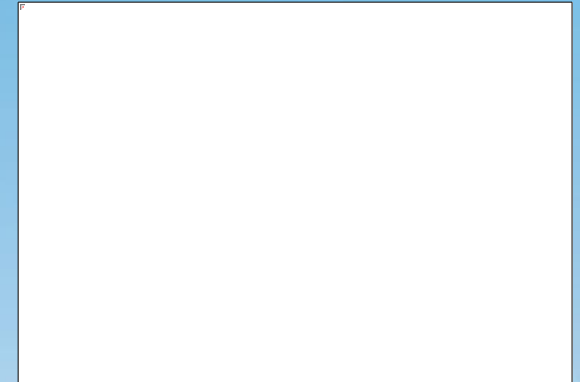


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School Nursing and School-Based Health Centers: Working Together to Improve Student Health and Learning

2025 Ohio School Based Health Alliance Conference

**Jennifer Casertano MPH, Adolescent Health Program
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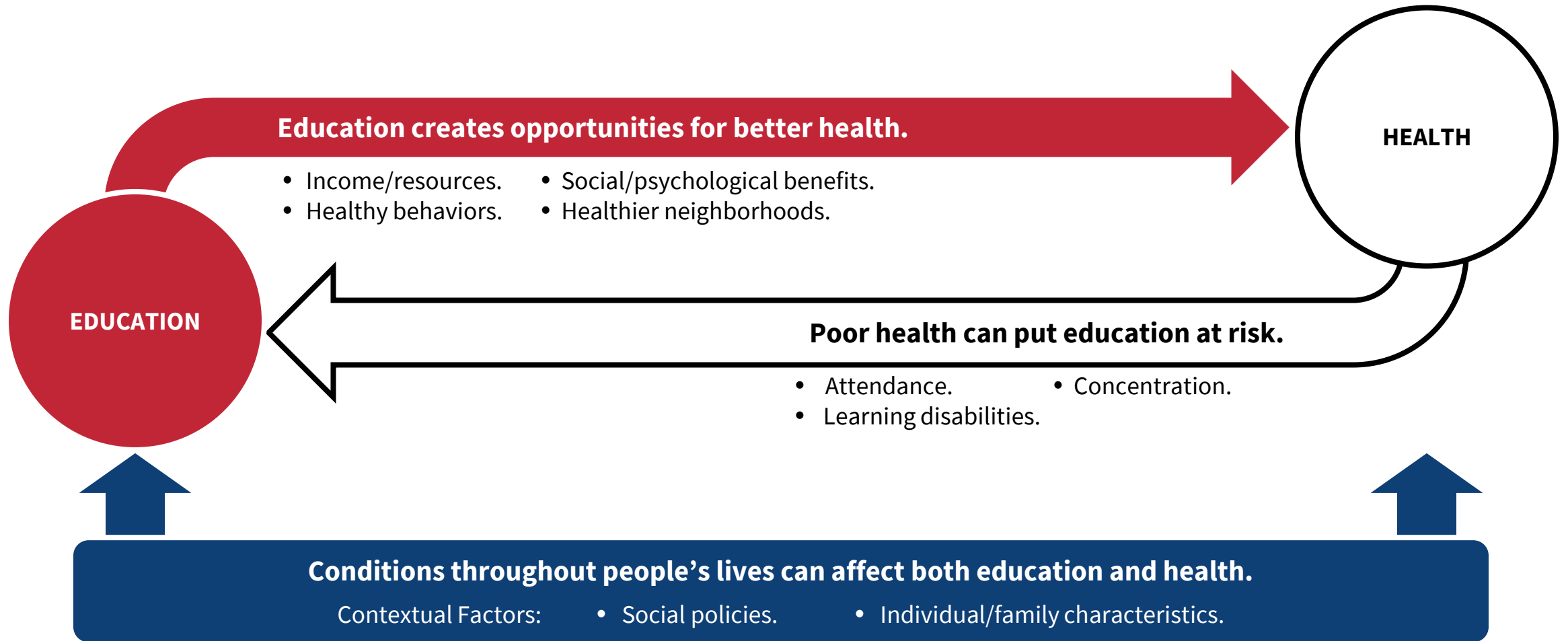


Objectives

- Describe the role of and services provided by school nurses in school health services.
- List and analyze strategies that assist school-based health centers and school nurses to work together to provide continuity of care and coordination of healthcare services.
- Identify opportunities to mobilize and maintain partnerships between school nurses and school-based health centers to improve overall student health and learning.

