



Pennsylvania
Department of Health

AUGUST 4, 2026

Voices of School Health Update

Bureau of Community Health Systems

Division of School Health

Colleen Schultz, Division Director

Sheri Mountz, NE School Nurse Consultant

Session Overview

- Division of School Health Overview
- Updates & School Health Legislation
- Frequently Asked Topics
- Continuing Education and Resources



Division of School Health

School Health Division Director

- Colleen Schultz, M.Ed., CSN RN

School Health Consultants

- Sheri Mountz, RN
- Ed Woods, RN
- Tammy Burford, RN
- Sharon Lawrence, RN
- Donna Wiles, RN
- Dawn Mosbacher, RN

Bureau Administrative Support

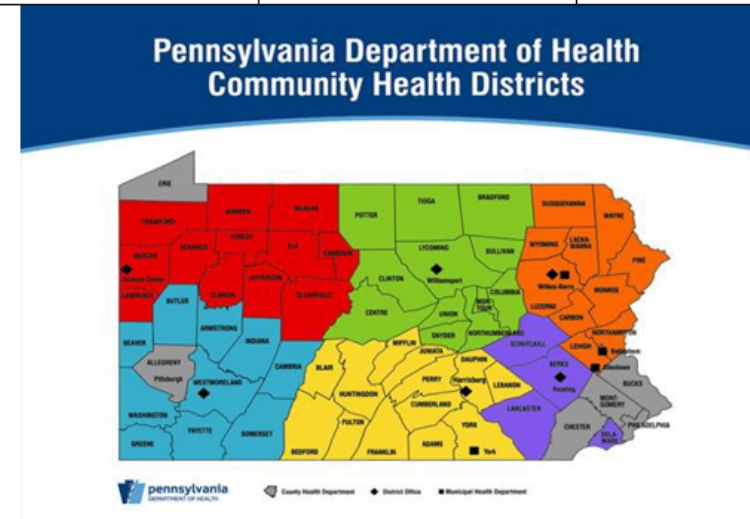
- Rachel Roach, Administrative Officer 1



General Reminders

- A reminder to not share any personally identifiable information when sending e-mails to school health consultants.
- Provide updated information to your school health nurse consultant regarding new nurses, retirements, etc. to add to their distribution lists.

Northwest District Dawn Mosbacher dmosbacher@pa.gov (717) 503-2096 Cameron, Clarion, Clearfield, Crawford, Elk, Erie, Forest, Jefferson, Lawrence, McKean, Mercer, Venango, and Warren	Northcentral District Donna Wiles dowiles@pa.gov (570) 875-8674 Bradford, Centre, Clinton, Columbia, Lycoming, Montour, Northumberland, Potter, Snyder, Sullivan, Tioga, and Union	Northeast District Sheri Mountz smountz@pa.gov (570) 892-4080 Carbon, Lackawanna, Lehigh, Luzerne, Monroe, Northampton, Pike, Susquehanna, Wayne, and Wyoming
Southwest District Tammy Burford tburford@pa.gov (724) 290-7526 Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Cambria, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Somerset, Washington, and Westmoreland	Southcentral District Ed Woods edwoods@pa.gov (717) 736-7375 Adams, Bedford, Blair, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Lebanon, Mifflin, Perry, and York	Southeast District Sharon Lawrence sharolawre@pa.gov (570) 590-9551 Berks, Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Lancaster, Montgomery, Philadelphia, and Schuylkill



School Health Website

Main Webpage

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Medical Marijuana >

Opioid Use Disorder >

School Health v

Abuse (Adult and Child)

Act 117 - Parental Education of Type 1 Diabetes

Act 48

Seizure Recognition and Related First Aid Training

The School Health Program is the oldest program of public health services in Pennsylvania, with responsibilities predating 1895. The program serves all children of school age attending public, private and non-public schools in Pennsylvania and is responsible for providing technical assistance, training and coordination of programs and services to schools, parents and the community at large regarding school health programs and services.

School Health Updates → School Health Consultants →

Search

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Act 48

Act 48 of 1999 requires all Pennsylvania educators holding Pennsylvania public school certification (including Instructional I and II, Educational Specialist I and II, Administrative, Supervisory, Let...

School Health A Department of Health

Act 84 - Seizure Recognition and Related First Aid Training

On November 17, 2021, Act 84 was signed into law in Pennsylvania. This law, which is effective at the beginning of the 2022-2023 school year, added section 1414.11, related to seizure recognition and ...

S School Health Department of Health

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Emailed Updates

- 2025 School Health Update December 2025 ↗
- 2025 School Health Update August 2025 ↗
- 2024 School Health Update February 2024 ↗
- 2023 School Health Update August 2023 ↗
- 2023 School Health Update February 2023 ↗
- 2022 School Health Update August 2022 ↗
- 2022 School Health Update February 2022 ↗

PowerPoint Presentations

- 2024 School Health Update ↗
- 2023 School Health Update ↗
- 2022 School Health Update ↗

Department Resources

Immunizations Questions/Contact: Bureau of Immunizations 717-787-5681

[School Immunizations](#) | [Department of Health](#) | [Commonwealth of Pennsylvania](#)

School Immunization Law Report (SILR) questions:

Contact Janine Strick at 717-787-5681

Communicable/Vaccine Preventable Diseases: Contact County/Municipal Health Dept:

[State Health Centers](#) | [Department of Health](#) | [Commonwealth of Pennsylvania](#)

[County-Municipal Health Depts](#) | [Department of Health](#) | [Commonwealth of Pennsylvania](#)

[28 Pa. Code Chapter 27. Communicable And Noncommunicable Diseases](#)

Reportable Disease: Contact local Department of Health state health center (SHC)/district office or county/municipal health department (1-877-724-3258).

