



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

Wheezing and Sneezing in the Desert
 When: September 21st
 Time: 8:00am-4:30pm
 Where: Creighton University
 3100 N. Central Avenue
 Phoenix, AZ 85012
[Sign up here](#)

About the Event

The Arizona Asthma & Allergy Conference provides education and networking for clinicians who care for patients living with asthma and allergies.

Featured Sessions



School Health, A Pediatricians' Perspective
 Andrew Arthur, MD



Asthma Biological Agents
 Cori Daines, MD



Chasing After a Runny Nose
 Alex Wonnapharhown MD



School Health, A School Nurses' Perspective
 Nicole Pargas, RN



Best Practices for Healthy School Environments
 Laura Bloch, EPA



Food Allergies, One Size Doesn't Fit All
 Rebecca Konigsberg, DO



The SNOA conference is not until summer 2025, but prep begins soon! Please email Lisa Alexander @ lialexander@pusd11.net if interested in joining the conference committee! Perks of joining include free tickets to the event, increased networking as you join others to create the event, and your vision and ideas becoming part of the event. The commitment is a once monthly virtual meeting for the most part, starting in October, with some email discussions in between. Committee member seats are limited, so email me soon!

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT



President Letter

Dear SNOA Members and Friends,

Welcome to the 2024-2025 school year! I hope you enjoyed some much-deserved time off and feel revived and energized for what's to come. I always feel ready to come back, but when thinking about coming back, my head sometimes goes to thoughts like, "Every year has some sort of major event(s)... what will it be this year, and can I handle it?" Between some thoughts like this and the huge amount of work it takes to open a health office for a new school year, anxiety can set in! If anxiety ever gets to you or if you ever observe a panic attack occurring for a student, staff member, or community member, getting out of your head or helping others get out of their heads is helpful. Remember this technique:

Gain the attention of the person with panic as best you can and have them do the following, or self-regulate and do this when you're feeling panic:

- 1.5: Acknowledge FIVE things you see around you. ...
- 2.4: Acknowledge FOUR things you can touch around you. ...
- 3.3: Acknowledge THREE things you hear. ...
- 4.2: Acknowledge TWO things you can smell. ...
- 5.1: Acknowledge ONE thing you can taste.

Besides this technique to help in the moment, things like yoga nidra and yin yoga can help with maintenance. Find your thing you do to regulate and feel free to share with us!

As always, one of the best things you can do is talk with others who understand. We are here for 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



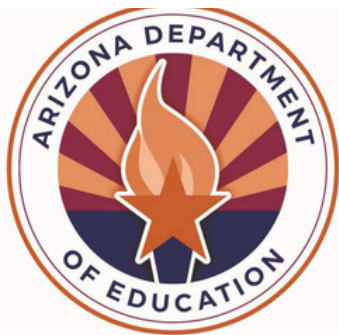
Chino Valley Unified School district is looking for RN's for 2024-2025 School Year. **Apply here**



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**



ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

The Arizona Department of Education's School Safety and Social Wellness Unit is excited to announce the launch of our new listserv dedicated to school-based mental health professionals (school psychologists, school counselors, school social workers, and school nurses). This platform is designed to foster communication, collaboration, and resource sharing among professionals committed to supporting the mental health and well-being of students.

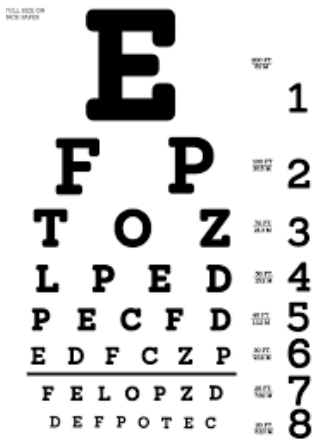
By joining this listserv, you will:

1. Receive updates on the latest research, best practices, and information related to the field of school mental health.
2. Access a wealth of National and Arizona-specific resources and opportunities, including training opportunities, webinars, and conferences
3. Connect with fellow mental health professionals to share experiences, strategies, and support.

Please join the listserv by clicking [here](#). In addition, please share this information with those who will find this beneficial. We look forward to building a strong, safe, and supportive community of school-based mental health professionals with you!

Samantha Reeves, MPH | School Health and Wellness Specialist
School Safety and Social Wellness | Project AWARE
AZ Educator Leadership Division
Arizona Department of Education
Office: 602.542.1442

New Updated ADHS Sensory Screening Guidance for the 2024-2025 School year



[Check out Guidance for Hearing and Vision Screening Press Here!](#)

[ADHS Sensory Screening FAQs](#)

ADHS Sensory Screening Resources

Eye exams/prescription glasses:

Please click the link to the **Medical Service Project** funded by the Arizona Department of Health Services that is administered by the Arizona Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. Medical Services Project.

