



Georgia Department of Education

Georgia School Nurse NEWS

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EDUCATING GEORGIA'S FUTURE

MAY 2017



MAY NATIONAL HEALTH OBSERVANCES

- ⇒ [Arthritis Awareness Month](#)
- ⇒ [Food Allergy Action Month](#)
- ⇒ [Healthy Vision Month](#)
- ⇒ [Melanoma/Skin Cancer Detection and Prevention Month](#)
- ⇒ [Mental Health Month](#)
- ⇒ [National Asthma and Allergy Awareness Month](#)
- ⇒ [National Physical Fitness and Sports Month](#)
- ⇒ [National Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month](#)
- ⇒ [5th Hand Hygiene Day](#)
- ⇒ [7-13 Children's Mental Health Awareness Week](#)
- ⇒ [31st World No Tobacco Day](#)



The articles and hyperlinks to external websites appearing in the School Nurse News are intended to be informational and do not represent an endorsement by the Georgia Department of Education.

DEFINITION OF SCHOOL NURSING

School nursing, a specialized practice of public health nursing, protects and promotes student health, facilitates normal development, and advances academic success. School nurses, grounded in ethical and evidence-based practice, are the leaders that bridge health care and education, provide care coordination, advocate for quality student-centered care, and collaborate to design systems that allow individuals and communities to develop their full potentials. **Approved by the NASN Board of Directors June 2016.**



School Nurse



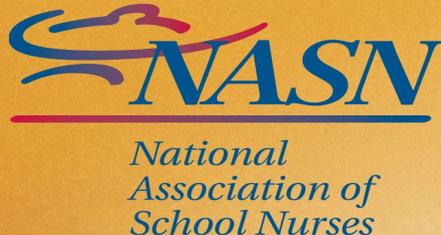
UPCOMING SCHOOL NURSE WORKSHOPS

Regional School Nurse Updates...

- **May 24, 2017** from 9:00 AM-1:00 PM
[NEGA RESA](#) Boardroom 375 Winter Street Winterville, GA
(click on link above to register)



National School Nurse Day May 10, 2017 *Healthy Nurse. Healthy Students.*



Georgia School Nurses,

I wanted to let each of you know how special and important you are to the students, teachers and staff of your schools. At the Georgia Department of Education, we understand that your job is much more than Band-Aids and boo-boos. Our school nurses in Georgia are responsible for over 1.7 million students. You spend most of your days giving medications, responding to seizures, asthma attacks, allergic reactions, checking blood sugars, giving insulin, checking for nits and taking care of injuries. Your work allows Georgia's students to be safe, healthy and ready to learn. You spend the rest of your time serving as a health educator, member of the crisis management team, developing wellness policies, counseling students dealing with violence, bullying, drugs or even suicide ideations. On May 10, 2017 we celebrate you! As always, thank you for all you do!

Sincerely,

Krista Lowe, School Nurse Specialist
Georgia Department of Education

NATIONAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT SURVEY

School and Student Health and Wellness Needs Assessment

Action for Healthy Kids is conducting a national survey to gain a better understanding of what motivates schools to work on creating healthier environments, what their needs are for resources and support, and how they collaborate with partners to assist their efforts. School professionals who are working on promoting school health and healthy lifestyles for students are ideal to complete this survey with input from others in their schools. The [survey](#) is open through May 26, 2017. If you have questions, please contact [Action for Healthy Kids](#).



GEORGIA STUDENT HEALTH SURVEY 2.0

A growing body of research indicates that schools with positive school climate ratings have better test scores and higher graduation rates. School climate refers to the quality and character of school life. The first step to improving school climate is to measure and analyze it with a school climate survey instrument. The Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) is a national leader in the collection and analysis of school climate data through the implementation of its annual [Georgia Student Health Survey 2.0](#). The GSHS 2.0 is an anonymous, statewide survey instrument developed by many divisions within the GaDOE including the Assessment and Accountability Division and in collaboration with the Georgia Department of Public Health and Georgia State University. The GSHS 2.0 identifies safety and health issues that have a negative impact on student achievement and school climate.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

⇒ Fuel up to Play 60 Grant

Up to \$4,000 per year is available to qualified K-12 schools enrolled in Fuel Up to Play 60 to jump start healthy changes. Application opens in April and is due June 14. Check out their [website](#) for further information and for the application release.