[Reportable Diseases](#) | [Department of Health](#) | [Commonwealth of Pennsylvania](#)



Division of School Health Updates

Measles

Current information including a Measles Dashboard is located on the Department of Health website

[Measles](#)

Measles Fact Sheets and audience specific information are available for [parents/guardians](#) and [schools/childcare facilities](#)



DIVISION UPDATE

Bureau of Epidemiology Updates

Air Quality Resources:

[Air Quality Nano Training](#)

[United States EPA Tools for Schools](#)

Recently updated Pennsylvania Department of Health Resources for Tickborne Diseases:

[Tickborne Diseases of Pennsylvania Booklet](#)

[Tickborne Diseases of Pennsylvania Booklet \(Spanish\)](#)

[Pocket Guide to Ticks in Pennsylvania](#)

[Schools and Camps Resources](#)



Modifications

Per the Public School Code, Article XIV, Section 1402(f), schools may request a modification to change the grades in which mandated examinations and dental screenings are completed.

- Minimum number of examinations/dental screenings must match those required by law/regulation.
 - Example: a school may request to complete physicals on original entry, in 6th grade and in 9th grade. This would be at each transition phase from elementary to middle school to high school.
- Schools may also request to accept **private** physical and dental exams performed one year prior to the grade in which they are mandated.
- Exams by the school provider must be performed in the mandated grade.

[Mandated School Health Program](#)

Note new address to submit modification requests:

Division of School Health
2433 Jefferson St., Harrisburg, PA 17110



Immunizations

All immunization questions must be directed to the Bureau of Immunizations

➤ 717-787-5681

Links to Additional Resources:

- [Immunizations](#)
- [General Immunization Guidance](#)
- [School Immunizations](#)
- [PIERS](#)



School Immunizations

Not impacted by any CDC Immunization schedule changes

Section 23.83

Lists specific vaccines required for school attendance in Pennsylvania

Additional immunization information and resources can be found below:

<https://www.pa.gov/agencies/health/programs/immunizations>



Menstrual Hygiene Product Funding

Act 55 of 2024 established funding for menstrual hygiene products for schools



26-27 budget continues funding of \$3 million



Funds will be distributed through state FAI system

Funding is proportional to the total number of students enrolled in a school.

Schools may use the funding for feminine hygiene product purchases made between July 1, 2026, and June 30, 2027.



Requirements

NEW Background Check Requirement – Effective July 7, 2025

Applicants for a multistate license issued by the State Board of Nursing must obtain a criminal history record check from [the state in which they reside](#) **and** complete the process for a fingerprint-based FBI background check through IdentoGO.

Licensees renewing their Pennsylvania or multistate licenses are **NOT** required to obtain a background check for renewal.



Updated Licensure Renewal Information

[Registered Nurses Licensure Snapshot | Department of State | Commonwealth of Pennsylvania](#)

Education Required for Biennial Renewal:

To renew license every two years, licensees must complete 30 hours of continuing education, which must include 2 hours of approved training in how to recognize and report child abuse.

*Beginning May 1, 2026, **all RNs** must complete 2 hours of organ donation education one time within 5 years.



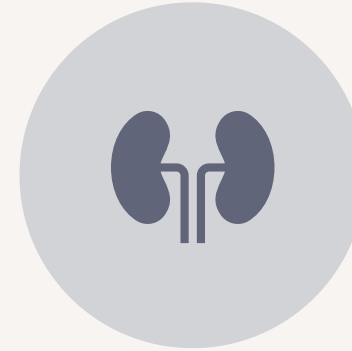
Education Required for Biennial Renewal



[PENNSYLVANIA BULLETIN](#)



[ORGAN-AND-TISSUE-DONATION-AND-RECOVERY-PROCESS-CE.PDF](#)



Organ donation
education

INFORMATION ABOUT THE
ORGAN DONATION EDUCATION
PROVIDED BY THE CENTER FOR
ORGAN RECOVERY AND
EDUCATION/GIFT OF LIFE
DONOR PROGRAM CAN BE
FOUND AT:

[HTTPS://TPR.JOTFORM.COM/26034349
3443961](https://TPR.JOTFORM.COM/260343493443961)



PASNAP NAME UPDATE

PASNAP soon to be APPSN



PASNAP will officially become the Association of Pennsylvania Professional School Nurses!



The Pennsylvania Association of School Nurses and Practitioners (PASNAP), soon to be the Association of Professional School Nurses (APPSN), is the professional home for school nurses, open to all certified school nurses and school nurse practitioners in Pennsylvania. Associate membership is also available to individuals and corporations interested in school health.

Anti-Choking Devices

FDA Safety Communication for Anti-Choking Devices March 4, 2026

Encourages public to follow established choking rescue protocols during choking emergencies

Details actions FDA has taken to address marketing of unauthorized anti-choking devices

- Warning Letters
- Important Alert
- Additional information on FDA website: [Safety Communication Encouraging the Public to Follow Established Choking Rescue Protocols](#)



Legislation



Epinephrine Act 195 and Neffy

[Act 195 of 2014 School Access to Emergency Epinephrine](#)

Act 195 **allows** school entities to train school employees in:

- Recognition of anaphylaxis
- Administration of epinephrine **auto-injectors** to students

Does not allow non-licensed persons to administer other forms of epinephrine (e.g., nasal spray)



House Bill 2117

Ensuring Lifesaving Asthma Medication is Available for Students



[House Bill 2117](#)



Adds language for short acting asthma medication, and revises epinephrine definition in School Code.



Passed in the PA House on June 3, and moved to PA Senate Education Committee for consideration June 5.

"...administer to a student an epinephrine [auto-injector] delivery system or short-acting asthma medication that meets the prescription on file for either the individual student or the school entity or nonpublic school; and (3) administer an epinephrine [auto-injector] delivery system or short-acting asthma medication that meets the prescription on file for the school entity or nonpublic school to a student that the employee in good faith believes to be having an anaphylactic reaction or asthma episode."

