CDC Healthy Schools (School Health Branch)

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Healthy Students, Promising Futures Learning Collaborative Meeting
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CDC’s Healthy Schools

Priorities

- Increase quantity and quality of physical education, health education and physical activity
- Improve the nutritional quality of foods provided in schools
- Improve the capacity of schools to manage chronic conditions

CDC’s Role

- Evidence-based guidelines and recommendations
- Tools and resources for educators and administrators
- Funding and support
- Training and professional development
Funded National Non-Governmental Organizations

National Association of School Nurses

National Network of Public Health Institutes
2015 Health-Related Behaviors and Academic Grades Fact Sheets
Resources to address Chronic Conditions in Schools

Research Brief

Addressing the Needs of Students with Chronic Health Conditions: Strategies for Schools

US Students and Chronic Health Conditions:
Children and adolescents with chronic health conditions spend hours a day in school and depend on their school health centers to help manage their conditions. A good working partnership between students, school nurses, teachers, school staff, and administrators can help reduce absenteeism and improve academic achievement.

Introduction:
The relationship between certain chronic health conditions and academic achievement is an area of emerging scientific inquiry. These include juvenile diabetes, asthma, chronic illness, and other conditions that require managed care. The goal of this brief is to provide information on the impact of chronic health conditions on students and to discuss strategies that can help improve academic achievement.

 STUDENTS AND CHRONIC HEALTH CONDITIONS

- About 30% of children in the United States aged 2 to 17 years have a chronic health condition such as asthma, diabetes, chronic physical conditions, and mental health problems. Although it is difficult to estimate the number of students with chronic health conditions, it is estimated that about 22% of students aged 2 to 17 years (11 million) have health conditions, 27% have chronic conditions, and 22% have chronic conditions that require ongoing medical care.

- Students with chronic health conditions may have lower academic achievement, increased absenteeism, lower self-esteem, and limited opportunities for social and academic interactions as they enter adulthood. Because these health conditions can have significant impacts on education, it is important to understand the relationship between chronic health conditions and academic achievement.

- Studies show that students with chronic health conditions can face academic challenges, leading to lower academic achievement. In addition, these students may require additional support to ensure their academic success. The brief will provide strategies to help students with chronic health conditions achieve academic success.

- Sources for Information in This Brief:
- National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion
- CDC

Managing Chronic Health Conditions in Schools: The Role of the School Nurse

Health services in schools are a key component of the health care system. School nurses are critical in ensuring the health of students with chronic health conditions. The school nurse provides the only healthcare provider in some schools for students with chronic health conditions.

- The National Association of School Nurses (NASN) and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommend that nurses who work in schools should be prepared to provide health services to students with chronic health conditions.

- The role of the school nurse is to identify students with chronic health conditions, develop an individualized care plan, and provide ongoing support to ensure the health and academic success of these students.

Health Insurance for Children: How Schools Can Help

Health insurance is a critical component of the health care system. Students with chronic health conditions may require ongoing medical care, leading to the need for health insurance.

- The Affordable Care Act (ACA) requires all states to expand Medicaid coverage to children up to age 21.

- States can use federal funds to provide health insurance to eligible children.

- Schools can help students enroll in health insurance by providing information and support.

- The Student Health Insurance Program (SHIP) is a federal program that helps students with health insurance.

- Schools can also provide information on health insurance options available to students.

- Sources for Information in This Brief:
- National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion
- CDC
- The Affordable Care Act
- Student Health Insurance Program (SHIP)
School Health Index
Virtual Healthy School

Visit Our Healthy School - A Tobacco-Free Campus

Map of the Virtual Healthy School environment.

Map locations include:
- Municipal Building
- Behavioral Health Center
- Parks and Recreation Department
- Library
- Community Resource Center
- Farmers’ Market
- Public Health Department

District Employee Wellness Program
Celebration Board
Fitness Equipment
Water Dispenser
Vending Machine
Bulletin Board
Relaxation Area

Virtual Healthy School Health Center
Jefferson School