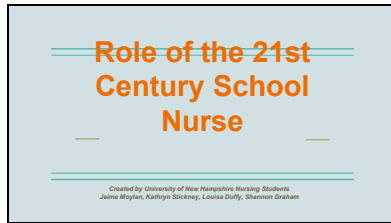


## Slide 1



## Slide 2

The role of the school nurse has progressed immensely over the last century. It is important to review and understand licensed professional school nurse responsibilities as well as understand how important it is to have a school nurse in every school.

## Slide 3

In an October 2019, a survey was sent to NH school nurses who were asked if they believe their administration understands their role as a school nurse. Only 46% were confident that their administration truly understood their role as a school nurse. Many replied that administration understood to an extent but not entirely. A surprising 35.4% of responses were “no”, the administration does not understand the school nurse’s role.

This graphic shows the prevalence of misunderstanding among administration regarding the role of the school nurse

## Slide 4

Quotes from real nurses across the state of NH when asked about their opinion on what is misunderstood about their role

## Slide 5

Depending on the circumstances, that may not be a negative thing and allows for an opportunity to educate the questioner. It could be that the individual needs clarification or misunderstands the situation.

## Slide 6

Collaboration with the community allows for effective communication regarding the health concerns of students, assuring student health concerns are adequately addressed. School nurses communicate via email, phone calls, or in person meetings.

## **Slide 7**

All school community members should collaborate efficiently and effectively to ensure the best environment for student learning, safety, and health. The school nurse's main goal is to use any of these resources in order to increase seat time for all students. (You can list some community resources such as Lions Club for vision, School Dental Health Program, Public Health Vaccination programs, UNH Cooperative Extension)

## **Slide 8**

As you can see the school nurse wears many hats. (read all the roles) The school nurse engaging in all these roles can lead to an optimal health care delivery system for students.

## **Slide 9**

The Framework for 21st Century School Nursing Practice helps to define the role of the school nurse holistically. It defines a collaborative, student-centered approach to nursing care within the school community by combining elements of care coordination, community and public health, leadership, and quality improvement all while pertaining to the nurse's standards of practice.

## **Slide 10**

In order to better understand each nursing encounter with a student, I would like to explain to you the thought process that we go through every time a student walks in our office door.

## **Slide 11**

- Assessment- collecting data and information relative to the student's health or condition
- Diagnosis- analyzing the assessment data to determine the problem, diagnoses, or issues
- Outcomes are identified- determines the expected goal of the student's care
- Planning- develops a plan or intervention to attain the specific outcome desired
- Implementation- implement the plan into action, intervene
- Evaluation - evaluate the effectiveness of attaining the desired outcome

THIS APPLIES WITH EVERY CHILD, even if it may seem simple such as a sore throat or upset stomach

## **Slide 12**

Every student who comes into the office must be documented in a system. Each school might have a different system, whether it be electronic medical records, or paper documentation. This is also where the nurse can look up history, prescriptions for OTC medications, immunizations, updated physicals, previous notes and nurse visits, etc. The nurse can trend data such as how many incidents of school-related injuries were reported, cases of the flu, concussions, etc...

It can be hard to keep up with all of the documenting, while physically caring for each student who comes into the office.

## **Slide 13**

"The school nurse is a key member of the collaborative team that develops 504 Plans and IEP's, and it is the school nurse who is responsible for developing IHP's and for obtaining Emergency Action Plans from the physician. The school nurse plays an essential role in the development of these plans by using the nursing process: by gathering important information and creating individualized interventions that support the student and assure access to education. School nurses are the coordinators of care at school, identifying and making decisions regarding student health care needs in the areas of physical, emotional, behavioral, mental health. School nurses should be included in 504/IEP meetings; they are in the best position to make recommendations on health and safety interventions for the student.

## **Slide 14**

School nurses are typically the sole health care provider in the school setting. School nurse practice goes far beyond band aids and icepacks, and includes the management of health emergencies, and acute injuries and illnesses. Nurses provide for regular monitoring and care for students with chronic health conditions, which might include diabetes, food allergies with risk of anaphylaxis, management of seizure disorders, and support for several mental and behavioral health conditions. School nurses do frequent checks on students, depending on the student's level of self-care abilities, and on how stable their health condition is while at school.

## **Slide 15**

Here is another question from the October 2019 survey sent to NH school nurses who were asked if they believe their administration views them as a resource for student mental health. As you can see approximately 56% said yes, however around 46% of responses were either no or other.

## **Slide 16**

It is true that some administrators are not fully aware that school nurses are skilled at triaging mental health issues, and in fact, the health office is often the first place a student will go for care when having a mental health crisis. School nurses are educated and trained in mental/behavioral health and are prepared to assess the mental health needs of students, as well as to provide support and facilitate connection to mental health care. It is essential that mental and behavioral health needs are identified and treated with the same priority as any other health concern.

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/schoolhealth/schoolnurse/mentalhealthissues>

## **Slide 17**

This quote is a response from a NH school nurse from the October 2019 survey when given opportunity to add additional comments. The mental health resource team in many schools is often comprised of guidance counselors and school psychologists, but it should not be forgotten that nurses can play a key role in mental health care, especially considering the trusted rapport school nurses have with students. Student's mental health issues often manifest as physical illnesses, triggering a visit to the nurse's office. This gives the school nurse an opportunity to assess and gather pivotal information, while providing an acute intervention. With a better understanding of the situation, the nurse is in an excellent position to collaborate with school counselors, administrators, and teachers. Essentially, it is imperative to include the school nurse as part of the mental and behavioral health care team.

## **Slide 18**

The school nurse coordinates student health care between the medical home, family, and school (NASN). As the health care leader in the school, they assure that all team members are prepared to support and participate in the care of the student. Team members include school employees, the student, parents, the physician, and any other adult who is responsible for the health and safety of that child. Education of school staff by the school nurse is imperative to the successful management of a child with a chronic condition or special healthcare need and is codified as a role of the school nurse in Every Student Succeeds Act (2015) (NASN). School nurses regularly engage with families, as student health and wellness are dependent on relationships both at home and at school. Lastly, care coordination includes the task of reaching out to resources on behalf of the student in order to ensure that student needs are met.

## **Slide 19**

Emergency Planning and Preparedness is a huge component of school safety. School nurses are leaders in emergency planning and integral members of the emergency management team. Many school nurses serve as Emergency Plan Coordinators for their schools and are responsible for annual plan updates and staff training. Basic life-saving training for teachers and staff is provided annually by the school nurse, which includes but is not limited to Epi-pen training, Glucagon training, CPR and First Aid, and Stop the Bleed.

School nurses are trained to act quickly and effectively to respond to injuries or disasters. This also entails making sure that all emergency equipment is usable and up-to-date, even when not in use. Changing out expired Epi-pens, stocking first aid kits, batteries in the AEDs, and having wheelchairs easily accessible. Emergency readiness increases a school's ability to respond to an emergency and to most importantly assure student safety.

## **Slide 20**

Community public health, or population health, includes many facets, such as identifying local health resources from within the community and to make these resources available to students and staff. School nurses provide public health education around wellness, disease prevention, water quality, and public safety. Many students in New Hampshire are homeless or without adequate nutrition; school nurses regularly distribute food and clothing, as well as hygiene supplies for students and families in need.

The goal is to prevent illness, disease, and injury, and to promote a healthy community.

## **Slide 21**

The School Nurse is an essential and integral member of the school community and administrative team.

The School Nurse brings unique knowledge and skills supporting students in succeeding in the education process.

Every child deserves to have a School Nurse in every school, every day, all day!

## Slide 22

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