

Nurses Nook...What does a school nurse do for your school?

People sometimes question the wisdom of paying to have a full time school nurse in your child's school. Here are some examples from the National Association of School Nurses about the benefits of a full time school nurse in each school.

- Saves time: Data shows that the presence of a school nurse in the school saves the principal an hour a day, teachers 20 minutes per day, and clerical staff 45 minutes per day with time they would have spent addressing health concerns of children.
- Helps attendance through disease prevention and management, and health promotion. Schools with a full time school nurse have half the dismissals, during the school day, from illness or injury that schools without a nurse have.
- Improve academics: healthy children are in the classroom more and ready to learn.
- Staff wellness: school nurses improve the health and well-being of staff. In addition teachers are generally happy to have a nurse in the school as they can then focus on teaching instead of dealing with health issues (that they are not trained for).
- Keep school accountable: School nurses advocate for wellness programs and compliance with federal and state laws. Also school nurses are prominent in the school preparation to handle emergency situations.
- If your child has a chronic illness such as diabetes or asthma he/she is being cared for by a professional who has good understanding of his/her condition. Parents can feel safer with their child in school.

If you or anyone you know is interested in school nursing as a profession please start by becoming a substitute school nurse. School nurse substitutes are often difficult to find and we can always use them in the FLRSD. Please call Paula Mueller, MSN, RN at 508-947-2660 extension 1157 if you are interested.

In addition, the school nurses in our district all have medication disposal packs FREE for your use in their offices. We want to help you dispose of unused medication safely and in an environmentally friendly way.