School Nursing Services Data: Standardized Documentation, Collection, and Utilization

Joint Resolution
National Association of School Nurses (NASN) & National Association of State School Nurse Consultants (NASSNC)

Whereas, school nurses positively influence the health outcomes of students (NASN, 2013) and the health of students affects their learning skills, motivation, and school engagement (Forrest, Bevans, Riley, Crespo, & Louis, 2012);

Whereas, school nurses document significant amounts of individual and population level health data – particularly for students with specific health care needs, and those outside of traditional health care settings (Johnson, Bergren, & Westbrook, 2012); and

Whereas, school health services data should be an integral part of education and health data, but is currently missing in the analysis of health and education outcomes because this information is not uniformly collected, collated, or reviewed (Healthy Schools Campaign & TFAH 2012), and

Whereas, school nurses contribute to a system of care for students, but without integrated health and education networks, this care is at risk of being fragmented, resulting in higher costs, limited quality, and reduced satisfaction (Johnson & Bergren 2011); and

Whereas, the aggregation of population level data in school health records has the potential to demonstrate the prevalence of health conditions; provide research on longitudinal outcomes; and identify community strengths and opportunities for improvement that will benefit all students and the school community (Johnson, et al., 2012); and

Whereas, the development of standardized variables as part of a common school health dataset with a process for data collection similar to processes used in health and education data management, is critical to providing consistent, quality care for all students (Johnson, et. al., 2012); and

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that NASN and NASSNC will lead in the development of a standardized dataset for all nurses working in school settings to use as the foundation for compiling and collecting data on the student population. This comprehensive dataset will focus on the broad aspects of the health needs of students and the outcomes of school nursing interventions, including analysis of nursing-sensitive student outcomes. The goals of this process include integrating school nursing services data into other established datasets (health and education) to provide a comprehensive analysis; addressing the current and emerging health needs of students; providing concrete insight about the correlation between student outcomes and evidence-based models of school nursing practice.
REFERENCES


