

Health Services

Support Services

PURPOSE STATEMENT

Issue – Health Services provides nursing services, mental health support, health education, communicable disease management (such as COVID-19), and environmental safety support for all students age three to twenty-one, as well as, staff health support, education, and training. 1 in 3 children in Tacoma public Schools has a diagnosed medical condition and all 28,500 students have access to an onsite health room. Students are coming to school with increased chronic health care needs and demands that must be managed by a licensed health care provider. Health care needs within our district have more than doubled in the last 6 school years with stagnant nursing FTE. Additionally, our district has needed to support almost yearly communicable disease outbreaks to include, measles, mumps, pertussis, and the current COVID-19 global pandemic. Students do not currently have access to a nurse on a daily basis. School Nurse Caseloads within TPS are on average 1:1350 students; with varying student health needs and requirements. Comprehensive High Schools and Middles Schools have full time nursing support Monday through Friday; Elementary Schools follow a regional site model with full time nursing support in 10 locations and a mix of School Nurse (1-2 days a week) and non-licensed support (2 hours each non-school nurse day) in 23 locations.

Vision – Provide health care support at all district school locations; ensuring that no student must choose between their health and educational programming. Ensure students with medical concerns can access their education in the least restrictive environment, are healthy and remain in the classroom, graduate on time and can become academically and socially successful. The roles, responsibilities and staff of the Health Services Department reduce health related barriers for each student by supporting the physical, mental, emotional and social health of students and their success in the learning process. As well as, help to manage communicable disease outbreaks and address related barriers.

Approach – Our approach to supporting student medical needs is through staffing to support effective student/ nurse ratios for best practice-based care and interventions, professional development to improve nursing practice, and staff training to ensure compliance with state RCW and WAC. Our Goal is to be in alignment with the American Academy of Pediatric Recommendation of a 1:750 School Nurse Caseload and the OSPI recommendation of a 1:1500 School Nurse Caseload (Note 1500 is based on healthy students with no diagnosed health concerns, case load would decrease with increased student need). Additionally, it is our goal to minimize student removal from their home school location to receive medical services; maintaining nursing support in the elementary level.

STAKEHOLDERS

The Health Services Department provides for the safety and health of students and staff, serving all 28,500 students and their families within Tacoma Public Schools. The work of the School Nurse also contributes to and supports the work of the classroom teacher, counselor, psychologist, social worker, and building administrator; supporting the multidisciplinary team to create plans of support for students i.e. IEPs, 504s, safety plans, care plans, etc. The school nurse also addresses and influences community health outside the confines of the campus. The nurse practices public health interventions through immunization monitoring, infectious disease surveillance, environmental health, disaster and emergency planning, connecting families with community resources and many other health and safety issues affecting the public; to include communicable disease outbreaks such as COVID-19.

CASE STATEMENT

Healthy children are successful learners. Research has shown there is a direct link between student health, academic success, and subsequent adult outcomes (Julia Dilley Report, 2009). The school Nurse is pivotal in providing necessary care to students, decreasing the increased risk faced by students with chronic health conditions and the threat of death with school attendance. There are several Washington State laws in place with regard to health care of students in the school setting; including communicable disease management, staff training, care plan management, medication administration, assessment, immunization compliance, disaster management and preparedness, health education, advocacy, screening, documentation, and data collection compliance which reduces barriers to learning and improving attendance, while supporting safe and healthy students and staff. Over the past six school years Tacoma health needs have doubled while nursing staff has had minimal increase, leaving a gap in services. Without appropriate staffing and training support, the health needs of students will not be met. To meet the needs of students we

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must recruit, retain, and train nurses and staff to deliver health care services and interventions. This requires competitive caseloads and salaries, professional learning opportunities, and compliance with federal and state regulations.

WHAT SPECIFIC BOARD-ADOPTED BENCHMARKS WILL BE INFLUENCED BY THIS WORK?

- Student Health and Safety
 - Student Acuity & Ratio Data Collection
 - Immunization Compliance
 - Vision and Hearing Screening grades K,1,2,3,5,7
 - Health Department Initiative participation (Immunization and Dental Programming)
- COVID Health and Safety Support and Compliance

MEASURABLE GOALS

- We will increase access to COVID Health Initiatives by the fall of 2021 as measured by organization of community partnerships and initiative implementation accessible to all 55 sites; to include as able COVID testing and vaccination.
- We will decrease school nurse ratios from 1:1350 to 1:1000 (considering student acuity) by the end of 2023 as measured by student acuity and case load data on the OSPI Health Services Audit.
- We will increase immunization compliance from 90% to 99% by the end of 2021 as measured by immunization data in eSP.
- We will sustain student screening of vision and hearing at 90% by the end of 2021 as measured by screening team survey data collection and eSP data.
- We will increase student participation in Health Department initiatives to 50% by the end of 2022 as measured by Health Department participation data.

SCOPE OF WORK

Inputs / Resources	Activities	Outputs / Outcomes
Health Services Administrator and Clinical Coordinator	Department Management	Budget oversight, hiring/onboarding, training, professional development throughout the year, evaluation, staffing, medical consultation, building support, health services oversight
School Nurses & Assistant Nurses	COVID Support	Compliance with State Laws & Local Health Authority Support of COVID Health Initiatives
Health Services Administrator and Clinical Coordinator	COVID Support	Contact Tracing, Health Department liaison, professional development, building admin support.
School Nurses & Assistant Nurses	Assessment/ Triage	Increased Attendance, Increased on time graduation rates, Healthy Schools, and Student Safety
Screening Team, School Nurses, & Assistant Nurses	Vision and Hearing Screening	Compliance with State Laws, Student Academic Success

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School Nurses & Assistant Nurses	Immunization Compliance/ Communicable Disease Monitoring	Compliance with State Laws & Local Health Authority
School Nurse	Consultation	Care Plans, IEPs, 504s, Safety Plans
School Nurse	PD/ Training	Compliance & Delegation
School Nurse & Assistant Nurses	Compliance	Compliance with State Laws

- What are the barriers to more equitable outcomes? (e.g. mandated, political, emotional, financial, programmatic or managerial)
 - Staffing/ Finance
 - Not all Students have access to daily nurse support
 - Elementary schools have varied School Nurse Support 1 to 2 days a week.
- How will you mitigate the negative impacts and address barriers?
 - Seek to expand nursing coverage
 - Community Partnerships
 - Non-licensed Staff Support
 - Assess data regarding student medical needs to inform staffing

PROGRAM COST - BUDGET USE ONLY

<i>Fund Description</i>	<i>18-19 FTE</i>	<i>Salaries & Benefits</i>	<i>Supplies</i>	<i>Contract Services</i>	<i>Travel</i>	<i>Capital Outlay</i>	<i>Total</i>
Total							