

## **Background for school nurse positions:** (Linda Bjella / Deb Werth)

School nurse-to-student ratios were first recommended in the 1970s, when laws were enacted to protect the rights for all students to attend public school, including those with significant health needs. Those laws included The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504 (1973) and Public Law 94-142, the Education for all Handicapped Children Act (1975), reauthorized in 2004 as the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act [IDEIA], (2004). Although evidence to support ratios was limited, some states and NASN recommended one school nurse to 750 students in the healthy student population; 1:225 for student populations requiring daily professional nursing services; 1:125 for student populations with complex healthcare needs; and 1:1 for individual students requiring daily, continuous professional nursing services (American Nurses Association [ANA]/NASN, 2011). While a ratio of one school nurse to 750 students has been widely recommended and was acknowledged in Healthy People 2020 (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services [USDHHS], 2014a) and by the American Academy of Pediatrics [AAP] (2008), a one-size-fits-all workload determination is inadequate to fill the increasingly complex health needs of students and school communities (AAP, 2008; ANA/NASN, 2011).

### **What is the definition of *school nursing*?**

School nursing, a specialized practice of nursing, protects and promotes student health, facilitates optimal development, and advances academic success. School nurses, grounded in ethical and evidence-based practice, are the leaders who bridge health care and education, provide care coordination, advocate for quality student-centered care, and collaborate to design systems that allow individuals and communities to develop their full potential. *Adopted by the NASN Board of Directors February 2017.*

Here's a link to the Framework for 21st Century School Nursing Practice:

<https://higherlogicdownload.s3.amazonaws.com/NASN/3870c72d-fff9-4ed7-833f-215de278d256/UploadedImages/PDFs/Framework%20for%2021st%20Century%20School%20Nursing%20Practice/21stCenturySchoolNurseFramework2016.pdf>