



SCHOOL NURSES ORGANIZATION OF ARIZONA

PARTNERS IN HEALTH AND EDUCATION

Mission: The School Nurses Organization of Arizona (SNOA)

is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization, which advocates for and supports the health and educational success of Arizona's children by promoting the advancement of professional school nursing. Our goal is interactive leadership and the provision of educational opportunities.

NASN definition of a School Nurse

"School nurses, grounded in ethical and evidence-based practice, are the leaders who bridge health care and education, provide care coordination, advocate for quality student-centered care, and collaborate to design systems that allow individuals and communities to develop their full potential." *Adopted by the NASN Board of Directors February 2017.*

Important Upcoming Events

Save the Date

School Nurses of Arizona Conference

When: June 10th & June 11th, 2024

Time: 7:00am-4:00pm

Where: Desert Willow Conference Center
4340 E. Cotton Center Blvd Phoenix, AZ 85040

[Sign up here](#)



National Association of School Nurses 2024 Conference Stronger Together

When: Chicago, Illinois

In-Person: June 28 – July 1, 2024:

Virtual: July 8 – 10, 2024:

Where: Chicago, Illinois

[Sign up Here](#)



We celebrate you! We thank you for your amazing work and accomplishments. Happy School Nurse's Day.

Celebrate with the Arizona Department of Education, SNOA and the ASAP Program

Wednesday May 8th, 2024

3:30pm-4:30pm

[Register Here](#)

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Hello SNOA Members and Friends!

As this year wraps up, please take a few moments reflecting on your accomplishments, lives you saved (one way or the other), families you helped to support during tough times, student connections, positive relationships with staff, and your nursing practice in general.

If there are things you did very well, teach others. If there are things you would like to improve upon, learn from others. But remember there are “others”. We are all here for each other so reach out and make those connections. No one should ever feel alone. Colleagues across this state are just an email away to help answer questions, share ideas, or listen to you on a hard day.

Please take this summer to rejuvenate and focus on whatever it is that makes you happy.

Thank you,
Lisa Alexander, BSN, RN, NCSN
SNOA Board President



Current School Nurse Openings



Apply here

Positions for School nurse and support staff available.



Apply Here

2023-24 School
Nurse/Health assistant



Apply here

2024-2025
Contract Registered Nurse



Chino Valley Unified School district is looking for RN's for 2024-2025 School Year. **Apply here**



FUSD is hiring elementary school nurse positions for the 2024-2025 school year. Positions are open at Marshall Elementary and Killip/Thomas elementary schools. **Apply here**



PVSD is hiring for School Nurses/Health assistants and substitutes. **Apply here**

Summer Registered Nurse Opportunities

Looking for a Summer job and a Way to Beat the Heat?

Camp Not-A-Wheeze opened up its volunteer applications, available [HERE](#). They serve as a refuge for children with chronic lung and allergic conditions and are looking for medical volunteers to assist with medication administration and camper assessments. **Apply Here**



Camp Sunshine, located in Maine, provides retreats combining respite, recreation, and support, while enabling hope and promoting joy, for children with life-threatening illnesses and their families through the various stages of a child's illness.

The program is free of charge to families and includes on-site medical support. Bereavement sessions are also offered for families who have experienced the death of a child from a supported illness.

Volunteer Here



Also in Main is Camp Skylemar. Camp Skylemar offers top-notch instruction and enjoyment in sports, aquatics, outdoors, and other activities for 200 boys, ages 7-15. The RN position pays a competitive salary of \$1,000 per week, including housing, a travel stipend, meals, time off, staff clothing, WIFI, and a laundry service. The season runs from June 20 through August 11.



