2017-2018 School Health Services Program

School health services are an essential component of the public health system which helps to ensure that Florida's students are healthy, in the classroom, and ready to learn.

School-based health services are provided to public school children in grades pre-kindergarten through twelve in all 67 Florida counties. In cooperation with the Department of Education, the School Health Services Program provides mandated services according to the Florida Statutes. Health services may also be provided to public charter schools and private schools, based on agreements and/or contracts and the availability of staff and local resources.

The Department of Health School Health Program office provides funding, technical assistance, and oversight of health services provided in Florida's public schools. State funding for the school health services program is usually supplemented by funding from local school districts and community partners.

School Health services include tasks such as nursing assessments, individualized health care plan development, in-school care management for chronic and acute health conditions, assistance with medication administration and health care procedures, screenings, first aid and emergency health services, and referrals and follow-up for suspected or confirmed health problems.

Reported student health conditions managed by local school health staff include conditions such as allergies, asthma, attention deficit disorder, seizure disorders, cardiac conditions, diabetes, kidney disease, bleeding disorders, sickle cell disease, cancer, and cystic fibrosis.

Contact Us

School Health Program 850-245-4330
http://www.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/childrens-health/school-health/school-health-program.html

2017-2018 Statewide Statistics

- Over 2.8 million public school students
- 3,704 public schools
- 25,341,633 key health services performed
- Staff included:
  - 1,242 registered nurses
  - 980 licensed practical nurses
  - 1,097 health aides
- Registered Nurse to Student Ratio is 1 to 2,269
- Registered Nurse to School ratio is 1: 2.98
- 88.49% of students returning to class following a health room visit
- Annual per student expenditure for school health: $66.20
- Percent of Students Screened by Weight Range:
  - Healthy Weight: 60.88%
  - Underweight: 3.98%
  - Overweight: 16.31%
  - Obese: 18.83%

Mandated School Health screenings are provided every year by school health staff. These screenings include:

- Vision Screenings - KG, 1st, 3rd and 6th grades
- Hearing Screenings - KG, 1st and 6th grades
- Scoliosis Screenings - 6th grade
- Growth and Development with Body Mass Index (BMI) Screenings - 1st, 3rd and 6th grades

Goals for the Future

- Improve the current ratio of registered school nurses (RN) to school by advocating for one RN to be present in every school, all day, every day to optimize student health, safety and learning.
- Increase the percent of students that return to class after clinic visits to at or above 90%.
- Strive to increase the programs work associated with 5 of the 7 Florida Health Performs priorities: increasing childhood vaccines, increasing health equity, decreasing HIV infections, decreasing infant mortality, and decreasing inhaled nicotine.