Lions Clubs International provides financial assistance to individuals for eye care through its local clubs. Please click the link to see the club locator near you :<https://directory.lionsclubs.org/>

Sight for Students, a Vision Service Plan (VSP) program, provides eye free exams and free glasses to low-income, uninsured children. The program operates nationally through a network of community partners who identify children in need and VSP network eye doctors who provide the services. More Info: Please click the link below:

<https://vspglobal.com/cms/vspglobal-outreach/gift-certificates.html>

New Eyes is a non-profit, non-sectarian volunteer organization that purchases new eyeglasses for poor children and adults in the United States. Please click the link below: <https://new-eyes.org/>

Hearing screening and hearing aids:

Is the child enrolled in an AHCCCS or Kids Care Plan?

If NOT, they are eligible for other programs listed below based on their criteria. In case they are already enrolled, the child may be eligible for hearing services through Children's Rehabilitative Services (CRS). More Information:

<https://www.azahcccs.gov/AHCCCS/Initiatives/CareCoordination/CRS.html>

Hear for Kids: HEAR for Kids is a program of the EAR Foundation of Arizona. Eligibility is based on family income, household size/dependent care, and expenses. If the child is covered by AHCCCS or Kids Care or other insurance that covers hearing aids, they are not eligible for HEAR for Kids. Children must be currently living in Arizona to be eligible. Applications can be downloaded on the EAR Foundation website at www.earfoundationaz.com

United HealthCare Children's Foundation: Applications and further information on criteria and services can be found at the link below or by calling 1 (855-698-4223). Website:www.uhccf.org

Starkey Foundation's HEAR Now Program: application process / more info call 1(800) 328-9602

Website:www.sotheworldmayhear.org

Lions Affordable Hearing Aid Program (AHAP) : More info and eligibility

:<https://temp.lionsclubs.org/SW/pdfs/lcif/lcif127.pdf>. You can also contact a club near you by going to the Lions International website:www.lionsclubs.org

Sertoma Clubs: There are some Sertoma clubs in Arizona. More info, please visit their website:<https://sertoma.org/or> call: 816-333-8300

Help America Hear: Help America Hear is proud to offer the Help America Hear Program which provides NEW high quality hearing aids Nationwide to men, women, and children with limited financial resources. More Info and eligibility, please visit:<https://helpamericahear.org/or> call : 888) 580-8886

Did you know?

AHCCCS offers incredible support for Behavioral Health in schools?

Did you know?!
AHCCCS has easy referral forms to help students receive the services they need!

www.azahcccs.gov/BHinSchools

AHCCCS

AHCCCS has a Universal Referral Form to streamline referrals to mental health providers and the School Feedback Form to gather insights on working with these providers. These tools aim to ensure timely access to behavioral health services for students and to improve service delivery based on school feedback. Join us in enhancing student well-being by using these forms and sharing your experiences.

AHCCCS IS HELPING TO IMPROVE THE REFERRAL PROCESS FOR ARIZONA SCHOOLS!

www.azahcccs.gov/BHinSchools

AHCCCS

AHCCCS is working to enhance the referral process for school professionals directing students to community mental health providers with the School-Based Universal Referral Form

Check out the information below:

- The form can be used by school professionals such as counselors, social workers, psychologists, and nurses.
- All AHCCCS registered providers use the form.
- There is an English and Spanish version.

School Professionals - AHCCCS wants to hear from you!

www.azahcccs.gov/BHinSchools

Are you a school professional who has experienced the barriers and struggles of referring students to community behavioral health care providers? Share your experiences with us!

The School Feedback Form helps AHCCCS gather insights on working with these providers and improve behavioral health services for Arizona students.

<https://www.azahcccs.gov/BHinSchools> **Learn More!**

SCHOOL NURSE HIGHLIGHTS

Marie Rico BSN, RN, NCSN



Marie Rico is a lead nurse for Roosevelt school district. She has been a school nurse for over 10 years and has been dedicated to raising her young family while balancing her nursing career. She has been dedicated to helping nurses and health assistants during the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic when she first started as a lead nurse at the beginning of the pandemic.

When asked what she loves about school nursing she stated "I love everything about school nursing! As mentioned, before I was able to work at my kids' school and keep an eye on them. Sometimes they weren't too happy about that especially if they got in trouble. I will admit I use to be ashamed of being an RN and not working at a hospital. I was embarrassed to say I was a school nurse, but not anymore. I am very proud of the work I do because I know I have made a difference in the life of a child. I have saved a life or 2 on my campuses and know that school nurses are so valuable not just to the school but to the community. School nursing is public health and I firmly believe every student deserves to have a school nurse on their campus. I love the relationships I have created with my students and their families. Seeing them grow up and have them invite you to their graduations or other life celebrations is a bonus and confirms what I know, I love what I do and do what I love! I have found my purpose!! Knowing I am a product of Roosevelt School District, as an alumnus and now employee of RSD, makes my job even more rewarding. I know I am giving back to the community that educated and raised me. I get to serve my community and when I see students at the grocery store or other places they proudly say, look that's Nurse Rico, my school nurse!"

What leadership opportunities do you feel you have been involved in and how have they helped your practice?