Apply here



The Arizona School Immunization Coalition

April Update

Submitted by Pat VanMaanen

Since we announced the Coalition in the SNOA winter newsletter issue, we have been working with the National Leadership Academy for the Public's Health (NLAPH) and our coach, Dr. Coswell Evans, to further develop our activities under the Coalition and to finalize our goals, strategies, and outcomes. To date, this work has been accomplished through virtual monthly meetings with the 5 other teams across the country, separate monthly virtual meetings of our Arizona team, and a 2-day retreat with leadership academy mentors and other teams from the cohort to develop reflective leadership practice.

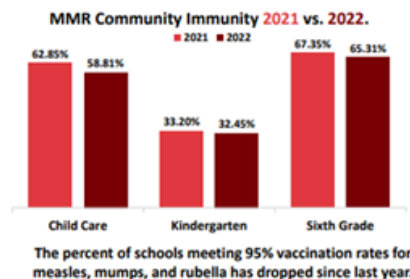
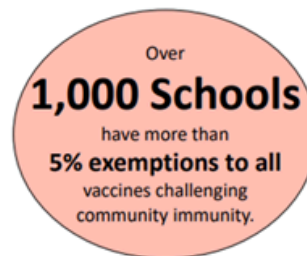
From these learnings and activities, we established a Project Goal, based on the 2022 Arizona Immunization coverage data provided by the Arizona Department of Health Services:

By the end of 2026, Arizona will have a 2% increase in school vaccine rates and a 1% decrease in personal belief exemption rates.

Three key strategies have been selected to accomplish the Project Goal:

- A **Resource Hub** to provide a centralized location to house vaccine information for school health office staff. The Hub will be launched in October 2024.
- A **Mentor Program** will be created for school health office staff to come alongside new school health office staff to facilitate immunization best practices across Arizona. A pilot mentor program with 6 school health office staff mentors is planned for 2025.
- A **Vaccine Advocacy Academy** for school health office staff will be designed and piloted to increase school health office staff advocacy for vaccines in Arizona. This will be implemented in 2026.

2022 Arizona Immunization Coverage



The Coalition has started work on the first strategy, the Resource Hub. TAPI has a dedicated page for school health office staff. This page contains resources for the school health office as well as materials to share with parents, school staff, and community members. We are reviewing this page to determine the effectiveness of the layout, the site usability, the content provided, the gaps in resources, and other components of a page to consider for the Resource Hub. We could use your guidance and input in this effort. A survey will be available at the SNOA Conference in June to address these questions. We ask for your help by completing the survey about what a Resource Hub needs to look like and contain to help you guide parents in obtaining immunizations for their school-age children. If you are not attending the SNOA Conference you are still welcome to participate in the survey. [Sign up now at this link](#), and when the survey is available, we will send you a link to complete it online. All school health office staff who complete the survey will be entered into a raffle for a \$250 gift card.

We are now past the 100th day of the 56th Legislature–Second Regular Session when, in typical years, they would be done with the state’s business, closed their offices, and returned to their district to prepare for the fall election. But this has turned out to be nothing close to a typical year. Bills are still being heard, and starting in April, only on Wednesdays. A budget is yet to be seen and a record number of elected officials have come and gone during this session.

In the March issue we highlighted, HB 2174-School personnel; emergency glucagon administration and HB 2484-Schools; health care services; posting. The Arizona School Access Program (ASAP) also interviewed two SNOA board members, Lisa Alexander and Sarah Portle, about testifying at the legislature for HB 2484 and provided a summary of their answers. But what has happened since then?

These bills have both reached the end of their journey. HB 2174 was successful in passing out of the House and the Senate with bipartisan support. It traveled to the Governor’s desk and was signed on March 29th. This law will go into effect 90 days after the legislative session sine dies.

HB 2484 followed a similar path, passing out of the House and the Senate, before ending up on a dead-end road when it returned to the House. In the Senate Education Committee, an amendment was added, and the bill was voted out of the Senate with this attached. While the amendment changed the bill and some could say it watered it down, it was still effective in educating staff, students, and parents about the credentials of the school health office staff. More importantly, the amendment was supported by the public and charter school associations, which was key to gaining bipartisan support.

