



# THE SCHOOL NURSE BULLETIN

## NOVEMBER 2016



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**Connecticut State Department of Education**  
**Education Consultant**

### Resources for School Nurses

#### **Diabetes:**

#### ***Helping the Student with Diabetes Succeed: A Guide for School Personnel***

The National Diabetes Education Program's (NDEP) *Helping the Student with Diabetes Succeed: A Guide for School Personnel (Guide)* is a resource designed to empower school personnel and administrators to create a safe learning environment and equal access to educational resource opportunities for students with diabetes. This *Guide* was not specifically developed for use by Connecticut schools, therefore, school nurses must ensure compliance with Connecticut State laws for diabetes management and medication administration in schools.

#### **Supporting Organizations**

This *Guide* was produced by the National Diabetes Education Program (NDEP), a federally sponsored partnership of the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases of the National Institutes of Health and the Division of Diabetes Translation of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and more than 200 partner organizations. The following organizations support its use by school personnel.

The *Guide* includes:

- Introduction to the School Guide
- Diabetes Overview
- Actions for School Personnel, Parents or Guardians, and Students
- Tools for Effective Diabetes Management
- School Responsibilities Under Federal Laws
- Additional Reading

<https://www.niddk.nih.gov/health-information/health-communication-programs/ndep/health-care-professionals/school-guide/Pages/publicationdetail.aspx>

#### **Asthma:**

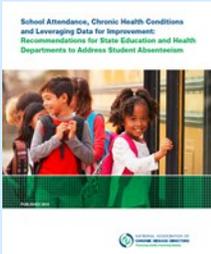
#### **!! New asthma form for use by Connecticut Schools !!** ***Asthma Medication Authorization and Asthma Action Plan***

An asthma action plan (also called a management plan) is a written plan developed with a patient/family and their health care provider to help control asthma. Asthma Action Plans (AAP) lists all medications with instructions on when they should be taken. It is a simple plan that describes how to achieve long term control and what to do when asthma symptoms arises.



The "*Asthma Medication Authorization and Asthma Action Plan*" for Connecticut schools was developed through a collaborative process by the State Department of Public Health. This form is located on the Connecticut State Department of Education's School Nurse Web site at:

[http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/lib/sde/pdf/deps/health/asthma\\_rx\\_authorization\\_combo\\_aap\\_2016.pdf](http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/lib/sde/pdf/deps/health/asthma_rx_authorization_combo_aap_2016.pdf)



## School Attendance, Chronic Health Conditions and Leveraging Data for Improvement: Recommendations for State Education and Health Departments to Address Student Absenteeism

The National Association of Chronic Disease Directors (NACDD) has released a new resource: *School Attendance, Chronic Health Conditions and Leveraging Data for Improvement: Recommendations for State Education and Health Departments to Address Student Absenteeism* located at [http://c.ymcdn.com/sites/www.chronicdisease.org/resource/resmgr/school\\_health/NACDD\\_School\\_Attendance\\_and\\_.pdf](http://c.ymcdn.com/sites/www.chronicdisease.org/resource/resmgr/school_health/NACDD_School_Attendance_and_.pdf)

This document emphasizes the role of school nurses in both the collection and use of data to address chronic absenteeism; especially for those students with chronic health conditions. The Connecticut State Department of Education and the Consolidated School District of New Britain are highlighted in the publication. Are school nurses members of the data and/or attendance teams in your district?

For questions related to this resource, please contact Donna Heins, CSDE Education Consultant, at [donna.heins@ct.gov](mailto:donna.heins@ct.gov) or 860-807-2082.



## Opportunities for School and Hospital Partnership in the Management of Chronic Health Conditions

The National Association of Chronic Disease Directors (NACDD) has released a new resource: *Opportunities for School and Hospital Partnership in the Management of Chronic Health Conditions: An Issue Brief for Health Departments* that Integrates Community Health Needs Assessment Requirements for Non-profit Hospitals Under the Affordable Care Act, Medicaid Initiatives, and Additional Opportunities.

