

# UTAH SCHOOL NURSES

SAVE LIVES,  
SAVE MONEY

## School Nurses Save Lives

Last year 27 student lives were saved through administration of epinephrine at school.

## School Nurses Screen for Health-Related Conditions that Interfere with Learning

Last year 283,748 students received vision screening. Of those, 17,374 were referred for further care by an eyecare professional. Over 4,300 received financial assistance for vision exam and glasses.

## School Nurses Return More Students to Class

Unlicensed lay staff send more students home, because they do not have the specialized training and assessment skills that an RN does. School nurses keep students in school, ready to learn.

## School Nurses increase Teaching Efficiency

When there is a school nurse the teacher and the rest of the students are less distracted by fear. One school nurse saves each school in lost productivity costs (57 minutes for each principal, 46 minutes for each clerical staff, and 20 minutes for each teacher every day).

## School Nurses Allow Districts to Meet Legal Requirements

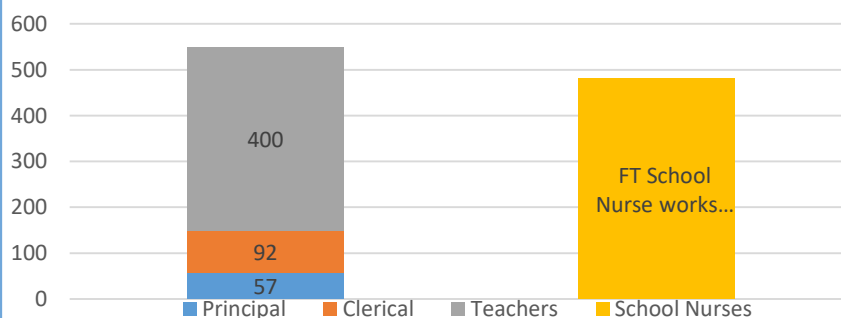
By providing medical care to students at school by training, delegating, and utilizing proper documentation procedures, school nurses prevent legal liability for schools by promoting correct care delivery.

*"School Nurses enhance each child's educational potential by promoting physical and emotional wellness, increasing school attendance, and decreasing non-academic barriers to learning."*

Dr. William Cosgrove

Typical school of 600 student, 20 teachers saving 20 minutes/day each, 2 clerical staff saving 46 minutes/day each, and 57 minutes/day for saved for principal when full-time school nurse is present.

### School Nurses Save Schools in Lost Productivity Costs,



# WHAT WOULD IT TAKE?



**To put a school nurse in every school in Utah it would cost \$91,000,000. This equates to about \$140 per student per year. Utah legislature currently spends \$1,002,000 on school nurses, which equates to \$1.54 per student, per year.**

652,348 Students in Utah

■ 27 % Chronic Health Conditions ■ 20% Mental Health Conditions  
■ Total Student Enrollment



- Approximately **27% of students have a chronic health condition**<sup>1</sup> (i.e., diabetes, asthma, allergies, seizure, heart conditions, cancers), and up to **20% of students have mental health conditions**<sup>2, 3</sup> (i.e., ADHD, depression, anxiety, eating disorders, self-injury).
- School nurses spend a significant amount of their time (up to 40%) working with students with mental health conditions<sup>4</sup>.
- School nurses view the students as a complete person with physiologic and emotional states that can alter the child's educational readiness. School nurses are trained to calmly handle both medical and emotional crises in students. This frees the teacher to focus on teaching.
- School Nurses have the specialized training and assessment skills necessary to provide the competent caring hands and confident calming voice which brings immediate comfort to a frightened child who is ill or injured.

<sup>1</sup> Van Cleave, J., Gortmaker, S.L., & Perrin, J.M. (2010) Dynamics of obesity and chronic health conditions among children and youth. Journal of American Medical Association, 303(7), 623-630.

<sup>2</sup> World Health Organization. (2017). Global accelerated action for health of adolescents (AA-HA!): Guidance to support country implementation. Geneva: World Health Organization.

<sup>3</sup> Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Missouri Department of Mental Health, and National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare (2012). Youth Mental Health First Aid USA for Adults Assisting Young People.

<sup>4</sup> Ravenna, J., & Cleaver, K. (2016). School Nurses' experience of managing young people with mental health problems: A scoping review. The Journal of School Nursing 2016, 32(1), 58-70.