



## POSITIONING OF SCHOOL NURSES

The International Association of School Nurses Health Promotion (ISNA) is an organization that represents school nurses, associations and entities related to nursing and school health. It works at an international level with the aim of grouping, coordinating, making visible and promoting the figure of the school nurse in all countries, ensuring the care, education and promotion of health from childhood to the end of adolescence in schools, it declares:

1. Scientific evidence demonstrates the benefits of starting health literacy (health language) early in school environments, favoring the learning of tools that enable the development of self-care skills and resilience to self-manage their health from childhood to adulthood through information, training and the adoption of healthy habits and lifestyles.
2. International bodies, WHO and UNESCO, declared that education and health are fundamental and interdependent rights, and that a school that does not promote health is no longer justifiable. They call on all of us to accept the commitment to make every school a health-promoting school and issue guidelines on School Health Services.
3. Numerous studies demonstrate the close links between health and education, and how school success is closely (uniquely) related to good student health.
4. The International Children's Rights, UN values, the 5th European Conference School Health Education guidelines, promoted by WHO in November 2019 highlight school health care; the International Council of Nurses (ICN), releases guidelines for the Early Childhood Care and Parenting Principles (ECPPs) initiative for Member States to follow, to build healthier, more just and peaceful societies from early childhood onwards.
5. The recommendations of the global Nursing Now campaign; ICN's International Nurses Day 2023 report, highlighting the precariousness of the nursing profession and the importance of considering investment in nursing as a priority for the prosperity of a healthy society; the World Bank's report: Collapse and Recovery: How COVID-19 Eroded Human

Capital and What to Do About, which presents global data on the impact of the pandemic from age zero to age 24, showing the damage to human capital, and the importance of reversing this by creating agile, resilient and adaptive health, education and social protection systems to prevent this and other lost generations.

6. The holistic orientation, which is the basis of all nursing professional training, qualifies them as the most suitable health professional to manage the health and well-being of school communities by advocating for the rights of children and adolescents, the health diagnosis of school communities, carrying out preventive health programmes with a focus on human rights and gender, in agreement with all members of the school community, and providing timely and quality health care, with all actions framed within the social determinants of health in order to advance towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
7. The competent and multidimensional role of the school nurse constitutes Advanced Practice Nursing (APN), which strengthens accessible, inclusive, comprehensive, cost-efficient healthcare and preventive health care, framed under high quality standards for all members of the school community, favoring the link: FAMILY-SCHOOL-COMMUNITY-HEALTH.
8. That the nurse is evidencing the comparative and inequitable inequity in relation to the care and health care services that infants and adolescents receive depending on the country, community and area where the school is located.
9. The Massachusetts Essential School Health Services (ESHS) case study demonstrated the cost-benefit of school health services provided by full-time registered nurses. Results: for every dollar invested in the programme, society gains \$2.20. The World Bank's 2017 Report on the costs per death averted: For curative services, between \$500 to \$50,000, for direct preventive services to patients, such as vaccination or screening programmes: between \$100 to \$600. At the level of community interventions leading to change in attitudes or behavioral practices: US\$ 250. Investments in adolescent health and education generate economic and social returns of 6-12 times the investment made (WHO: Health Promoting Schools). All of this demonstrates that investment in school nursing is one of the most cost-effective investments available.
10. School nurses are important pillars in school health prevention, promotion and education, are able to participate effectively in the development of health policies at international, national and local levels, and should be considered in decision-making that affects the health education of school children.

*This argumentative decalogue evidence the need for the incorporation of nurses in all schools, as the most suitable health personnel to make health care a reality in schools and their surrounding community, responding to pre and post*

*pandemic challenges, among them: school desertion, absenteeism, low immunisation rates, re-emerging diseases, the inclusion of children and adolescents with chronic and orphan pathologies, pluripathology and with some type of deficiency or disability, sexual diversity, teenage pregnancy, mental pathology, eating disorders, the increase in oral-dental pathology, STDs, bullying, gender violence, suicide, exclusion and social inequality...*

**We highlight the valuable support of WHO and PAHO in the presence of school nursing in all member countries, so that it becomes a global and equitable reality, facilitating equality in school health in all peoples of the world.**

[https://www.icn.ch/sites/default/files/2023-07/ICN\\_IND\\_2023\\_Report\\_SP.pdf](https://www.icn.ch/sites/default/files/2023-07/ICN_IND_2023_Report_SP.pdf)

[https://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf\\_files/WHA75/A75\\_10Add8-sp.pdf](https://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/WHA75/A75_10Add8-sp.pdf)

<https://www.schoolsforhealth.org/sites/default/files/editor/health-promoting-school/spanish-she-school-manual-2-0.pdf>

<https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/6fb17cf5-1fad-4147-b7bb-691f63c29541/content>