SCHOOL NURSE RATIO AND REIMBURSEMENT

House Bill 2285 – Reimbursement Reform and School Nurse Ratios



Voted out of House Education Committee March 24, 2026, and laid on the table.



Would increase Act 25 non-categorical rate from \$9.70 to \$12.61 per Average Daily Membership (ADM)



Updates staffing ratio to 1:750



[House Bill 2285](#)



Act 122 – Vision Screening



Proposed Regulations posted in PA Code and Bulletin



[Regulation # 10-241 Proposed Vision Screening](#)

VISION SCREENING

Instrument Based Screening

Schools may use screening devices to assist in screening efforts as long as they conform to current vision screening guidelines.

- Photoscreeners and Autorefractors:
 - Do NOT perform visual acuity testing.
 - Not appropriate for children over the age of 5 yrs.
- From page 8 of PA DOH Division of School Health Vision Guidelines:
 - Visual acuity for each eye must be recorded on the student's health record.
 - Acuity is written as a fraction:
 - Top number = distance from the chart.
 - Bottom number = smallest line the student reads correctly.



Act 17 of 2026

AED's at Interscholastic Events

Bill language provides a 3-year window from bill passage for school entities and nonpublic schools to comply

Coordinated responsibilities between multiple agencies and departments including: Pennsylvania Department of Education, Pennsylvania Department of Health, Pennsylvania Department of General Services and the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency

Sections addressed in Act 17 include:

- Section 1423.1. AED and CPR Instruction and Procedure
- Section 1423.2. Automated External Defibrillator Program
- Section 1423.3. Availability and Specifications of Automated External Defibrillators



Overview of Act 17 Provisions



Expands School Safety and Security Grant Program to include funding for AED purchases and related training



Requires school entities and nonpublic schools to offer CPR/AED training to all employees and volunteers at least every two years



Requires AED/CPR certification for school nurses (or designee), athletic coaches, marching band director, physical education teachers and athletic trainers



Each school entity shall ensure that at least one (1) individual trained and certified in the use of an AED and CPR is present in each school building during each school day



Schools participating in interscholastic athletics must ensure at least one certified individual is present at all athletic venues with access to an AED



Requires development and annual review of a Cardiac Emergency Response Plan (CERP), including drills, AED placement protocols and designated trained personnel



Act 20 of 2026

House Bill 1505 – Omnibus School Code Bill passed as part of 2026-2027 state budget

BMI Screening Updates (Sections 1402 and 1408):

- Allows parent/guardian to exempt their child from annual height and weight measurement if the parent provides the request in writing.
- Height and weight screening must be done by a school nurse or “other health care practitioner” and be done in a manner that protects student confidentiality.
- Height and weight measurements shall be calculated into a body mass index solely for the purpose of reporting.
- A school may not deliver a student's body mass index to either the student or the student's parent/guardian unless requested in writing.



Act 20 of 2026

Eating Disorder Awareness Education (Section 1426):

- Tasks the Joint State Government Commission with establishing an Eating Disorder Advisory Committee to offer recommendations to Department of Education and Department of Health on eating disorder awareness and education.
- Department of Health to develop and distribute the educational materials based upon the Advisory Committee recommendations.
- Department of Education to post materials on their website in a variety of languages.



Ratios and Acuity

School Nurses - PA

PA one of 12 states that either recommend or require specific student to nurse ratios

- [PA School Code Section 1402 \(a.1\)](#)
 - Every child of school age shall be provided with school nurse services: Provided, however, That the number of pupils under the care of each school nurse shall not exceed one thousand five hundred (1,500)
- Ratios range from 1:500 (Alabama, Vermont) to 1:3,000 (Tennessee)
- Given the increasing complexity of student health needs, the National Association of School Nurses no longer recommends specific student to nurse ratios

Reference:

ChildTrends (2022) *State Laws on School Nursing Outline Copious Responsibilities for Nurses* (Research Brief)
<https://childtrends.org/publications/state-laws-on-school-nursing-outline-copious-responsibilities-for-nurses>



NASN Position Statement - Staffing

Updated June 2025

Staffing based upon multiple factors:

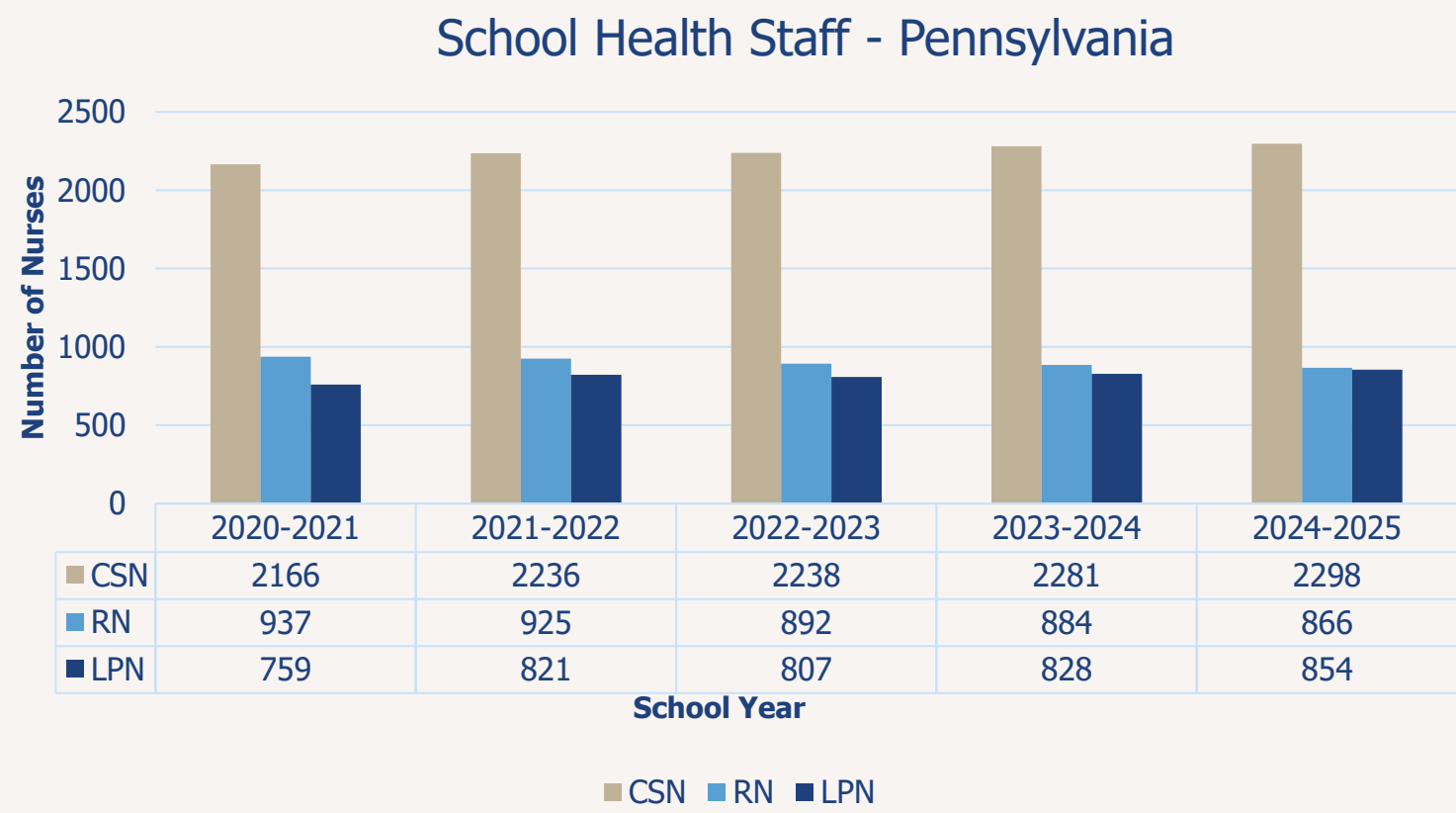
- Student population health acuity and needs
- Sociocultural, economic, and environmental influences on health in the community
- School characteristics (number of students, demographics, number and proximity of school buildings served by school nurse, geographic location and type of community (urban, suburban, rural))

National Association of School Nurses (NASN) Position Statement:

[School Nurse Workload – Essential Staffing for Safe and Equitable Student Care](#)

