



School nurses support child and adolescent health, including growth and development, within a school ecosystem. They apply pediatric-specific knowledge to oversee first aid, health screenings, common issues related to physical and emotional health, and more. For children with limited access to health care, school nurses play a key role as a connection to preventative and primary care. School nurses also provide support to children with chronic conditions and special health care needs, promoting equity in education. They make a difference through their work, ensuring health and safety to help all children achieve their full academic potential.



Expertise in community and public health



Excellent communication skills with children, adolescents, families, and school personnel



Provides education for the academic team, administrators, families, and children



Able to plan for and navigate school emergencies and disasters

Keywords

- Direct care
- Health screening
- Care collaboration
- Advocate for children
- Child behavioral & mental health
- Resource connector
- Chronic health condition essential team member

Career Steps

1

Obtain a nursing degree. Minimum licensure requirements vary by state, so be sure to check your own state and local requirements to practice.

2

Pass your nursing license exam. Apply for nursing licensure through your State Board of Nursing.

3

Gain experience providing care to school-aged populations.

4

Join the membership association for school nursing specialization: the National Association of School Nurses (NASN). Become active in your local chapter to network and seek a mentor.

5

Obtain specialized certification if you hold a bachelor's degree or above. Two good options include the Certified Pediatric Nurse (CPN) credential from the Pediatric Nursing Certification Board (PNCB) and the Nationally Certified School Nurse (NCSN) from the National Board of Certification of School Nurses (NBCSN).



Links for further reading

- [The National Association of School Nurse's \(NASN\) School Nursing Practice Framework™](#)
- Willgerodt MA, Tanner A, McCabe E, Jameson B, Brock D. Public School Nurses in the United States: National School Nurse Workforce Study 2.0. The Journal of School Nursing. 2024;0(0). [School Nurse Workforce Study – National Association of School Nurses \(nasn.org\)](#)
- Willgerodt MA, Yonkaitis, C. School nurses: Keeping school children, families, and communities healthy. American Nurse. February 3, 2021. [School nurses – keeping children, families, and communities healthy \(myamericannurse.com\)](#)



IPN

INSTITUTE of PEDIATRIC NURSING

Supporting the Pediatric Nursing Certification Board's vision for a healthier world one child at a time

PNCB

PEDIATRIC NURSING
CERTIFICATION BOARD

Explore pediatric nursing careers at [ipedsnursing.org](https://www.ipedsnursing.org)

Earn pediatric nurse certification at [pncb.org](https://www.pncb.org)