

Position Statement: NASSNC Commitment to Quality Data

Approved by Executive Committee 3/7/18

High quality data and data competency are essential to the practice of school nursing. Data collection and analysis are fundamental to each component of the nursing process (assessment, diagnosis, outcome identification, planning, implementation, and evaluation) and an essential part of the scope and standards of practice of school nurses. The National Association of State School Nurse Consultants (NASSNC) has a rich history of facilitating data collection at the local, state and national levels. This includes collecting information on statutes, regulations, policies, best practices, as well as student health issues and trends.

Information and/or data on state laws and policies are within the public domain. However, the confidentiality of student-related data is protected under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and may only be collected, stored, and disclosed within specific guidelines to protect student privacy in accordance with federal law, state law, and local policy. Nurses practicing in the school setting are advised to consult with their school administration or State School Nurse Consultant regarding the sharing of any student data to ensure privacy and confidentiality of student information and to confirm that all permissions and requirements are met.

State School Nurse Consultants support data collection and application to inform and enhance student well-being and academic outcomes. The collection of student health-related data begins with nurses practicing at the school level. In many states, the State School Nurse Consultant, located at the state education or health agency, has the responsibility to support data collection at any applicable level, to review and then report state-wide data per protocols and standards to support continuous improvement efforts. As such, State School Nurse Consultants serve as a primary resource for aggregated state-level data. With the potential to reach all schools within the state, State School Nurse Consultants are skilled at data collection, knowledgeable about privacy and confidentiality laws, as well as state laws, and effective in facilitating data analysis. The National Association of State School Nurse Consultants supports nurses practicing in the school setting in this endeavor.