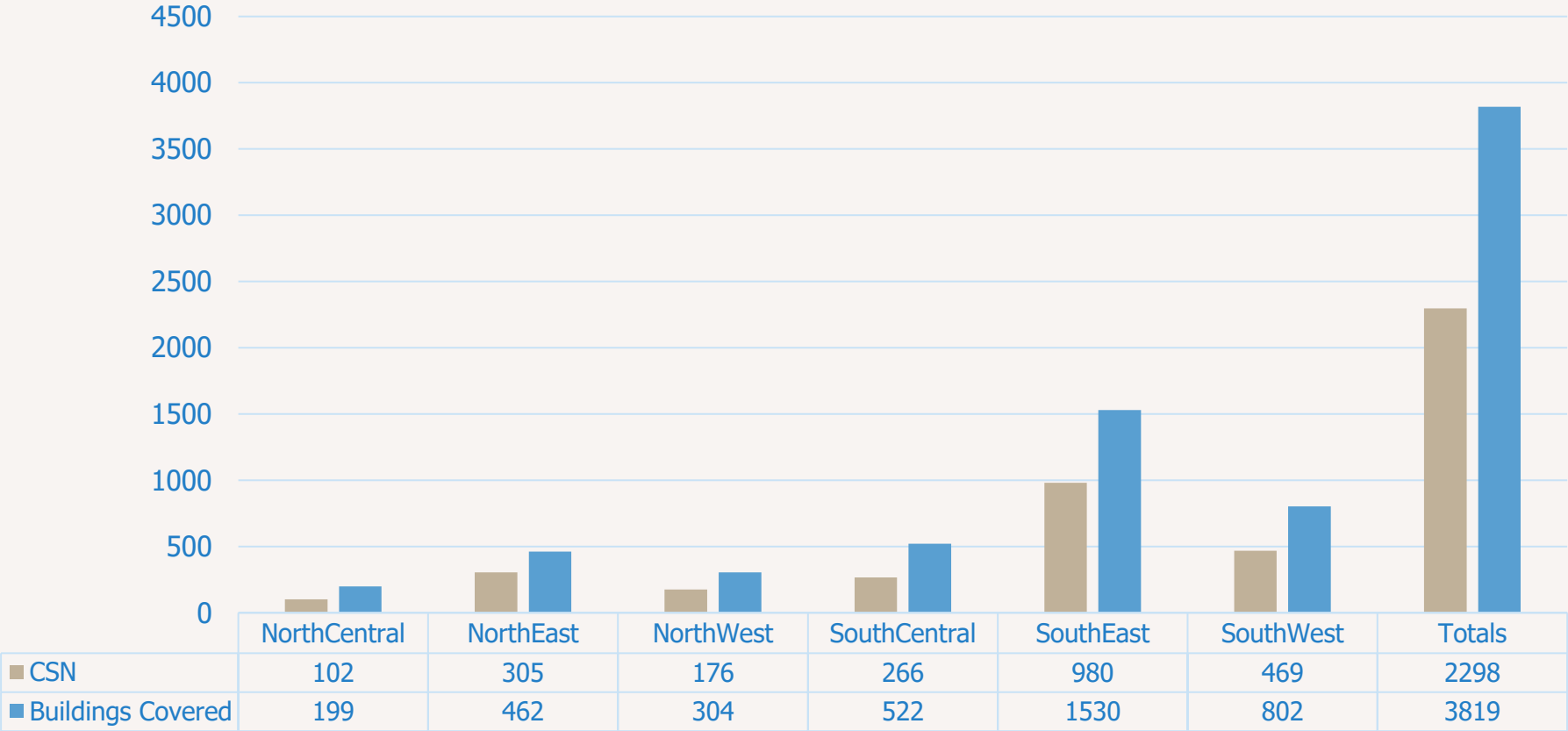


School Health Staff Statewide



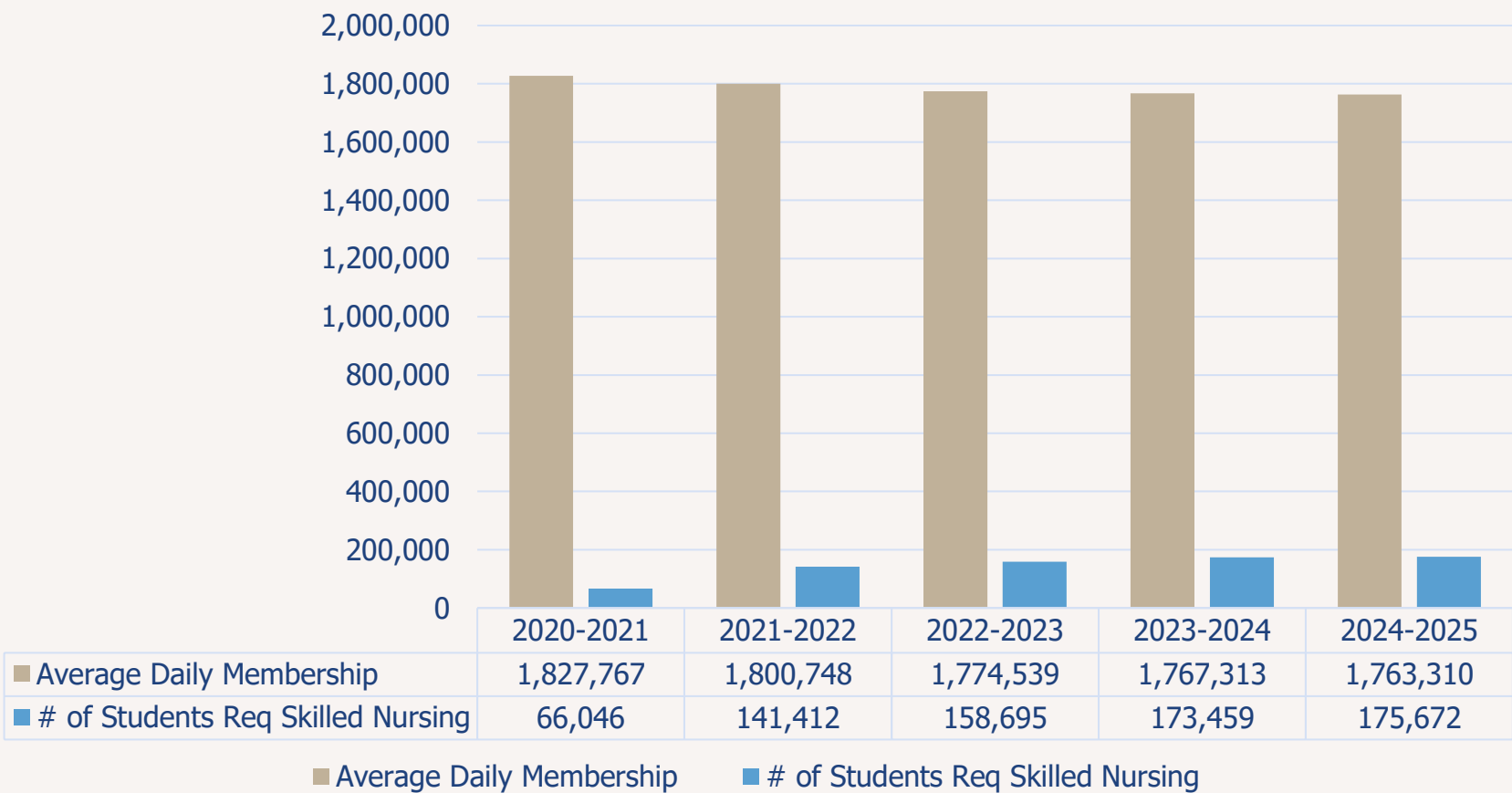
Certified School Nurses - Region

Building Coverage of Certified School Nurses by Region 24-25 SY



Skilled Nursing Visits - State

Number of K-12 Students Requiring Skilled Nursing – Pennsylvania



Agency Nurses

AGENCY NURSES

Recommendations

The Division of School Health recommends the following be agreed upon and in place prior to agency nurses entering the school with the student:

- All appropriate school personnel, certified school nurses (CSNs), agency personnel, parents, physician, etc. develop a plan of care (504/IEP) that includes how care/treatment will be provided to students with agency nurses at all times while the student is under school jurisdiction.

If there is a medical order that the child must have 1:1 care:

- Coverage plan developed if Agency Nurse or UAP are unavailable. CSN also should have any orders for these children in the event an agency nurse or UAP are not available for the day.
- Agency nurses usually have their own orders specific for “agency nurses.”
- The CSN should have orders, parent permission, and care plans for the school.



Considerations

A CSN is always responsible for managing the caseload, including those students with agency or private duty nurses, while students are under school jurisdiction.

