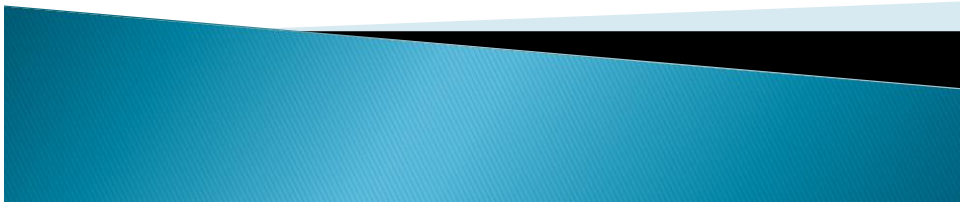


# **Gauging the Impact of School-Based Health Care on Students' Health, Wellbeing and Educational Outcomes**

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Thomas Stinson, Ed.D, RN, LSN



## **Topics to be Discussed**

- ▶ Introduction
- ▶ School Nurses = Health Care System
- ▶ Framework For Discussion
- ▶ Social Justice
- ▶ Benefits Of School Nurses – Research Based
- ▶ Effective and Efficient
- ▶ Opportunity Gap



## Introduction

- ▶ During contract negotiations with school districts, the important role of what the school nurse has to offer is difficult to explain
- ▶ Administration does not see the impact of school nurses nor do they see school nursing as an asset
- ▶ It is important to have research based data to support how/why nurses are valuable and a vital member of our school community



## School Nurses = Health Care System

- ▶ Complex chronic conditions produces significant numbers of children who lack access to regular healthcare. (Akinbami, 2006; Brown & Bzosteck, 2003)
- ▶ Registered Nurses (RNs) are needed to assist with the health care delivery at all levels (NASN, 1995, 2003, 2010)
- ▶ Coordinated school health should be understood as an investment in our collective well-being. Long term outcomes are even more dramatic (O'Rourke, 2005)
- ▶ Healthy children were able to participate more actively in their education (NASN, 2010; USDHHS, 2000) and would become the healthy workforce of the future.
- ▶ Percy (2006) stated students may visit school nurses on their own accord or they may be referred
- ▶ Appointments, enrollments, transportation, fees, or insurance are not needed for children to receive assessments and care from school nurses (Percy, 2006)
- ▶ Fleming (2011) found school nurses were the only health providers who offered, free and open access to healthcare for all public schoolchildren

## Framework for Discussion

4 essential components to my plan

- Social Justice
- Benefits of School Nurses – Research Based
- Effective and Efficient
- Opportunity Gap



## Social Justice

- ▶ Responsibility to stand up for students/families/staff
- ▶ We are the voice
- ▶ Its our obligation to educate everyone
- ▶ Healthcare is a Right – Students have a right to access
- ▶ Healthy Students = Healthy Adults
- ▶ AFT / Congress / Connecticut



## Benefits of School Nurses – Research Based

### ASSETS

- ▶ The school nurse served as an extension of traditional community health services (AAP, 2008)
- ▶ Electronic health records in schools that have a nurse (NASN, 2010) are more complete
- ▶ Baisch et. al., (2011) found “30% greater probability that there was a health alert in the student health record in schools with school nurses compared with no nurse”
- ▶ The emergency records of students in schools with nurses were significantly more complete (NASN, 2005, 2010; RWJF, 2011)

### IMPACT

- ▶ A student’s health status is directly related to their ability to learn. Children with unmet health needs have a difficult time engaging in the educational process (AAP, 2008)
- ▶ School nurses needed to be physically present (AAP, 2008; NASN, 2010) and improved student outcomes results where schools had a full-time nurse
- ▶ Healthy students had better attendance rates (USDHHS, 2000) and better focus.
- ▶ Nurses identified more students with chronic health conditions, assisted more students in managing these conditions, identified/treated more accidents and injuries, and counseled more students (Akinbami, 2006; Brown & Bzosteck, 2003)

## Effective and Efficient

- ▶ School boards need quality evaluation data to justify hiring and retaining school nurses to support a healthy environment
- ▶ Baisch, M., Lundeen, L., & Murphy, M. (2011). Evidence-based research on the value of school nurses in an urban school system. *Journal of School Health*, 81(2), 74-80
- ▶ The total annual savings in staff time per school based on changes in time spent dealing with health concerns when a school nurse is present may be estimated at over \$133,000
- ▶ The average salary and benefits (61%) for a school nurse in this district at that time was \$72,450
- ▶ Principals/Assistant principals reported a decrease of 57 minutes spent dealing with health care issues each day
- ▶ Clerical staff-46 minutes per day
- ▶ Teachers reported a decrease of 20 minutes per day

## Opportunity Gap

- ▶ AFT-This is what we do
- ▶ Instead of looking/blaming others
- ▶ Nurses can be part of the solution
- ▶ Freeing up time for teachers/admin/clerical staff to work
- ▶ Healthy students are better learners
- ▶ School nurses can directly decrease this gap