The brief is directed to state health departments and state education department partners with a focus on school health and nursing services and aims to help inform and strengthen school and hospital partnership related to the management of chronic health conditions in schools. It describes and provides examples of how schools and hospitals can capitalize on opportunities offered through the Affordable Care Act (ACA), including the community health needs assessment requirements for non-profit hospitals under ACA, and other policy and program opportunities to improve health and education outcomes for children. In addition, it features specific strategies and resources for state health departments to consider as they move forward in this area.

To access this resource online and additional NACDD school health project publications, please visit <http://www.chronicdisease.org/?SchoolHealthPubs>



# New School Nurse Conference

**Tuesday, December 6, 2016**

**&**

**Wednesday, December 7, 2016**

8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

(registration @ 7:30)

Radisson Hotel, Cromwell

100 Berlin Road, Cromwell, CT 06416

**PRESENTED BY:** Stephanie Knutson, Education Consultant, CSDE

This professional learning opportunity, designed specifically for school nurses, will provide an overview of legal requirements, standards of practice and competencies for school nurses, supervisory issues, and the school nurse's role in student achievement, special education, and academic success.

Participants will learn state laws and regulations regarding school health; state mandates for immunizations, health assessments, and screenings; documentation in school health services; special education and Section 504; and academic achievement issues related to school health.

#### **AUDIENCE:**

School Nurses, School Nurse Supervisors, Directors of Special Education/Pupil Services, School Medical Advisors, and Other School Staff

**\$215.00 per person (Includes breakfast & lunch on both days)**

**To register, please visit:  
<https://17-23-095.eventbrite.com>**

#### **QUESTIONS?**

**Registration:** Nattaneal Wilson, Education Services Specialist, 860-632-1485, ext. 268 or wilson@ctserc.org

**Content:** Stephanie Knutson, CSDE, Education Consultant, 860-807-2108 or stephanie.knutson@ct.gov

**Full attendance on both days is required to receive 1.2 CEUs. No partial CEUs will be granted.**

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### Spreading Attendance Awareness – All Year Round!

Across the nation, September was celebrated as Attendance Awareness Month and many of Connecticut's school districts used this opportunity to spread the word about why attending school every day is important to improving academic success. In fact, 28 Connecticut superintendents compared to only six in September 2015, answered Attendance Works' "Call to Action on Attendance." An increase of more than 4 times the number of districts in just one year. By answering this call, superintendents committed to: 1) prioritize attendance; 2) mobilize the community; and 3) drive with data.

These important efforts and commitment should not end in September. By calling attention to the importance of attendance during the first month of school, districts are kicking off a year-round effort to raise the level of awareness and attention to the importance of being in school and engaged every day.

Resources for sending the right message about attendance to parents and students are available in the [Make Every Day Count](#) toolkit created by Attendance Works. It is important that the message is consistent and continuous at the district, school, preschool and community levels. While schools alone can't do all it takes to improve attendance, every successful initiative ultimately relies on educators deciding to make the reduction of chronic absence a priority throughout the year. Mark your calendar to answer the Call to Action in 2017!

Resources:

- [Attendance Awareness Month](#), Attendance Works
- [In School and On Track](#): A toolkit on "How to talk to parents of elementary school students about their children's absences," California Attorney General and Ad Council
- [Make Every Day Count](#), Attendance Works

For additional information on addressing chronic absenteeism, please contact Kari Sullivan at [kari.sullivan@ct.gov](mailto:kari.sullivan@ct.gov) or 860-807-2041.

### School Nurses' Role in Combating Chronic Absenteeism

School Nurses Reduce Chronic Absenteeism by:

- Outreaching to students/families to meet their individual needs;
- Helping student/family access to needed physical or mental healthcare providers;
- Ensuring students feel safe at school;
- Providing student and family support during the school day;
- Advocating for school-wide approach to addressing chronic absenteeism;
- Encouraging utilization of reporting systems for better data collection;
- Conducting parent/caregiver and student classes on health topics; and
- Addressing chronic tardiness, early dismissals, and class absence; in addition to chronic absenteeism.

The full document is located on the NASN Web site at <https://www.nasn.org/portals/0/advocacy/whitepaperabsenteeism.pdf>

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### Nondiscrimination Statement

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