Providing School Health Services to Promote Student Success

Health Issues and Schools

- 1 in 4 children has a chronic condition such as asthma, diabetes, obesity, or a learning or behavioral disability
- Type 1 Diabetes is associated with lower academic outcomes and increased absenteeism
- 13.8 million missed school days per year among children with asthma
- 36% more sick days per year among students with overweight or obesity
- 14% of school-aged children are on regular medication
- 51 million school hours missed each year due to dental problems

School Health Services:
Services provided by the district to assess, protect, and promote student health. School nurses, physicians, and other medical professionals typically deliver these services.

Benefits of School Health Services

- Support student success
  - School nurses increase students’ time in the classroom
  - Strong health services policies and programs are significantly related to higher graduation rates
- Save time
  - Minutes saved by school nurses per day:
    - Principals: 60
    - Teachers: 20
    - Clerical Staff: 45
- Protect against liability
  - Assure the safety of students while in school
  - Ensure legal compliance with IDEA and Section 504

Strategies for Expanding School Health Services

- Partner with a medical center or health department
- Supplement school nursing with a telemedicine program
- Bill for Medicaid reimbursement for school health services
- Seek funding through grants and/or donations
- Create a funding stream through a special referendum
- Partner with a healthcare organization to open a school-based health center

How Administrators Can Support School Health Services

- Schedule time for training on health issues
- Designate a health services coordinator
- Advocate for a school nurse in every building
- Include school nurses on educational teams
- Support development of health services policies
- Partner with local or state health department
- Engage a physician consultant

For resources on strengthening school health services visit: https://schoolhealthteams.sap.org

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