School jurisdiction, includes, but is not limited to:

- on the way to and from school while in school furnished transportation
- class time (including lunch, recess, physical education)
- school sponsored extracurricular activities, field trips, and camps
- non-PIAA sports/athletic activities (such as intramural activities and clubs)

The Pennsylvania Public School Code defines a “school nurse,” in part, as a “licensed registered nursed properly certified.” 24 P.S. § 14-1401(8). Additionally, “[e]very child of school age shall be provided with school nurse services” and “pupils under the care of each school nurse shall not exceed one thousand five hundred (1,500).” 24 P.S. § 14-1402(a.1).



Outplaced Students

Outplaced Students

Prior to students being placed in other settings it is recommended that both facilities discuss how the healthcare needs of the student will be met including all the mandated health services.

Recommended that this be outlined in the students Plan of Care (IEP/504) with all parties in agreement.

PA Dept. of Education Basic Education Circulars

[Placement Options for Special Education | Department of Education | Commonwealth of Pennsylvania](#)

Considerations for Locating Staff

Considerations for locating school nurses/substitutes

- Confer with neighboring schools on the development of a substitute list. Combine resources.
- Have an R.N. get emergency certified.
- Nursing agencies. Include all agencies within your area.
- Connect with local college/university nursing programs.
- Provide orientation/information session on school nursing. Invite all nursing students, agency nurses, etc. Emphasis on the unique value of school nursing.
- Retired nurses
- Job postings on school's website, listservs, newspapers



Job Posting Resources

- Some schools post substitute positions on their website and provide a link to online application.

- Contact PASNAP (APPSN) as they may be able to post openings on their websites:

[The Pennsylvania Association of School Nurses and Practitioners | Nursing Network](#)

- PDE has a page where they link to all the schools employment pages by county.

<https://www.education.pa.gov/Educators/RecruitRecog/CareerOpps/Pages/default.aspx>



Medications: Delivery, Count, Security and Disposal

Medication Guidelines



Issued pursuant to [22 Pa. Code §12.41 \(a\)](#)

Purpose: to help Pennsylvania schools ensure the safe and proper administration of medications to students.

- requires school entities to —...prepare a written plan for the implementation of a comprehensive and integrated K-12 program of student services based on the needs of its students
- **must include policies and procedures for emergency care and administration of medication and treatment**



Medication Delivery



Parent/guardian **or a responsible adult designated by the parent/guardian** should deliver all medications to the school
Must be in the original pharmacy labeled container



The licensed school health personnel (CSN, RN, LPN) receiving any medication should document:

- Date
- Time
- Quantity of the medication delivered
- Signatures of the parent/guardian **or designated adult** delivering the medication and the school health personnel receiving the medication



School District Medication Policies



Does your school's medication policy specify who may deliver medications?



Pharmacy Delivery



May be the only means for the school nurse to receive medication.



Parent/guardian work schedules may not align with school hours.



Parent/guardian may not have transportation or may not be able to afford transportation, taxi, uber, etc.



Recommend discussion with parent/guardian.



Medication Inventory - Discrepancies



Confer with school physician, administration, and school solicitor.



Determine how often to count all medications including controlled substances.



Controlled substance count performed by two licensed personnel.



School procedure for discrepancies in medication count. Parental notification of discrepancy.

Storage of Medication

Effective controls and procedures should be in place to guard against theft and diversion of medications.

Medications should be kept in a securely locked cabinet used exclusively for medications.

Controlled substances should be double-locked.



Pennsylvania Code

28 Pa Code, Health and Safety

Chapter 25 Controlled Substances, Drugs, Devices and Cosmetics

§ 25.63. Security controls for practitioners and research personnel.

(a) Controlled substances listed in Schedule I shall be stored in substantially constructed, securely locked cabinets with access restricted to approved personnel.

(b) Controlled substances listed in Schedules II, III, IV and V shall be stored in substantially constructed, securely locked cabinets. However, pharmacies and practitioners as defined in section 2 of the act (35 P. S. § 780.102) may disperse the substances throughout the stocks of non-controlled substances in a manner as to obstruct the theft or diversion of the substances.



Pennsylvania Code - Definitions

"Practitioner" means:

(i) a physician, osteopath, dentist, veterinarian, pharmacist, podiatrist, **nurse**, scientific investigator, or other person licensed, registered or otherwise permitted to distribute, dispense, conduct research with respect to or to administer a controlled substance, other drug or device in the course of professional practice or research in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania;

(ii) a pharmacy, hospital, clinic or other institution licensed, registered, or otherwise permitted to distribute, dispense, conduct research with respect to or to administer a controlled substance, other drug or device in the course of professional practice or research in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.



How does your district dispose of medications?

Standing order expired or Not picked up by parent/guardian

Schools should have a policy/procedure in place regarding disposal and return of medications

- Expired during the school year
- Return of medications to parent/guardian at the end of the school year

Considerations - Disposal

All discontinued or outdated medications should be promptly returned to the parent/guardian.

At the end of each school year, all unused medications should be returned to the parent/guardian.

Documentation of disposition should include: date, time, amount of medication, and signatures of the parent/guardian and school personnel.

If the parent/guardian does not retrieve the medication at the end of the school year, the licensed personnel (CSN, RN, LPN) and one witness should dispose of the medication and document the disposal.



Health Record Retention/Transfer/Release

HEALTH RECORDS

Maintenance

Section 1402. Health Services.

(b) For each child of school age, **a comprehensive health record shall be maintained** by the school district or joint school board, which shall include the results of the tests, measurements and regularly scheduled examinations and special examinations herein specified.

§ 23.55. Maintenance of health records.

Health records shall be maintained for each child. These records shall be kept in the school building where the child attends school and shall be available to the school nurse at all times. **Records shall be transferred** with the child when he moves from one school to another or from one district to another.



Transfer



If a student enrolls in another school, the entire original record goes to the new school **and is not kept by the sending school.** 28 Pa. Code § 23.55.



