



THE SCHOOL NURSE BULLETIN

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PRESIDENT SIGNS “EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT” (ESSA) INTO LAW

School Nurses highlighted in new law

Silver Spring, MD (December 10, 2015) – This week, President Obama signed into law the “Every Student Succeeds Act” or ESSA, just one day after it passed the U.S. Senate. The previous week ESSA was passed in the U.S. House of Representatives with an overwhelmingly bipartisan vote. ESSA replaces “No Child Left Behind” which was many years overdue for being reauthorized.

Within ESSA there is a crucial provision that highlights the important work that school nurses do in chronic disease management. Additionally, the National Association of School Nurses (NASN) has supported several provisions that address the role of Specialized Instructional Support Personnel in promoting student success in Title I.

“This is terrific news for our students. School nurses are the basic infrastructure for the health of students in schools and provide a critical link to student success, ensuring that they are safe, healthy, and ready to learn,” said NASN President Beth Matthey. “The inclusion of school nurses in ESSA, paves the way for school nurses as necessary and important members of the team who will lead the changing landscape of healthcare.”

[Learn more about the bill](#) and [read the specific school nurse language on page 481](#).

NASN

The National Association of School Nurses is a non-profit specialty nursing organization, organized in 1968 and incorporated in 1977, representing school nurses exclusively. NASN has nearly 16,000 members and 50 affiliates, including the District of Columbia and overseas. The mission of the NASN is to advance school nurse practice to keep students healthy, safe and ready to learn. To learn more about NASN, please visit us on the Web at www.nasn.org or call 866-627-6767.

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Better Health. Better Learning.



Connecticut State Department of Public Health (DPH) School Flu Immunization Requirement for PreK Students: Question and Answer (Q+A)

The Connecticut immunization regulation requires at a minimum one dose of influenza vaccine for school entry, each year between August 1st and December 31, for all children aged 24 months - 4 years (59 months). For more information on influenza vaccines, visit the State Department of Public Health's Web site at www.cdc.gov/flu/protect/vaccine/.

Q: Do all children aged 24 months - 4 years (59 months) who have not received a flu vaccine by December 31st need to be excluded from school?

A: Children do not have to be excluded from school if the following conditions are met:

- the school has received a statement signed by the child's HCP indicating that the child has an appointment to receive the required immunization (this is considered "immunization in progress"). Continued enrollment in school for more than thirty days after the named immunization appointment shall be contingent on the school receiving written documentation from the HCP stating either: that the named appointment was kept and the child received the scheduled immunizations, or that the child was unable to receive the scheduled immunizations for medical reasons and a new appointment date is named;
- the school has received a statement signed and dated by the child's HCP indicating that the child has a medical contraindication to immunization;
- the school has received a written statement that immunization is contrary to the religious beliefs and practices of the child or the parent of such child. Such statement shall be signed by the child's parent.

Q: How should a school enforce the flu vaccine regulation for those children who have not received the flu shot by December 31st?

A: Children who have not received the flu vaccine by December 31st must be excluded from school for the duration of influenza season (through March 31st) or until they receive at least one dose of the influenza vaccine.

Q: Where can a family go to get the flu vaccine if the pediatrician does not have any more flu vaccine?

A: If a HCP cannot provide the flu vaccine within the given time frame of August 1 - December 31st, documentation stating that the child has an appointment to receive the flu vaccine from his or her HCP would be acceptable.

Q: How is the 'flu season' defined?

A: Influenza season generally occurs during November through the end of March.

Q: Is flu vaccine required after March?

A: No, students enrolling in school after March 31st are not required to get vaccinated but flu season may extend until May and therefore getting a flu vaccine even late in the season is still protective.

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