



ADVANCING HEALTH, EQUITY, AND EDUCATION: STATE SCHOOL NURSE CONSULTANTS

WHY DO YOU NEED ONE?

"In fall 2019, about 56.6 million students will attend elementary and secondary schools, including 50.8 million students in public schools and 5.8 million in private schools."¹ Their families want them to be safe and to become educated. Their communities want them to thrive and become engaged citizens. Student health and wellbeing depends on strong partnerships between families, healthcare, and education systems. State school nurse consultants build and manage systems to support safety, education, and well-being for all students state-wide.

WHAT SORT OF PERSON DO YOU HIRE?

Hire a registered professional nurse (RN) with school nursing and leadership experience, preferably with a related advanced degree.

WHERE DO THEY WORK?

State school nurse consultants (SSNC) typically work with the state education or health agency. In some states, their position may be part of a shared role between the two agencies.

WHAT DO THEY DO?

SSNCs provide leadership and technical assistance to school communities and school nurses in areas that may include:

- Student and family-centered care
- Best practice school health and school nursing policies, guidelines, and procedure manuals
- Orienting school nurses and providing professional development for school health personnel
- Health surveillance, disease prevention, and health promotion
- Analysis and implications of proposed legislation
- Fiscal planning for school nursing and health services
- Data collection and analysis (e.g. health outcomes, social determinants of health, customer satisfaction, effectiveness of services)
- Collaboration with state education, health, welfare, and nurse regulatory bodies
- Consultation and guidance to local schools, districts, and school nurses

¹ National Center for Education Statistics. (n.d.). *Fast facts*. <https://nces.ed.gov/fastfacts/> , 1st para.



- Dissemination of current school health practices and addressing social and emotional health
- Developing and managing technical assistance manuals in compliance with state and federal statutes, and standards of school nursing practice
- Addressing risk management and fiscal responsibilities in school health
- Serving as content expert to the agency, e.g., inquiries from community members, LEAs, the legislature and its constituents through correspondence, the media, testimony)

SSNCs provide systematic, accountable, and equitable approaches to school health services so all students across the state can benefit from their learning opportunities.

HOW DO I LEARN MORE?

- Contact the professional school nurse or nursing organization in your state.
- Contact the National Association of State School Nurse Consultants (see below).

RESOURCES

- American Nurses Association and National Association of School Nurses. (2017). *School Nursing Scope and Standards of School Nursing Practice* (3rd ed.). ANA & NASN.
- National Association of School Nurses. (2016). Framework for 21st century school nursing practice. *NASN School Nurse*, 31(1), 45-53. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1942602X15618644>
- National Association of State School Nurse Consultants <http://www.schoolnurseconsultants.org/>
- Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child Model (Association of School Curriculum Directors [ASCD]), (2014). <http://www.ascd.org/programs/learning-and-health/wsc-model.aspx>

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