

School Health Services Program

Amy Jerger RN, BSN

About the Program

According to the Ohio Association of School Nurses “ School Nursing is a unique and special practice of nursing. It promotes and protects student health, facilitates optimal development and advances academic success. School Nurses bridge health care and education provide care coordination, advocate for quality student centered health care and collaborate to design system that allow individuals and communities to develop to their full potential.”

- Galion City Health Department provides the services of registered nurses to aid in rendering nursing services to Galion City Schools on a full time basis and on an as needed basis to St. Joseph’s Catholic School. Public Health Nurses provide nursing care in schools that ranges from coordinating and assisting with care of children with multiple medical needs including those students with conditions such as diabetes, coordinating, educating and monitoring medication administration; including life saving emergency medications given to specific students, coordinating and assisting with first aid provided to students and staff within a school district, assisting in maintaining adequate stock and supplies for nursing care in a district, consulting and providing information about various communicable diseases that may occur throughout the school year, providing state mandated vision and hearing screenings, Immunization coordination and surveillance, providing and training specified staff to administer Diabetes Care, as well as other nursing tasks staff may be capable of handling, and maintaining health records on students within a school district.

Requirements for the Program

- The GCHD furnishes to the contracted schools the services of a trained, registered nurse and/or medical assistant, to be selected and employed by the GCHD, who shall aid the SCHOOL in rendering health services. Currently, GCHD has 3 registered nurses who spend time in the schools. One three days per week and another 2 days per week at Galion City Schools. Another RN provides services to St. Joseph’s Catholic School for State of Ohio Mandated screenings, State of Ohio mandated immunization monitoring and on an as needed basis.

Program Funding

In return for the school health services to be provided by the GCHD for the school years 2018-19 and 2019-20 respectively, to compensate the GCHD at a rate per hour per RN or per MA, mileage inclusive, for an approximate 1,800 hours of services provided based on the school calendar. The contracted schools make payments to the GCHD in monthly installments; based on timesheets provided by GCHD showing hours of service provided.

School Health Service Description

Below is a list of activities performed by GCHD staff at Galion City Schools and Saint Joseph’s Catholic School of Galion

- Audiometer screening for students in grades preschool. Kindergarten, 1, 3, 5, 9, 11 as well as students with IEP’s or as referred by school staff
- Distance Visual Acuity screening for same groups of students
- Provide referral forms to school staff for distribution to guardians of students who fail vision and hearing screens
- Document vision and hearing screening results on each student’s school health record
- During Kindergarten Screenings, assist with immunization compliance , medication, food and environmental allergies review
- Compile and submit data for the annual immunization report for the Ohio Department of Health
- Work with parents and school personnel regarding individual health needs of students as needed
- Serve as a resource person to staff and parents regarding health related topics
- Provide guidance on communicable disease issues, especially during outbreak situations
- Maintain and modify lists of students with specific health care needs throughout the district
- Create and modify Emergency Action Plans and Medical Plans for specific students with health care needs
- Provide educational programs on Medication Administration, Diabetes Care and other health care needs of students as needed to unlicensed assistive personnel.
- Coordinate and assist school staff in initiating and carrying out emergency first aid
- Provide direct nursing care to individual students as available including daily Diabetes care to 4 students currently
- Coordinate and assist school staff in maintaining and distributing inventory and supplies to various areas where needed

