suite 24-B #345
Richardson, TX 75080

Cathy Harris RN, BSN Texas School Nurses Organization, President
Home address: 14507 FM 1379, Midland, TX 79706
Home Phone: (432) 684-6031, Cell (432) 638-1093
Home email: harrisranch14507@gmail.com

On behalf of TX School Nurse's Organization, I want to express our support of SB 158.

We think parents should know if there is not a full-time Registered Nurse on their campus. Often, both parents are at jobs, where they are hard to reach, or may not have daytime phone numbers.

When they leave their children at school, parents are trusting school personnel to assure that their child will be safely cared for during the school day and school activities. If there is no Registered Nurse, than the parents need to communicate, in detail, with school officials, ahead of time, about the emergency intervention plans that need to be in place, to care for their child with such conditions as diabetes, epilepsy, asthma and anaphylaxis, which could become emergent, quickly.

Parents are trusting that medications will given correctly and on time. Medication errors have occurred when unlicensed assistive personnel are responsible for their own duties and the duties of a nurse, also. Wrong medications and overdosing have occurred, because they did not know the medication, by name, that they were giving, or did not read the correct dosage and the most common error, the medication was not given or given late. For antibiotics, insulin, asthma meds, ADHD meds, seizure meds, to name a few categories, this can mean the difference between effectively managing a chronic condition and the student becoming emergent.

Many of our students now come to school with a variety of chronic health conditions that require the use of medically assistive technology. Students with Diabetes can manage their blood sugars with glucometers, insulin injections, insulin pumps or insulin pens. They can also become emergent and need either glucagon, if they become hypoglycemic or insulin, if they become hyperglycemic, to save their lives.

Asthma students come with preventative medications, rescue inhalers, and possibly nebulizer treatments. In addition to students that may have a severe asthma attack, we have a rising number of students who have anaphylactic reactions and need epinephrine to save their lives.

We have students, on a daily basis, with emotional and mental disorders that have off label treatment regimens and a myriad of drugs to manage their well-being. If they are not treated as prescribed by their physician, they may unnecessarily become a discipline problem.

The mission of the Texas School Nurses Organization is to advance the practice of professional school nurses and enhance school nursing practice in ways that promote each student's optimal level of wellness and educational success.

We have students receiving chemo and have AV Caths, and may be immune compromised. Cardiomyopathy has become a significant issue, as you have probably heard about, as the testimony has come forth for AEDs.

Students can now live a more productive life and learn at their optimal level with these medical advances. However, unlicensed assistive personnel (secretaries, aides, etc.) are not equipped to make clinical nursing judgments, and have expressed concern about the added responsibility. Despite the fact that they may be "immune from liability" according to our current medication and Diabetes statutes, if something goes wrong, they do not want any harm to come to a child, because they did not provide the correct intervention. School personnel can be trained on a basic level of training for emergent conditions, but life-saving interventions may be delayed until a EMS or a qualified nurse can arrive. Parents need to know how long that delay may be.

Some parents are "unlicensed personnel" too, but they know their child and their child's condition very well. The challenge at school, for unlicensed personnel, is to remember multiple students' individual needs and know when to intervene early or refer immediately, because the child has reached an unstable state.

The knowledge and expertise that can be provided by one nurse is more cost effective than training and retraining a myriad of assistive personnel to handle individual nursing functions and is significantly safer for the children. Parents need to know who will be caring for their child's chronic condition, troubleshoot the medical technology, assess and respond quickly to emergencies and intervene early to limit the spread of contagious conditions.

Thank you for considering the important communication that parents need to know.

PLEASE NOTE: a "School Nurse" defined by the TAC, is a Registered Nurse

<http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/rules/tac/chapter153/ch153cc.html>

TX Board of Nursing statement about School Nursing

http://www.txsno.org/issu_bne.asp