Due to confidentiality requirements, the transfer of the records must be done in a secure and confidential manner. The Division of School Health recommends that the health record be mailed in a sealed envelope, marked, “Confidential” and designated for school health staff only.

Pennsylvania School Code

Section 1409. Confidentiality, Transference and Removal of Health Records.

(c) In the case of any child of school age who enrolls in any school, public or private, in any district and who previously attended school in another district in Pennsylvania, the district or school wherein the child is newly enrolled shall request and the district or school where the child previously attended shall surrender the health record of the child. **School districts, joint school boards or private schools, shall not destroy a child's health record for a period of at least two years after the child ceases to be enrolled,** but may surrender such child's health record or portion thereof to his parent or guardian if the child does not re-enroll in an elementary or secondary school in Pennsylvania.

(1409 amended June 28, 2019, P.L.146, No.18)



Additional Considerations



School districts, joint school boards or private schools, shall not destroy a child's health record for a period of at least **two years** after the child ceases to be enrolled.



Refer to local School Board policies for Records Retention.

800 Series – Operations

Often list guidelines for manual/paper, electronic and email correspondences.



Check policy on maintaining special education records. 6 years or longer.



Consider timelines that students may re-enter school.



Internal Release of Health Information

- Check your school district policy on health records. Includes the District's plan/guidelines for the collection, retention, disclosure and protection of student records.
- PA Dept. of Health School Health, Documentation/Health Records

[Documentation/Health Records | Department of Health | Commonwealth of Pennsylvania](#)

- PA Public School Code.

[§ 14-1409. Confidentiality, transference, and removal of health records](#)



Internal Release of Health Information

[Confidentiality/HIPAA/FERPA | Department of Health | Commonwealth of Pennsylvania](#)

Parents and students have an expectation of privacy where the student health information is concerned which is supported by ethical and legal considerations. Legal sources of privacy and confidentiality protections include the U.S. and state constitutions, federal and state laws, and case law.



Field Trips

FIELD TRIPS

Considerations



Collaboration



Students on field trips are entitled to the same health services, including medication administration, to which they are entitled while attending school.



Can't refuse student attendance on field trip because nurse not available (IDEA/504)



Advance notice to nurse for planning



Limit # of field trips from building per day



Notification Process

Considerations

What does this look like in your district?

Is school nurse a part of process?

Timeline for notifying school nurse



Staffing Considerations

- Invite parent or parent designee
- Utilize licensed nurse from sub list
- Licensed volunteer
 - Need clearances
 - Approval as district volunteer
- Provider permission required to change dosage time or skip a dose of medication
- Pennsylvania licensed prescriber order and written parental consent are required for all medications, including OTC's



Licensed Volunteer



Function
within scope
of practice



Have
necessary
skills



Know plans of
care/provider
order



Clearances



Licensure
verification:
www.pals.pa.gov

- First aid and CPR certification is recommended.
- The licensed volunteer should be familiar with school policies and procedures.

Parental Designee

Parent

- Must provide supplies and training to responsible adult
- May not:
 - Delegate responsibilities to school staff member, school-designated trip chaperone or secondary student
 - Prescribe or alter treatments or medication



School Nurse

- Pennsylvania Nurse Practice Act – may not be involved in process



Licensure and Field Trip Considerations

What is timeline for notification to nurse of out of state/out of country field trip?

[Field Trip Considerations](#)

Multistate license allows nurse to practice in the states of the Nurse Licensure Compact

- Considerations:
 - If ground travel for field trip, nurse should be aware of the requirements of visiting states Nurse Practice Act.

[Nursing Regulation | NCSBN](#)

If NO Multistate License

- Considerations:
 - What are the visiting states temporary practice requirements?



Considerations for International Trips

- For out of country school trip recommend:
 - Contact the country's consulate to ensure the nurse may provide nursing services to the district's students in the visiting country.
 - U.S. State nursing licenses are not recognized in most other countries*.
 - Note that Emergency Medications outlined in PA School Statute and Regulations may not apply internationally
 - U.S. Department of State may be of assistance in reaching a consulate
 - [U.S. Department of State International Travel](#)

*Reference: [National Association of School Nurses Position Statement: School Sponsored Trips - Equitably Addressing Student Health Needs. The Journal of School Nursing. 2024; 40\(5\):584-585. doi:10.1177/10598405241244714](#)



Resources



Guidance document located on School Health website under: Medications



[Field Trip Considerations](#)

Student Self Carry/ Self Administer

Student Self Administration

May be permitted for certain medications: rescue inhaler, epinephrine auto-injector, and diabetes medications (Glucagon/insulin).

School policy should clearly outline all the guidelines that need to be in place for a student to self-carry and self-administer only those specific medications.



STUDENT SELF CARRY/ SELF ADMINISTRATION

Self-Administration

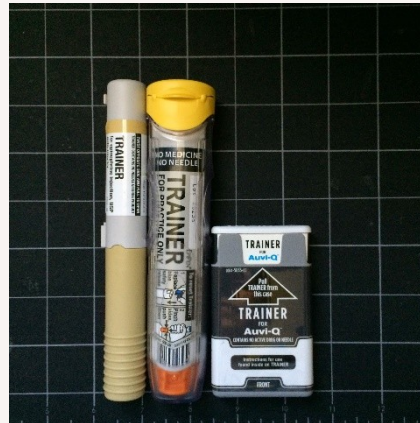
Asthma rescue inhaler

[Rescue Asthma Inhalers](#)



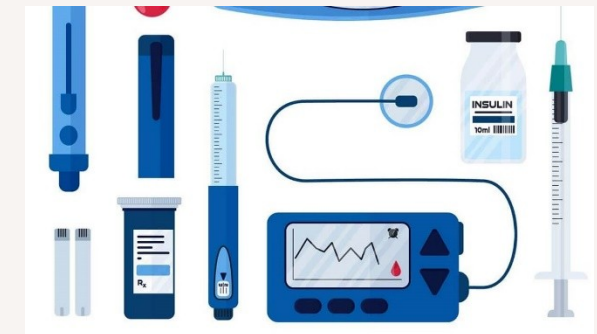
Epinephrine auto-injector

[Epinephrine Auto-injectors](#)



Insulin and glucagon

[Diabetes | Department of Health | Commonwealth of Pennsylvania](#)



Self Administration Considerations

If self administration or unlicensed staff are permitted, it requires at a minimum:

- School policies and procedures.
- Provider order and permission.
- Parent/guardian permission.