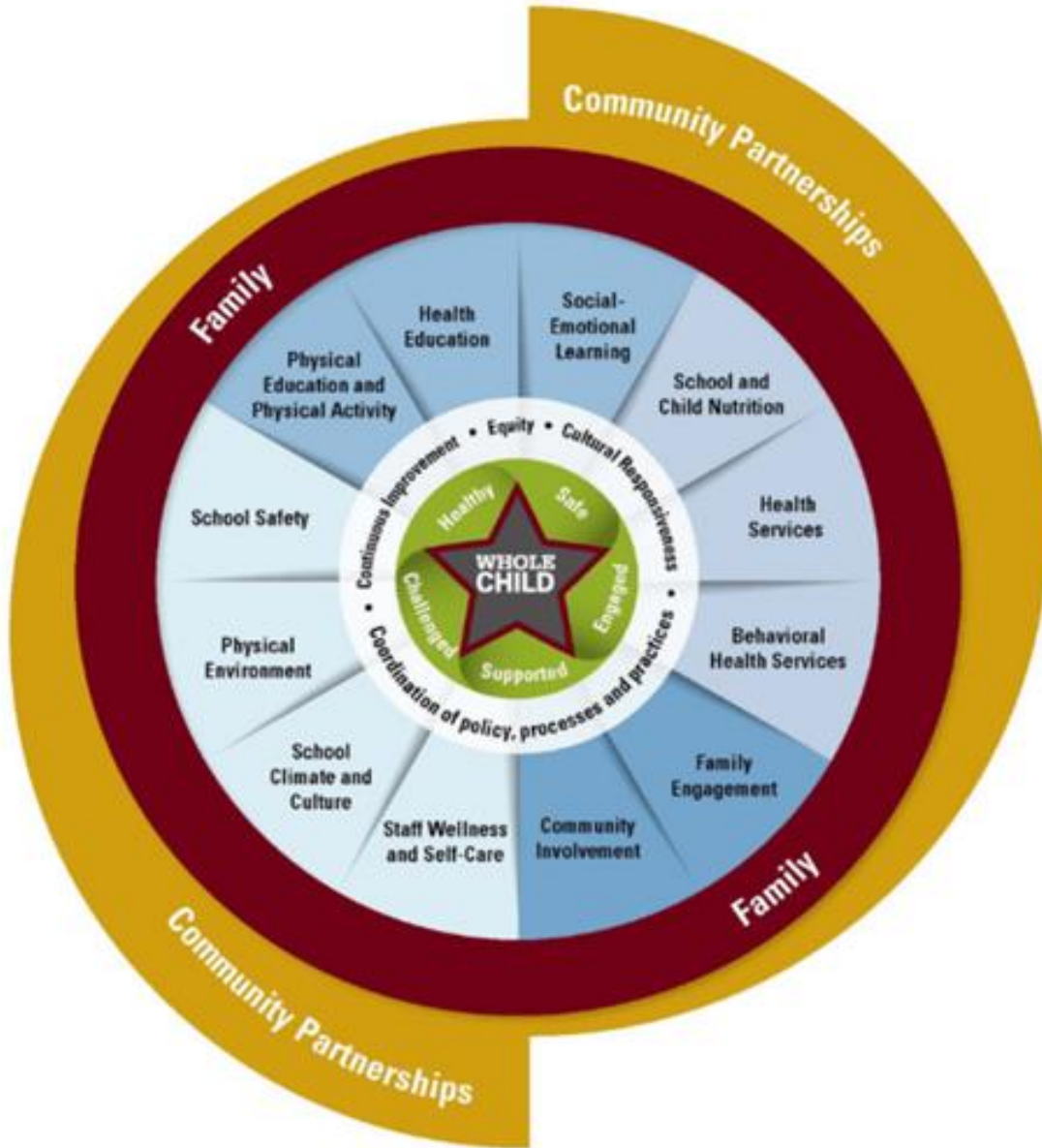
School-Based Health Services

Relationship between Health and Education



Ohio's Whole Child Framework

- Ensures students are:
 - Healthy.
 - Safe.
 - Ready to learn.
- Guides policy and practice in Ohio schools to:
 - Prepare students for success.
 - Engage students in learning.
 - Assist in meeting student social-emotional, physical, and safety needs.
- Partnerships involving:
 - Schools.
 - Community partners.
 - Families.
 - Students.



Source: [Ohio Department of Education and Workforce \(DEW\)](#).

Student Success in Life and Learning

- Health is a central tenant to a whole child approach to education.
- School health services provide:
 - Equitable care.
 - Health promotion.
 - Disease prevention.
 - Illness management.
- Includes:
 - School nursing.
 - School-based healthcare.
 - Public health.