What’s Happening at the State Legislature: School Nurse Edition

Submitted by Pat VanMaanen



Our excitement over the bill’s passage out of the Senate was short-lived when it returned to the House to meet a dead end; a sponsor who was no longer happy with the amendment and Senate Leadership not assigning conference committee members. This procedural inaction means the bill is essentially dead. While HB 2484 did not cross the finish line and become a bill this year, we did a great deal of education about school nursing and elevated school nursing in the legislature. A few legislators are teachers, in talking with them they admitted not knowing who was staffing their school’s health office and ‘assumed’ it was an RN. This increased awareness will help the next time school nurse legislation is introduced. For those who contacted your own state legislator or committee members when the bills were moving in the House or Senate, know your voice made a difference. The bill sponsors and committee members mentioned hearing from school nurses. You influenced their vote, thank you for advocating for school nursing.

We also elevated the importance of school nursing at the Arizona Nurses Association (AzNA) where we had the support of their policy committee and their lobbyist who was key in successfully seeking the education amendment to HB 2174 and navigating the many twists and turns with HB 2484 that gained the support of the school associations and moved the bill out of the Senate with bipartisan support. This was a significant accomplishment. To further support school nursing, the AzNA Political Action Committee (PAC) has added a school nurse question to their candidate survey this year. By partnering with AzNA, SNOA, has gained a strong partner, demonstrating how important and beneficial it is to see nurses supporting one another, no matter our discipline or specialties.

The session will continue until a budget is passed and signed by the Governor. SNOA and school nurses have gained positive ground this year, be proud of your accomplishments and start thinking about what to tackle next year, knowing you have new support and awareness from legislators and ongoing support from AzNA.

SCHOOL NURSE HIGHLIGHTS



Christine Mahoney, MSN.-ed. BSN

Christine Mahoney is a department specialist for health services with Mesa Unified School District. Tina became a school nurse after 15 years of Medical Psych nursing. She was a school nurse for 2 years at Las Sendas elementary and Falcon Hill elementary and then for 5 years at Shepherd Junior High School in Mesa. She left for a short time and taught Nursing Assisting at EVIT for 5 years and came back to Mesa and has been in her current role for 8 years.

When asked what she loves about school nursing she stated when in the school site setting and teaching at EVIT, she loved the diversity of needs and situations. She knows that we all go into nursing with a passion and desire to make a difference and help others and no matter what your specialty area or area of focus is, you bring that desire to the forefront in your delivery of care. She feels the flexibility of where you can go and what you can do in nursing is what drew her to this field initially but the satisfaction, she has received has been what has kept her here. She loves making a difference and contributing in making a difference in the kids' lives. She was drawn to get her Master's in nursing education because she had learned that the best thing you can assist someone else to do, is to advocate for themselves; whether they are a student, patient, co-worker, or fellow nurse. It is important to learn to seek out what you need and have the ability to empower people with the skills to do so is a vital skill. Christine also has two daughters, and 4 granddaughters, and is lucky enough to have her parents still with her and family comes first to her. The balance she has been able to develop between family and work life because of being a school nurse has always been her greatest joy.

What leadership opportunities do you feel you have been involved in and how have they helped your practice? "Many ADHS and ADE and AZNA committees through the years, as well as, holding the position of the SNOA Secretary for five years. To advocate for the needs of the profession you work in and to educate others as to the true role of the school nurse, you have to have a voice at the table. Arizona has no legislation for who needs to be in the school health office, and we are such a diverse state that each district determines what they feel is needed but many of the districts do not have an understanding of the scope of nursing practice or the legal parameters within which we must work related to our licensing. So, I look at my involvement in and on these committees, task forces, and organizations as a necessary role to educate, advocate and improve the practice of school nursing in our state; as well as inform and improve my knowledge base and experience."

