

From Your NYSASN President...

January 2010

This new decade is full of hope and promise for improved healthcare for all New York State students and their families. However this plays out in the legislature, the New York State Association of School Nurses will continue to advocate for New York's future. Families are the center of our society. Families matter.

NYSASN speaks for the school nurse who, in turn, advocates for students and families.

NYSASN represents "School Nurses for School Nurses".

School Nurses are part of a much larger system and that is the NYS Public Health Arena. School Nurses advocate for and protect the public. For example, Public Health Law as well as NYS Education laws guide school nurses with collection of immunization data in regard to school attendance in NYS schools. Some NYS school settings have additional health office personnel such as health aides or LPNs to assist the school nurse such as in the hospital setting. Licensure and scope of practice guidelines dictate what assistive personnel can legally and safely do in the school setting. Licensure through the SED and the NYS Board of Nursing is a means to protect the public.

School Nurses are essential within the school system as a support service to keep students healthy, able to attend school and able to participate in school. So what does this look like on a daily basis? This means the presence of school nurses every day in all school buildings in New York State schools.

School Nurses are Registered Professional Nurses who, like the classroom teacher, have education and certification in a specific subject area, to effectively promote health and wellness as well as take care of illness and first aid in school. NYSASN promotes professional development for all school nurses through annual scholarships, a fall conference and new this year, a regional clinical, hands-on, one day conference! Keep watch of our webpage for the date and location in March 2010.

School Nurses understand that students will be successful adults in society if they can learn to be healthy and successful in school. Learning to manage diabetes (such as daily blood sugar testing, daily diet/medication modifications or adjustments, body image awareness and changing activity levels...) or asthma (learning to cue in on signs and symptoms of asthma and how to administer daily medications to maintain optimal control) are as important as the three R's. A School Nurse is the fourth "R" (Registered Professional Nurse)!! School Nurses do matter.

Thank you for all that you do as a school nurse. Thank you for your support to this professional organization of school nursing. Remember to renew your membership and attend NYSASN offerings! Happy New Year!

Sincerely,

Suzanne Smith, RN, BSN, NCSN

NYSASN President