⇒ Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation [AED Grants](#)

- Friday, **June 2, 2017** at 5:00 PM for 3rd Quarter Grants
- Thursday, **September 7, 2017** at 5:00 PM for 4th Quarter Grants
- Friday, **December 1, 2017** at 5:00 PM for 1st Quarter Grants (Q1 2018)

⇒ Healthy School Hero Award

The Action for Healthy Kids (AFHK) [Healthy School Hero Award](#) recognizes parents, teachers, students, and others who have banded together to create healthier learning environments. Nominees must have demonstrated exceptional dedication and service toward AFHK mission, vision, and goals while volunteering for more than one school year on wellness initiatives. Nominations are due by June 30, 2017.

WEBINARS

⇒ **Bed Bugs 201 Webinar—May 9, 2017**

From 2:00-3:30 PM, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will host [Which Came First? The Bed or the Bug?](#) Presenters will discuss the importance of an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach to bed bugs and the latest control strategies for a variety of sensitive environments.

⇒ **Webinar: Using Quality Improvement to Prevent Childhood Injuries— May 11, 2017**

From 3:00-4:00 PM, the Children's Safety Network will host [Strategies from the Child Safety Collaborative Innovation & Improvement Network \(CS CoIIN\)](#). This webinar will explain the purpose and methodology of the CS CoIIN and describe lessons learned from its first cohort. CS CoIIN participants from Vermont and Indiana will share their efforts regarding child passenger safety inspections and screening for suicide risk, respectively.

⇒ **Meningococcal Disease Webinar— May 23, 2017**

From 10:00-11:00 AM, Tiffany Mond, PharmD and Medical Science Liaison for Vaccines will present a webinar on meningococcal disease and the vaccines that are available to prevent this life-threatening illness.

Invite Your Attendees
Registration URL: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8527215532595035395>
Webinar ID: 656-886-467

GEORGIA ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL NURSES

Dear Georgia School Nurses,

Whew... what a year. Happy almost summer break!! We hope you have registered for the 25th celebration during our annual GASN conference June 19-21st, 2017 in Savannah, Ga. We are all very excited about our line-up of speakers and exhibitors. Please let one of us know if you have any problems registering on our new website. Please don't hesitate to contact one of us or Connie Griffin who is our registration specialist.

We have heard from many School Nurses that they are so ready to power up for 2017-18 school year! We have amazing speakers lined up and are excited about learning with you. We will be offering a new session during pre-conference – The Leadership Academy that will feature our veteran school nurse leaders that have many years of experience! We will also feature the New to School Nursing class again this year. You will not want to miss either of these classes. Please consider bringing something from your district/school system. It can be a trinket or some kind of basket unique to your group as a door prize at conference. Everyone enjoys winning, the more gifts we have, the more school nurses win!

We look forward to meeting each of you at conference. Your being a member of one of the greatest organizations tailored for your school health specialty of practice will bring you a wealth of knowledge and kinship to other school nurses.

As President Elect and on behalf of the GASN Board of Directors, we look forward to meeting each you. We all know we could not do this without your contributions and support!

Happy National School Nurse Day on May 10th! We appreciate your contributions to keeping ALL Georgia students and staff safe, healthy and ready to learn!!

We wish ALL of you the very BEST School Nurse's Day. See you at conference!

Lisa Morrison, President-Elect; Babette Vlahos, President; Lynne Meadows, State Director; Elizabeth Hanna, Secretary; Melanie Bales, Treasurer and Carol Darsey, Past-President



ASSOCIATION OF
**GEORGIA
SCHOOL
NURSES**

CHOA RESOURCES

Eighteen percent of children in the United States have a chronic medical condition. A well-trained school health professional can help these children manage their health and stay in school. Children's Healthcare of Atlanta (CHOA) works closely with school health personnel throughout the state to provide them with educational materials, training and support.

The Children's Regional School Health Coordinator, Gail Smith, provides the following services:

- ◆ [School nurse updates](#) and webinars on clinical pediatric topics
- ◆ Staff education for school districts in metro Atlanta
- ◆ Reviews and revisions of the [school health manual](#)
- ◆ Serve as prime contact for school nurses to call to discuss programmatic needs and difficult cases
- ◆ Provide the CHOA/DPH [Common Infectious Illness poster](#)
- ◆ [Behavioral Health resources](#)

Children's Healthcare of Atlanta also provides nutritional and wellness resources through the [Strong 4 Life Program](#). Please click the hyperlink for more information.