As lead nurse for my district, I have had many growth opportunities. I don't know it all, but I am learning along the way. From budgets to MOUs to policies and board meetings. I am entrusted with also training new hired nurses/techs. I have also had the lovely responsibility of providing professional development for my team. I have made wonderful connections and networking experiences that have helped not only myself learn and grow but also my wonderful team of nurses and techs. One of the cool and amazing things I have contributed to has been just that, creating a team of cohesiveness and support. Prior to me becoming lead, we all did our own thing and there was no "being on the same page". With the help and collaboration of my team we created our first "handbook" and revised our health office forms that were so outdated. We were and felt like loners or "chopped liver." I host monthly meetings and before each meeting we have community circle where we do team building activities and have got to know each other more and become closer as a team and have built long lasting friendships as well. My nurses and techs are very happy now and have told me, "Now we have a place where we belong and a place for our voices to be heard!" My team loves to "hang out" at my office as we enjoy coffee and other treats before and after our meetings.

I also have had the opportunity to lend my voice as a guest speaker on the SHOES webinars from the MCDPH. That has been an experience I am very grateful for! Never in my life did I ever imagine speaking to such a large community. I have also been invited to be on our district's pod cast to address Covid-19 pandemic issues. My passion and purpose as lead nurse for my district is to empower my team of nurses/techs. I always tell them I believe in them and that they can do hard things!

I also have created relationships and partnerships with community stakeholders that have contributed useful resources for our school community and families. We have helped work and organize health fairs, back to school vaccine events, Covid-19 vaccine events and testing, to name a few. We have mobile dental clinics and PCH breath mobile that service our students on our campuses. We also have other outside resources we refer our students and families to. I am also a proud member of NASN and SNOA. This summer I was able to attend my very first NASN conference in Chicago and again it was a dream come true. I am looking forward to many more and grateful my district and school board approved and supported me and another nurse, financially to attend.

However, this year I am proud to announce and say our district will finally have an AED on each campus. Our larger schools will get 2 AEDs. This is a project that I have worked so hard on. I remember when I started working for the district at my school and asked where the AED was and was told we don't have one, I was shocked and scared! I tried to get free machines and grants but as known, they are a hot item and highly solicited resource. I am glad my district agreed to use our funds and budget in this way to help provide lifesaving equipment on all our campuses and district buildings! My next step is to create and put together Cardiac Emergency Plans and drills to make the best of our resources. This was inspired to me by attending NASN and I am glad I got the right tools and resources from one of the breakout sessions.

What are the three qualities of a good school nurse? Three qualities of a good school nurse would be to be educated and prepared, she or he must be kind and organized, but most importantly they should never stop caring. Once you stop caring about the students or your career, it all goes downhill. Empathy is key. I always thought, "if this was my kid, would I want to be notified as a parent, how would I want my kid to be treated." When parents told me they felt comfortable going to work because they knew their kids were going to be well taken care of if they got sick or hurt, always made me feel like I was doing my job right. As a nurse you can never stop learning. We should always aim to grow in all aspects of our careers. I am back in school, going for my MSN with an emphasis in public health. It's hard but possible. In this short time, I have already learned so much and have begun applying what I have learned to improve my nursing practice.

Her most memorable school nurse moment? "My most memorable school nurse moment is hard to pick because I have several. I have a funny story, this happened the first week of school for both the student and me, it was recess time, and a kindergarten student came into my health office, she was crying and very upset because she fell and scraped her knees pretty badly. She didn't want me to touch her and thought I was going to give her a shot. She told me to be gentle and to take my time and to be as careful as I could. As I began cleaning her wounds, she suddenly stopped crying and told me to hurry up because she didn't want to miss recess. We both started laughing and she skipped away happily after I put on her band aids. She eventually grew up to be taller than me by the time she left eighth grade. Those little moments grew on my heart, and I knew each student had a special and safe place with me. It was hard for me to leave my campus after 7 years, but as lead nurse for my district I discovered my heart was big enough to fit all my students across my district and my community, that I love so much!"

Thank you, Marie 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

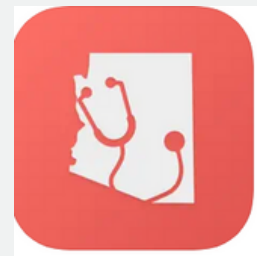
NASN Podcasts

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](#)



School-based Environmental Management of Asthma: Strategies and Health Equity Implications

School-based Environmental Management of Asthma: Strategies and Health Equity Implications

Cost: FREE to NASN members/ Non-Members (1.0 NCPD Contact Hour).

[Register Here](#)

MENTAL HEALTH CHALLENGES FOR STUDENTS WITH EPILEPSY: Practice Considerations for School Nurses

Mental Health Challenges for Students with Epilepsy: Practice Considerations for School Nurses

FREE to NASN members and non-members (1.0 NCPD Contact Hour).

[Register Here](#)

Become a NASN Member! There are so many Professional Development opportunities free of charge. So many opportunities to learn and have support!

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