[Source: DEW.](#)

School Health Services in OH

- First aid.
- Management of chronic health conditions such as diabetes and asthma.
- Acute illness care.
- Care coordination.
- Health screenings such as vision, hearing, and dental.
- Primary care services.
- Mental and behavioral health care.
- Dental services.
- Vision services.
- Health promotion.
- Health education.
- Physical, occupational, and speech therapy.
- School psychology and social work services.

Menti Question

How many hours a week does the school nurse work in the school associated with your SBHC?



- 8 hours or less.
- 9-20 hours.
- 21-30 hours.
- 31-40 hours.

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School Nursing

Definition of School Nursing



[Source: NASN.org](http://NASN.org)

“School nursing, a specialized practice of nursing, protects and promotes student health, facilitates optimal development, and advances academic success. 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.”

[Source: National Association of School Nurses \(NASN\).](http://NASN.org)

School Nursing Services

- Assessing the severity of illness or injury in students.
- Distributing medications to student that is provided and approved by their parents and healthcare providers.
- Caring for students with chronic conditions such as diabetes, epilepsy/seizures, asthma, allergies/anaphylaxis, and others.
- Ensuring all students are up to date on their vaccinations/immunizations.
- Directing the provision of health services within the school.
- Screening students for vision, hearing, and other potential health issues.
- Preventing and controlling the spread of communicable diseases.
- Connecting students and their families to relevant health resources.
- Providing mental health support to students in need.
- Collecting health data in schools to provide to local, state, and national officials.
- Promotion of overall school community health through education and wellness initiatives.

[Source: NASN.](#)

School Nursing in Ohio

“The board of education may also **employ registered nurses**, as defined by section [4723.01](#) of the Revised Code, to aid in such inspection in such ways as are prescribed by it, and **to aid in the conduct and coordination of the school health service program.**”

[Source: Ohio Revised Code \(ORC\) 3313.68.](#)

School Nurses are Related Services

Related services personnel:

- Support children with disabilities.
- Create conditions for students to succeed by addressing physical and mental barriers to learning.
- Are critical and valuable members of education teams.
- Include the following licensed professionals:
 - Educational audiologists.
 - Speech-language pathologists.
 - School psychologists.
 - **School nurses.**
 - Occupational therapists.
 - Physical therapists.

Source: [Ohio Department of Education and Workforce](#).



Source: Getty Images.

Ohio School Nurse Models



Employed directly by local school.

- Local education funds.
- Grant funded.
- Auxiliary funds.
- Medicaid School Program (MSP).



Employed by local public health department (LHD).

- Contract with school for nursing services.



Employed by hospital, health care provider, or federally qualified health center.

- Contract with school for nursing services.



Employed by education service center.

- Contract with school for nursing services.



Employed by a health care staffing agency.

- Contract with school for nursing services.

Ohio Department of Health (ODH) School Nursing Program Consultants



State:

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Patty Free, AD, RN Region 3

Sheri Johnson, BSN, RN, LSN Region 4

ODH School Nursing Program

- Professional Development.
 - Annual statewide training of new school nurses.
 - Annual topically focused spring and summer conferences.
 - Online independent study courses covering a range of topics including:
 - Student health privacy.
 - Vaccines and school located vaccination clinics.
 - Nursing care for mental and physical health needs such as depression, autism, asthma, and severe allergies.
 - Award nursing continuing education contact hours for nurses licensed to practice in Ohio.
- Resources.
 - Development and dissemination of documents related to school nursing practice in Ohio.
 - Electronic communication through the ODH School Nurse Bulletin Board.
- Technical Assistance.
 - Telephone and e-mail consultation.
 - Recommendations on policies, procedures, and standards of care for the provision of quality health services in schools.

Menti Question

Which ODH School
Nursing Program
region do you provide
SBHC services in?



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ODH School-Based Health Centers (SBHC)

ODH SBHC History

- **American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding- SFY23 and SFY24.**
 - Funded by CDC's workforce grant and Ohio Department of Education and Workforce (ODEW) Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) fund.
 - \$18.7 million from CDC workforce for operational costs and \$9 million from ODE GEERS for capital costs.
 - Fourteen SBHC healthcare partners.
 - Two contracts:
 - Nationwide Children's Hospital.
 - Ohio School-Based Health Alliance.

ODH SBHC History

General Revenue Fund (GRF) Funding- SFY24 and SFY25.

