

WEST VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL NURSES

WV SCHOOL NURSES: KEEPING STUDENTS IN SCHOOL AND LEARNING

West Virginia Certified School Nurses keep students healthy and in school so they can learn.

In the 2014-2015 school year, WV school nurses saw **563,042** students for health issues and returned **455,025** back to class after taking care of the illness or injury. **82,202** students were assessed by the school nurse and returned to class. After a thorough assessment, determination was made by the nurse to call 911 for **3,815** of those students.

West Virginia Certified School Nurses provide specialized services to students with chronic health needs so they can stay in school and learn.

For instance, in the 2014-2015 school year, **289** WV school nurses provided diabetes management to **1,262** students. This included insulin management and administration for these students and training an additional **153** school employees to assist with blood sugar checks multiple times during the school day, reporting any abnormalities to the school nurse immediately. Another **351** school employees were trained to administer the emergency injection of glucagon in case of a diabetic emergency when the nurse was not at that school.

4,843 West Virginia school children were diagnosed with life threatening allergies and the potential for anaphylactic shock. **3,433** required the immediate administration of epinephrine if symptoms of shock were present.

In that same school year, **1,368** students had heart problems, **2,003** students had seizure disorders, **2,315** students were diagnosed with recurrent migraines, **2,357** had mental disorders and **13,066** were diagnosed with asthma. **61** students were diagnosed with Cancer and **452** adolescent girls were identified as pregnant. Certified school nurses developed **24,308** health care plans and had **93,715** consultations with other health care providers to insure the adequate care and safety for these students.

The current number of certified school nurses in West Virginia is dangerously inadequate to meet the health and safety needs for the school children in our schools. Current WV Code, passed in 1986, only calls for one school nurse for every 1500 children from Kindergarten through 7th grade. Only by having at least one certified school nurse in each school, or at least a minimum of the national recommendation of one school nurse for every 750, can we even begin to insure the health and safety of all of our students. The WV Code, at the very least, must be extended to cover all students and not just selected grades. Since one school nurse for every 1500 students has been the absolute recommended minimum for years, school districts are already doing this. Bringing the Code up to compliance with this recommendation should not cost the state any additional funds but will insure that no district will drop below that minimum.

West Virginia Certified School Nurses save time for principals, teachers and staff allowing them to more efficiently do their jobs to help our students attend school and learn.

Student acuity levels are increasing at a dramatic rate and West Virginia school nurses provide the most effective and cost efficient care to West Virginia's students, often the only health professional many students see on a regular basis.

West Virginia Certified School Nurses promote wellness and prevent injury through education for both students and staff.

HEALTHY CHILDREN = ACADEMIC SUCCESS