What are the three qualities of a good school nurse? Flexibility, empathy, and critical thinking (not necessarily in that order) are the first that come to mind. School nursing is a very autonomous career, especially in Arizona, as there is very little state oversight, guidance or support from that level and at a district level the support and resources vary so that question can have many answers depending on what your experiences are or have been. Christine's advice for new school nurses is make sure that you seek out opportunities for engagement with other district nurses, get involved in committees and your professional organizations as they are your support and together you support each other. Find your voice and advocate for you, your students and your staff. Keep your knowledge base up to date and not only know but work within your practice guidelines. You are a nurse first, and just because you are working in the school setting does not mean that you take your nurse hat off. Have your own malpractice insurance and make sure to practice self-care, fill yourself up so you can do what you love or you will grow to resent it.

Her most memorable school nurse moment? She feels it would be hard for her to choose just one. "I think watching and following the growth of some of the students I have worked with over the years become successful young adults with passions and interests has been amazing." She takes great pride in the work she did as a member of the SNOA board and in her own role with Mesa Public Schools and she can only hope that what she has learned and developed over the years has made a difference for some of her fellow co-workers. She has truly enjoyed collaborating on things like policy statements, delivery of specialized care in the school setting, emergency guidelines, care plans, procedural guidelines, state screening rules, and IEP's.

Thank you, Christine for inspiring others through your service in various ways to improve school nursing!

Have you witnessed an exceptional school nurse in your practice you would like to recognize? Reach out to amparker3@mpsaz.org so that we can highlight the work of school nursing and its importance in educational practice.

RESOURCES

Healthy Kids AZ App

- Created for Arizona's school nurses and childcare staff who take care of our pediatric population on a daily basis.
- Up to date information on infectious disease and injury prevention flipcharts, AZ specific vaccine information, infection control guidance, and much more.



2-1-1 Arizona

- Supplemental Food and Nutrition Programs
- Shelter and Housing Options
- Utilities Assistance
- Emergency Information and Disaster Relief
- Employment and Education Opportunities
- Services for Veterans
- Healthcare, vaccination and health epidemic information
- Addiction Prevention and Rehabilitation Programs
- Re-entry help for ex-offenders
- Support groups for individuals with mental illnesses or special needs
- A safe, confidential path out of physical and/or emotional domestic violence



Arizona Department of Education

This page is designed to provide School Nursing and Health Staff with specialized resources and detailed information on the guidelines surrounding School Health Services in Arizona.



ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

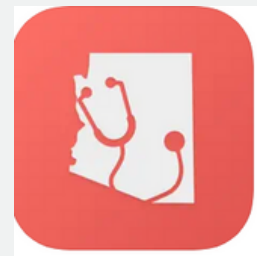
NASN Podcasts

NASN School Nurse chat podcasts provide updates on important topics and are easy to listen to on the go. Podcasts preview indepth articles that can improve nursing practice.



Az Infectious Disease Resource

This is a free mobile app where AZ healthcare providers can get the latest news and public health recommendations



What resources would you like to see added to this page? Email Us today!

Stay Up to date on News & Professional Development!

School Nurse Huddles with the Arizona Department of Education

Chat with school nurses and health office staff from across the state to share ideas, address challenges, gather updates, and receive support.

When: The third Wednesday of every month

Time: 2:00–3:00pm MST

[Register here](#)

Professional Development Opportunities

If you are not yet a National Association of School Nurses (NASN) member, consider joining! The perks are endless. There are message boards to speak to colleagues on a national level, a learning center, access to vision vouchers for families in need, discounted prices on books, included membership into SNOA, and so much more!

