School Nurses are the essential link between health and educational success.

School nursing is a specialized practice of professional nursing that advances the well-being, academic success and lifelong achievement of students. To that end, school nurses facilitate positive responses to normal development; promote health and safety; intervene with actual and potential health problems; provide case management services; and actively collaborate with others to build student and family capacity for adaptation, self-management, self-advocacy, and learning.

– From the National Association of School Nurses

Vision
The School Nurse Organization of Minnesota envisions student health for student success.

Mission
The School Nurse Organization of Minnesota advances excellence in school nursing practice to promote student health for student success.

Historical Highlights 1909 - 2009

Historical highlights prepared by 100 Years of School Nursing Celebration Committee and 100 Years of School Nursing Sponsor School Health Corporation.

Photos courtesy of the Saint Paul Public Schools archives, and Janet Hostetter

*A detailed history timeline with references is available on SNOM’s website: www.minnesotaschoolnurses.org

EVERY CHILD DESERVES A SCHOOL NURSE
# Celebrating 100 years of School Nursing

## 1900s – 1920s Historical Focus: Medical inspections of students were initiated to control contagion, identify physical defects, and provide family health education. School nurses assist with these inspections and visit homes to provide treatments and health education so children can return to school.

- **1902** New York City: Lillian Wald initiates public school nursing and hires Lina Rogers as first school nurse.
- **1909** Saint Paul Public Schools Board of Education hires Virginia Rice as Minnesota’s first school nurse.

## 1930s – 1940s Historical Focus: WWII nurse recruiting reduces numbers of nurses in schools. Services in rural schools begin. School nurses provide consultation/health education to school administrators, staff, and parents.

- **1938** Minnesota Nurses Association (MNA) establishes school nursing section.
- **1940** Several states develop school nurse certification requirements to provide the academic preparation needed for the expanded school nurse education role.
- **1945** Responsibility for the school health program shifts from school nurse and physician to shared responsibility with teachers, students, and health personnel.

## 1950s – 1960s Historical Focus: Health is accepted as a major objective of education. Health educator role of school nurses and teachers becomes more important with emphasis on nutrition, mental health and immunizations.

- **1955** Polio is major public health problem affecting over 50,000 Americans. Polio vaccines are distributed in clinics and schools resulting in a 95% decrease in polio incidence by 1961.
- **1956** Saint Paul Public Schools claims reimbursement for school nursing services to children with an Individual Education Plan.

## 1970s – 1980s Historical Focus: School health services expand to include prevention, health promotion and meeting special health needs. National practice standards for school nursing begin. Nurses provide skilled nursing interventions to students with disabilities and address mental health needs.

- **1968** The School Nurse Organization of Minnesota (SNOM) is formed as a branch of the Student Personnel Section of Minnesota Education Association with 71 members.
- **1977** Preschool Screening, a voluntary health and developmental screening program is initiated for children before entering kindergarten in MN.
- **1978** Immunizations of DPT, MMR, and polio are now required for school entrance. School nurses ensure compliance.

## 1990s Historical Focus: Keeping students in school is the priority, including those with disabilities. School nurses become a critical part of the special education team, as well as provide illness and injury care, mental health prevention and care, and immunization compliance.

- **1990** Reauthorization of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act requires districts to assist children with disabilities to obtain a public school education. Its reauthorization in 1997 allocates funding for school nursing.
- **1997** Saint Paul Public Schools claims Medicaid reimbursement for school nursing services children with an Individual Education Plan.
- **1999** MN Legislature mandates public schools to bill third party payers for health services.

## 2000s Historical Focus: Wellness programs expand to prevent chronic health conditions and promote mental health and self-advocacy. School nurses provide case management for students with chronic illnesses, manage ongoing health services, and actively collaborate with others to provide programs that promote healthy student behaviors.

- **2000** Healthy Learner Asthma Initiative begins as a community-wide collaboration between Minneapolis Public Schools, health care providers, public health systems, and community organizations to decrease asthma related student absences, emergency department visits, and inpatient admissions.
- **2003** Helping the Student with Diabetes Succeed: Supplementary Materials for Implementation in Minnesota Schools is published by SNOM to provide guidelines for diabetes management in Minnesota schools.

## 2010s Historical Focus: School nurses identify and manage H1N1 cases. The World Health Organization (WHO) declared a global H1N1 Flu pandemic in June. School nurses plan for a pandemic.

- **2010** School nurses identify and manage H1N1 cases. The World Health Organization (WHO) declared a global H1N1 Flu pandemic in June. School nurses plan for a pandemic.

## 2020s Historical Focus: Wellness programs expand to prevent chronic health conditions and promote mental health and self-advocacy. School nurses provide case management for students with chronic illnesses, manage ongoing health services, and actively collaborate with others to provide programs that promote healthy student behaviors.

- **2020** Center for Disease Control funds Saint Paul Public Schools as a National Association of School Nurses national demonstration site for the management of Type 1 diabetes and prevention of Type 2 diabetes in children.