- \$7.5 million/year.
- Three solicitations released:
 - Continuation funding - 12 ARPA funded sites funded.
 - Planning to Implementation - Two health partners funded.
 - Expansion funding - Six health care partners funded.
- Continued contracts:
 - Nationwide Children's Hospital.
 - Ohio School-Based Health Alliance.

		SFY23	SFY24	3/1/24-9/30/24 (Q1 and Q2 of new SBHC contracts)
Communities Served	# of school districts	29	31	49
	# of counties	18	18	27
	# of health partners (continuation)	14	14	12
	# of health partners (planning)	N/A	N/A	2
	# of health partners (expansion)	N/A	N/A	6
Services Provided	# of students served	14,854	11,676	9,579
	# of well visits	4,424	2,795	3,269
	# of behavioral health care (therapy visits)	N/A	N/A	4,972
	# of eye glasses provided	N/A	N/A	242
	# of community members served	N/A	N/A	1,513

Lessons Learned

- SBHCs staff should collaborate with school administrators, school nurses and staff, and have a regular touch base.
 - Transportation logistics.
 - Responding to school's needs.
- Innovative approaches to engaging with students and parents.
 - High School Orientation.
 - Youth Advisory Councils.
 - Social media and videos.
 - Collaboration with health class.
- Data collection and success stories shows impact and can help with school/community buy-in and sustainability.



Menti Question

How many times per month do you
meet with the school nurse?



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Ohio Partnerships for Student Success

School Nurses and SBHCs Working Together

- Students:
 - Improved health, overall well-being, and academic success.
 - Increased health knowledge and self-care skills.
 - Decreased school absence rates and increased graduation rates.
 - Access to equitable health care, including health promotion, disease prevention, and illness management.
 - Coordinated care among health professionals, promoting continuity of care.
- Educators/school staff:
 - Focus on teaching.
- Parents/caregivers:
 - Remain at work.

School Nurses and SBHCs

One does not replace the other.

SCHOOL NURSING

- Direct nursing services.
- Triage and refer.
- Immunization record management.
- Medication administration.
- Health care education.
- Emergency plans.
- Training school staff.
- Health assessments.
- School health environment.
- Wellness policies and programs.
- Health screenings.
- Health expert on multidisciplinary education teams.



SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH

- Well child physicals.
- Primary care.
- Behavioral health care.
- Laboratory services.
- Sick visits.
- Immunization administration.
- Teen health.
- Chronic disease management.
- Referrals for specialty care.

[Source: NASN and OSBHA.](#)

Benefits of Having Both School Nurses and SBHCs

School nurses and SBHCs work together to:

- Support healthcare and education which includes funding/reimbursement and policy development/implementation.
- Communicate to ensure continuity of healthcare services inside and outside the school setting.
- Coordinate care, thus providing best student outcomes, and ensuring students are healthy, safe, and ready to learn.
- Collaborate to address both social needs and to help alleviate social determinants of health and their causes.

Source: [NASN](#) and [OSBHA](#).

Menti Question

List strategies you have used to successfully collaborate with school nurses to ensure students receive SBHC services.



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Best Practices

ODH Program Collaboration

The Adolescent Health and School Nursing Programs work closely to align efforts related to the provision of school health services.

- Monthly full team meetings include:
 - Problem solving through respectful and reciprocal communication.
 - Clarification and coordination of roles.
 - Sharing of expertise and resources.
 - Development and review of data metrics to improve health services.
- Jointly attend and collaborate on agency and statewide workgroups and project teams to support a focus on child and adolescent:
 - Health outcomes.
 - School attendance.
 - Social determinants of health.
 - Seamless health services for families.

Strategies for Success

- Regular, weekly check-ins with school nurse.
- Establish protocols for communication between SBHC staff and school nurse.
 - Address confidentiality, safety, and privacy concerns.
 - Discuss SBHC consent for services, including responsibilities for obtaining paperwork.
 - Establish after care summaries that may be shared with school nurse/families to promote continuity of care.
- Create a frequently asked questions (FAQ) document for school staff.
- Partner with school nurse to increase support for and drive utilization of the SBHC.
 - Jointly establish a referral protocol.
 - Develop bi-directional standard operating procedures.

Case Study and Discussion

- Dr. Sara Bode, Nationwide Children's Hospital.
- Renata Weaver, MSN, RN, Licensed School Nurse, Columbus City Schools.



Menti Question

What services, professional development, and resources would you like from the ODH to assist with the coordination of health services with school nurses?



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QUESTIONS?

[ODH.OHIO.GOV](https://odh.ohio.gov)



Thank You!

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