[Sign up Now](#)

DITEP Training Courses (Drug Impairment Training for Educational Professionals)

May 20–21, 2024 Time TBD San Carlos High School 27010 E Highway 70 Peridot, AZ 85542
Paul Clark Allan **Paul.Clark@SierraVistaAZ.gov**

May 29–30, 2024 Time TBD Marana Unified School District Location TBD
Jerry Knepper **jknepper@azgohs.gov**

July 22–23, 2024 0800–1700 Flagstaff Unified School District 3285 E Sparrow Ave Flagstaff, AZ 86004
Tom Humphrey: **thumphrey@azdps.gov**



SCHOOL NURSING NURSING CONTINUING EDUCATION

SPRING & SUMMER 2024 SCHEDULE

SPRING CLASSES

INTRODUCTION TO SCHOOL NURSING | MARCH 25 – APRIL 12, 2024

NCE 225 | Class #17572 | Online Class | 2 credits – \$194

Registered nursing skills necessary to prepare for employment in a school health setting. Triaging, school health office management skills, legal issues, and scope of practice of the school nurse. Health screening basics, immunization protocols, emergency response skills and health teaching. Prerequisites: Current registered nurse (RN), or licensed practical nurse (LPN), or recent graduate of an accredited nursing program, or permission of instructor.

HEALTH ASSESSMENT OF THE SCHOOL AGED CHILD | APRIL 8 – MAY 10, 2024

NCE 232 | Class #17573 | Online Class | 3 credits – \$291

Comprehensive health assessment foundation. Development of interviewing skills, obtaining health histories, and conducting physical examinations on the school age child. Identification and management of minor illnesses and health problems common to school-age children. Prerequisites: School nurse or current registered nurse (RN) licensure.

SCHOOL NURSE EMERGENCY ASSESSMENT SKILLS | APRIL 29 – MAY 10, 2024

NCE 210 | Class #17576 | Online | 1 credit – \$97 per credit

Update of emergency assessment in the school setting. Includes emergency assessment of seizures, asthma, head and neck injuries, heat-related problems, bites, stings, burns, orthopedic injuries and abused substances. Prerequisites: School nurse, school health aid, other health professionals or permission of the instructor.

SUMMER CLASSES

FUNDAMENTALS OF SCHOOL NURSING PRACTICE | MAY 20 – JUNE 21, 2024

NCE 234 | Class #17042 | Online Class | 3 credits – \$291

Assessment, development, implementation and evaluation of school health programming. Focus on nursing theory as it relates to school health programming. Program management, professional development, dealing with change, health education, interdisciplinary interaction and role of the professional nurse in the school setting. Prerequisites: School nurse or current registered nurse (RN) licensure.

RECOGNIZING SKIN RASHES IN THE SCHOOL AGED CHILD | MAY 20 – JUNE 21, 2024

NCE 131 | Class # 17044 | Online Class | 0.5 credit – \$48.50

Recognition of common childhood rashes, identify allergic rash manifestations, communicable rashes and infectious rashes. Prerequisites: Current Arizona Registered Nurse (RN) license or Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) license or permission of instructor.

PEDIATRIC DIABETES | JUNE 3 – JUNE 21, 2024

NCE 271 | Class #17043 | Online Class | 0.5 credit – \$48.50

Provides an overview of diabetes in the pediatric population. Epidemiology and etiology, types of diabetes in children and symptom recognition, medication and diet management, complications, new technological devices, and family interventions. Prerequisites: Current Arizona Registered Nurse (RN) license or Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) license or permission of instructor.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT [GATEWAYCC.EDU/NURSING-CONTINUING-EDUCATION](https://gatewaycc.edu/nursing-continuing-education)

TO OBTAIN PERMISSION FOR ENROLLMENT, PLEASE CONTACT:

Jeanette Peterson, Program Director Nursing Continuing Education at jeanette.peterson@gatewaycc.edu.

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The Maricopa County Community College District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs or activities. For Title IX/504 concerns, call the following number to reach the appointed coordinator: (480) 731-8499. For additional information, as well as a listing of all coordinators within the Maricopa College system, <https://www.maricopa.edu/non-discrimination>.



