

## **N.C. Parents Advocating for School Health**

### **THE FACTS:**

- The Centers for Disease Control recommends a ratio of 1 Nurse per 750 students
- N.C. has a ratio of approximately 1 Nurse per 1200 students
- Many elementary schools in N.C. have a Nurse only 2-3 days per week
- This negatively impacts the health and safety of all children

We are a group of N.C. parents trying to persuade our county health departments, school districts, county commissioners and lawmakers that our children deserve better. Our elected officials need to know that North Carolina wants the health and safety of our children to become a priority. We want N.C. to adhere to the ratio of 1 Nurse per 750 students.

**Funding will always be viewed as an obstacle, but you can't put a price on the life of a child.**

### **WHY ARE SCHOOL NURSES SO IMPORTANT?**

- Nurses are the most qualified school staff to handle medical emergencies, accidents and administer medications.
- Teachers should not be responsible for the healthcare needs of children at school. Their job is to teach and children lose instructional time when their Teachers are caring for the health needs of their students.
- Many children in school today have chronic health conditions such as diabetes, epilepsy, asthma and food allergies. They are guaranteed access to a free and appropriate public education and a School Nurse is most qualified to meet their health needs while they are in school.
- 1 in 4 allergic reactions are first time reactions. These children do not have prescription medication yet since the allergy was unknown. In many districts the only one who can administer emergency medicine is a Nurse. If she is not present, the only thing that can be done is to call 911 and often times that may be too late.
- The School Nurse may be the only healthcare provider uninsured or homeless children ever see.
- School Nurses provide prevention, wellness and referral to resources. They are on the front lines in epidemics such as H1N1 and can prevent their spread.
- School Nurses can save the schools money. Schools get funding based on attendance and studies show when a Nurses is present less children get sent home during the school day.

### **HOW CAN YOU HELP?**

There are so many ways to support this cause. We need people willing to get letters signed, to speak at PTA meetings, to meet with legislators, do internet research and so much more. Please contact us to help at [\*\*schoolhealthadvocacy@yahoo.com\*\*](mailto:schoolhealthadvocacy@yahoo.com).

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