For questions or requests, please contact:

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Regional School Nurse Coordinator
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Cell: 404-395-8067
Email: Gail.Smith@choa.org
Web Page: <http://www.choa.org/schoolhealth>

Want to receive School Health News:
<http://pages.choa.org/School-Nurse-OptIn.html>



HELPFUL LINKS

- ⇒ [ASTHMA](#)
- ⇒ [CHILDHOOD OBESITY](#)
- ⇒ [CULTURAL COMPETENCY](#)
- ⇒ [DIABETES IN CHILDREN](#)
- ⇒ [DISASTER PREPAREDNESS](#)
- ⇒ [DOCUMENTATION IN SCHOOL HEALTH](#)
- ⇒ [DRUG ABUSE](#)
- ⇒ [ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH](#)
- ⇒ [FOOD ALLERGIES & ANAPHYLAXIS](#)
- ⇒ [IMMUNIZATIONS](#)
- ⇒ [HEAD LICE](#)
- ⇒ [MENTAL HEALTH](#)
- ⇒ [ORAL HEALTH](#)
- ⇒ [SCHOOL WELLNESS POLICIES](#)
- ⇒ [SEASONAL INFLUENZA](#)
- ⇒ [SEXUAL & REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH](#)
- ⇒ [VIOLENCE IN SCHOOLS](#)
- ⇒ [VISION AND EYE HEALTH](#)

***Resources obtained from the [National Association of School Nurses Website](#)

HEALTH EDUCATION /RESOURCES

⇒ **Local School Wellness Policies Q & A Memo**

Earlier this month the U.S. Department of Agriculture released guidance in the form of a [Question and Answers memorandum](#) (Q & A memo) regarding local school wellness policies. This 13-page document contains several links to external sites.

⇒ **Hot Spots for Bullying**

On *Edutopia's* Bullying Prevention [webpage](#), you can find the recent article [Anatomy of School Bullying](#). The article depicts and summarizes data from the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) [Student Reports of Bullying](#). During the 2014-2015 school year, both male and female students ages 12-18 reported experiencing nearly twice as many bullying incidents between classes in transitional areas as in large open areas. These findings suggest that vigilance may be needed most in the hallways and stairwells to protect vulnerable students. A point of concern is that many students also reported experiencing bullying incidents in the classroom.

⇒ **Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) Webinar—May 4, 2017**

From 1:00 to 2:30 PM, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will host [Using Data to Drive Buy-In and Funding to Reduce Asthma Triggers: The Value Proposition of School IAQ Management](#). One of the featured experts is from North East Independent School District in Texas.

⇒ **Media-Smart Youth Program**

Media-Smart Youth: Eat, Think, and Be Active!® is an after-school program for youth ages 11-13. It involves [10 structured lessons](#) facilitated by an adult in the areas of media awareness, media production, nutrition, and physical activity. The *Media-Smart Youth* program will fully retire by the end of 2017. Please refer to the contact information on the National Institutes of Health (NIH) [webpage](#) regarding upcoming deadlines. CHES/MCHES continuing education certification for the Webinar for Program Leaders will expire on May 10. Free copies of [program materials](#) are available through August 31.