**GATEWAY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE**
A MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGE



**MARICOPA
COMMUNITY COLLEGES**

Be a Part of Today's Research



The NASN director from Oregon hopes that you will take a few minutes to provide data for a new study on Rural school nursing.

Preliminary purposes of a RSN Focus Group

To share experiences and support one another.

Goals

To discover what we know, determine what we need to know, and define needed research into the unique challenges to rural school nurse practice in the rural setting. The hope is to describe (and research) effective supports for school nurses practicing in the rural setting.

Questions Needing Response

- What does rural school nursing mean to you?
- What is the most important work that we should address?
- What are unique challenges to school nursing practice faced by nurses in rural settings?
- What are some supports you would like to see for rural school nurse practice?
- Do you have a story which exemplifies rural school nursing practice?
- What do you wish school nurse leadership hears about rural school nursing practice?
- Is there something else you would like to add that we have not asked?

[Submit your Responses Press Here](#)

DISORDERED EATING PREVENTION



ARIZONA DEPARTMENT
OF HEALTH SERVICES

PREVENTION SERVICES

Public health training series

Disordered eating has negative impacts on physical and mental health and is a growing public health concern. Nearly 1 in 3 Arizona teens are using unhealthy behaviors to control their weight and 9% of Arizonans will have an eating disorder in their lifetime. Join this training series to learn more about disordered eating, eating disorders and body image and explore prevention strategies and available resources. **Together, we can make a difference.**

WED | APRIL 17, 2024

Disordered Eating & Eating Disorders



12 PM - 1:30 PM

**MEGAN KNISKERN, MS, RD,
LDN, CEDS-C**

Certified Eating Disorder Dietitian



1:45 PM - 3:15 PM

LESLEY WILLIAMS, MD

Eating Disorder Specialist

THURS | APRIL 25, 2024

Supportive & Protective Environments



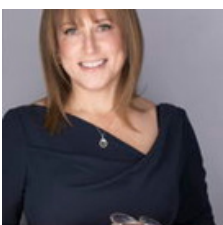
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

LISA RADZAK

Executive Director | WithAll

TUES | APRIL 30, 2024

Body Image & Body Confident Schools



9:00 AM - 10:30 AM

DENISE HAMBURGER

Executive Director | BE REAL USA

FREE & VIRTUAL

This learning opportunity has been designed for **school and public health professionals working with adolescents in AZ** including school nurses, counselors, social workers, psychologists, health and PE teachers, coaches and more!

REGISTER HERE



Offering up to 6 CE Hours



THE 2024 SNOA ELECTIONS

**NOMINATE YOUR
CANDIDATE**
(ONLY OPEN TO SNOA MEMBERS)

[Press here to Nominate a SNOA member](#)

Deadline for nominations: May 3rd @ 4:00pm

Elections May 6th-May 17th

Board Positions up for Nomination

Vice President

Treasurer

NASN Delegate at Large

**RESPONSIBILITIES OF EACH ROLE IN SNOA BYLAWS
([PRESS HERE](#))**

SNOA/NASN Board **OPENINGS**

**Elections this Spring to start June 2024
after the Summer conference**

- Treasurer
- Vice President

Election this Spring to start December 2024:

NASN Board of Directors



Only Active members of the SNOA/NASN Organization who are working in the field of school nursing shall be eligible for nomination to the Board. For a description of duties for each position listed above, please email me at lialexander@pusd11.net

CONTACT US

- **Lisa Alexander, President - Lialexander@pusd11.net**
- **Rachel Muth , President-Elect - rmuth@pvschools.net**
- **McKenzie Bevirt, Interim Vice President mbevirt@fusd1.org**
- **Sandra Brown, Treasurer - skbrown@mpsaz.org**
- **Alana Parker, Interim Secretary-amparker3@mpsaz.org**
- **Sarah Portle, NASN Board Rep - sarah@azffn.org**

