

***Every Child Deserves a School Nurse***  
Quote: NASN (National Association of School Nurses)

**What does the school nurse do?**

**Answer:** The primary role of the school nurse is to support student learning. The school nurse accomplishes this by implementing strategies that promote student and staff health and safety.

**What difference does a school nurse make?**

**Answer:** School nurses promote a safe learning environment for students with life threatening allergies, arthritis, asthma, bleeding disorders, cancer, cardiac conditions, cystic fibrosis, diabetes, ADHD, depression, , neurological conditions, eating disorders, seizure disorders, sickle cell anemia, mental health issues as well as first aid, CPR, and emergency management planning.

2007 - 2008 Florida DOH statistics show:

- Average student health room visit per day - 75,138 daily
- Average medication doses per day - 20,013 daily
- Nursing assessments - 3,127,105 yearly
- Paraprofessional services - 3,243,179 yearly
- Medication services - 20,013 daily
- Complex medical services - 587,544 yearly
- Vision screenings - 803,949 yearly
- Hearing screenings - 684,719 yearly
- Health education - 89,275 yearly
- Other services - 172,008 yearly

**Just for the record!**

- ✓ School nurses are present in every school system throughout the state. There are 36 ARNP's, 774 RN's, 430 LPN's and 918 Health Aides in 3484 public schools and 30 private schools throughout the state.
- ✓ School nursing and school health services reduce absenteeism. Over 86% of all students seen in the school nurse office are returned to class.
- ✓ The health of school children has become more complex. One of every five children has a chronic health condition which they must address or treat every day of their lives. These are children with severe allergies, asthma, diabetes, epilepsy, cancer and other special health care needs. These students with chronic medical conditions are enrolled in all of our schools, not just placed in special schools. In addition, there has been a rise in social problems among our youth such as substance abuse, depression and violence.
- ✓ The DOH states the role of the basic school nurse is to appraise, protect and promote the health of students. We see more than 75,000 students a day!