⇒ **Telemedicine in Georgia**

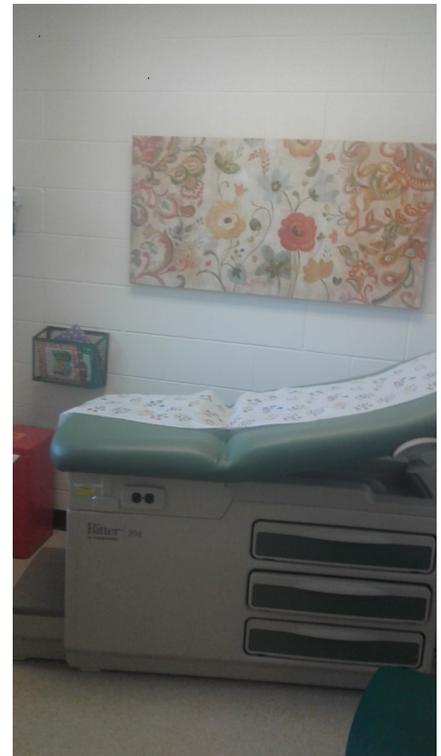
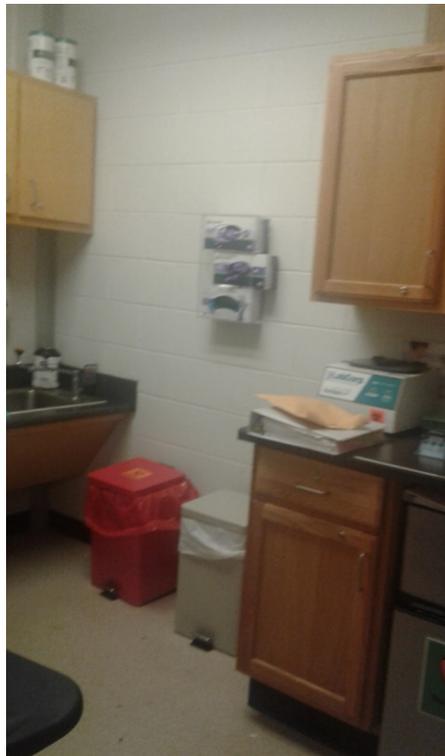
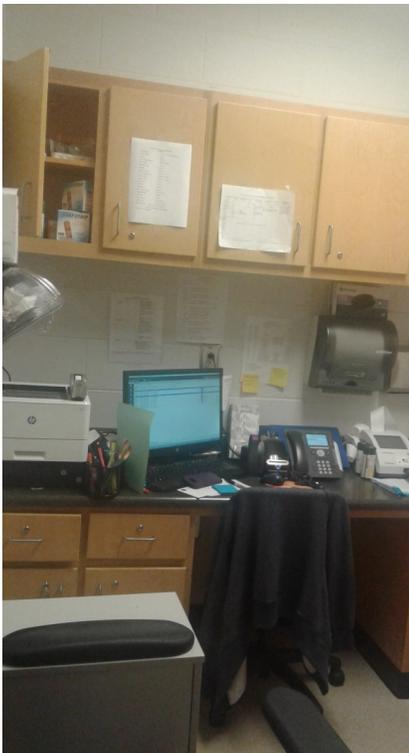
The updated [Georgia Telemedicine Guide](#) is now online. This guide now includes speech language pathologists.



AROUND THE STATE

TERRELL COUNTY INCREASES ACCESS TO CARE

The Terrell County School System and Albany Area Primary Health Care, Inc. joined in partnership to open a [comprehensive health clinic](#) at Cooper-Carver Elementary School. The center is staffed with a pediatrician and/or a mid-level provider (physician assistant or nurse practitioner), medical assistant and a school nurse. The services offered include diagnosis and treatment of acute illnesses and minor injuries, management of chronic illnesses, administering daily medications needed during school hours, routine health physicals, immunizations, counseling, health education/promotion, hearing, vision and lab testing and referrals to medical subspecialists and community agencies. The lead school nurse for Terrell County Schools is Nurse Lottie Stewart.



Welcome to your School-Based Health Center!



SUICIDE PREVENTION SUMMITS

Article written by Megan Frick, Communications Specialist for the Georgia Department of Education



Five times this spring, Georgia school counselors, administrators, psychologists, nurses, social workers and student support staff gathered in a room to discuss a difficult but essential topic: addressing and preventing suicide deaths among children aged 10 to 17.

The Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE), Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD), and Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI) hosted five Suicide Prevention Summits across the state, aimed at helping school staff understand data and prevention strategies.

In May 2015, Governor Nathan Deal signed House Bill 198, which requires that all certified public school personnel receive annual training in suicide awareness and prevention. Since then, that training has helped school staff understand how to identify appropriate mental health services, both within the school and within the larger community, and when and how to refer youth and their families to those services. The Suicide Prevention Summits provided additional resources, training and best practices above and beyond the requirements of HB 198.

“It’s not a topic that any of us like to discuss, but it’s certainly a topic we need to discuss,” said Marilyn Watson, GaDOE Program Manager for Safe and Drug Free Schools, at the summit in Gainesville. “You can use this data for interventions, to plan for interventions, to see where you’re having problems and then you can go from there – you can put interventions in place to relieve those issues and improve your school’s climate.”

Participants took a deep dive into data from the Georgia Student Health Survey (GSHS), learned more about the “why” behind student suicides and explored resources and ways to connect students with the resources they need.

“We want it to never be the case,” said Shevon Jones, a Child Fatality Prevention Specialist with GBI, “that a child cried out for help and no one listened.”

