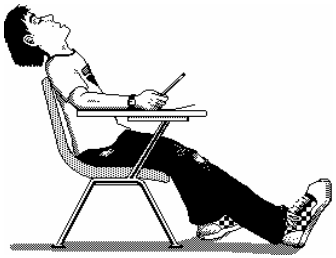
Roles of the School Nurse

- 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.



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

TEXAS SCHOOL NURSES

SUPPORTING STUDENT SUCCESS

What is School Nursing?

School Nursing is a specialized practice of professional nursing that advances the well-being, academic success and life-long achievement of students. To that end, school nurses facilitate positive student responses to normal development; promote health and safety; intervene with actual or potential health problems; provide case management services and actively collaborate with others to build student and family capacity for adaptation, self management, self advocacy and learning.

Who is your School Nurse?

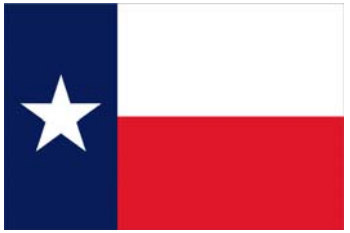
Your school nurse is the crucial link between health and education. School nurses reach out to students in the schools, their homes and in the community to help them achieve the highest possible health for the highest possible learning.

The goal of the School Nurse is to promote a safe and healthy community in which the students will be encouraged to become life-long learners, self-managers and self-advocates for health, education and other issues.

The Scope of School Nurse Practice

The scope of the professional nurse's practice includes many roles:

- **Clinician** – Identifies students with special healthcare needs. Performs nursing assessments, screenings and evaluations. Develops individualized health care plans. Provides emergency care for illness and injury. Performs special procedures and administers medications in school.
- **Consultant** – Advocates for wellness activities. Interprets student health needs and works with parents and school staff to prevent health problems from impacting school performance. Provides information about treatment resources to families. Serves on health curriculum committees and helps develop school health policies.
- **Researcher** – Continually gathering and analyzing data to look for trends in an effort to improve health care for students and staff.
- **Educator** – Conducts workshops and training around school health needs. Serves as a classroom resource on health topics. Educates students and staff on self management of health. Teaches in many formal (classroom settings, in-services) and informal (spontaneous teaching moments in the clinic) venues on a variety of health related topics.
- **Manager** – Coordinates health care in school for students with chronic, complex or handicapping conditions. Monitors communicable disease and students' compliance with immunizations.

Texas School Nurses Make a Difference

- Advances in health care have increased the life expectancy of children with birth defects and chronic diseases. School nurses are a vital "related service" under IDEA, helping to ensure all students receive optimal education.
- Texas school nurses are RNs (Registered Nurses) who bring professional expertise in health, wellness, prevention, chronic diseases, mental health and growth and development to the educational team.
- Schools with a full time school nurse have lower absenteeism and higher graduation rates.
- As many as 25% of students served by school nurses receive no other medical care.