CSN determines staff designation based on a student's health needs.

- CSN assures staff training is completed.
- CSN assesses staff/student annual competency.
- CSN assures student acknowledgement.



Unlicensed Staff/ Medications

Emergency Medications

CSN may identify unlicensed school staff to administer **ONLY** the following medications:

Emergency Medications

[Epinephrine Auto-injectors](#)

[Narcan \(naloxone\)](#)

[Rescue Asthma Inhalers](#)

[Glucagon \(per Act 86 of 2016\)](#)



Emergency Medications



As part of or following the training, school personnel must follow-up with the school nurse for review of:

School policies/procedures and individual student Emergency Care Plan (ECP)

Return demonstration of all appropriate devices (if not included as part of approved training).

Hands-on demonstration and review of school specific policies and procedures are to take place **annually**.

- School nurse may assign supplemental staff to assist with this part of the training.



Epinephrine Training

Food Allergy Research & Education (F.A.R.E.) has updated the training module for school staff.

[Save a Life: Recognizing and Responding to Anaphylaxis 2026-2027](#)

- Individuals must register for the Food Allergy Academy and select the correct course module.

Additional training resources:

[Epinephrine Auto-injector Administration Training for School Employees](#)



Certification Staffing Policy Guidelines

PA Dept. of Education

Certification Staffing Policy Guidelines

The Pennsylvania Department of Education, in accordance with 22 Pa. Code § 49.13(b)(10), developed the following Certification and Staffing Policies and Guidelines (CSPG) to provide guidance involving compliance with state laws governing certification and staffing practices in school entities within the Commonwealth.

The CSPGs also provide clarification to educators regarding (1) the issuance of professional certificates, (2) the grade level and content scope of certificate subject areas and (3) the appropriate certificate for staffing professional positions in public schools.

[Staffing Guidelines | Department of Education | Commonwealth of Pennsylvania](#)



CSPG 80 – School Nurse (PK-12)

CSPG 80 – School Nurse (revised 3/1/2025)

Certification Assignment

An educator holding a valid PA certificate as a **School Nurse is qualified to provide information and services in school health related areas.** The School Nurse assesses, documents, and manages the health care needs of children in grades PK-12, including those with disabilities and to recognize symptoms and consequences of safety and environmental factors related to student health.

Additional information on the duties of **School Nurse (PK-12):**

28 Pa. Code Subchapter B. School Nurse Services.



CSPG 95 - Principal (PK-12)

CSPG 95 Principal - Modified: June 13, 2025

Certification Assignment

An educator holding a valid Pennsylvania certificate as a PK-12 Principal is qualified to perform the following:

Provide instructional leadership focused on teaching and learning.

Assess performance of certified staff.

Provide direct input to school superintendent regarding matters which substantially affect the employment, assignment, transfer, promotion, layoff, discharge, or other similar personnel actions of certified professional-level employees.

Coordinate school interactions with school boards, community organizations, special interest groups, parents/family members and other members of the community.

Strategically plan for fiscal operations, resource management, and technology management for school building.

Supervise and direct certified and non-certified staff required for school operation, excluding the directing of health services controlled by the Nurse Practice Act.

Supervise the district's curriculum and instruction program or pupil personnel services program.

Serve as the supervisor of a single instructional or single pupil service area



CSPG 101 - Paraprofessional Staff

CSPG 101 – (Paraprofessional Staff March 21, 2025)

Restrictions

Paraprofessional service does not qualify for:

Paraprofessionals serving as health room aides cannot be directed to engage in health-related activities reserved exclusively for certified school nurse. For additional information on the duties of **School Nurse (PK-12)**, go to [28 Pa. Code Subchapter B. School Nurse Services](#)



Continuing Education

Continuing Education Opportunities

- PASNAP (APPSN) Conf. March 12-14, 2027
- [The Pennsylvania Association of School Nurses and Practitioners | Nursing Network](#)
- [Pennsylvania Immunization Conference](#) June 30, 2027
- [NASN \(National Association of School Nurses\) Clinical Guidelines, Toolkits, and E-Manuals](#)
- [NASN The Legal Survival Series for School Nurses](#)
- [TRAIN PA](#)
- [UPMC Pediatric Education Series](#)
- [PaTTAN](#)



RESOURCES FOR THE SCHOOL NURSE

Resources

- [School Health | Department of Health | Commonwealth of Pennsylvania](#)
- [School Nursing: A Comprehensive Text, 4th Edition](#)
- [Code of Ethics - National Association of School Nurses](#)
- [Association of Pennsylvania Professional School Nurses](#)
- [Davis's Drug Guide](#)
- [School Nursing: Scope and Standards of Practice, 4th Edition](#)
- [NASN Website](#)
- [NASN Toolkits](#)
- [NASN Back to School](#)
- [Lippincott Nursing Procedures | Wolters Kluwer](#)
- [AAP Managing Infectious Diseases in Child Care and Schools](#)
- [American School Health Association](#)
- [Clinical Considerations in School-based Health](#)



What topics would be beneficial for the Division of School Health to include in future presentations?



Pennsylvania
Department of Health

Questions and Thank You

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