

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 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



Historical Highlights 1909 - 2009



Virginia Rice – First School Nurse
Saint Paul Public Schools
November 1909

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.

1924 Hearing testing using audiometers begins in Minneapolis Schools as an experiment. Vision testing begins the same year.

1909

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.

1940s Special classes are initiated for handicapped, visually and hearing impaired students.

1946 Several states develop school nurse certification requirements to provide the academic preparation needed for the expanded school nurse education role.

1940

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.

1950s School nurses administer measles and polio vaccine in Minnesota schools.

1950 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.

1961 Mandatory certification of Minnesota's school nurses by the Board of Teaching is enacted through the efforts of MN Nurses Association.

1950

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.

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.

1975 Education of All Handicapped Children Act mandates a free and appropriate education for children with disabilities in the least restricted environment.

1977 Preschool Screening, a voluntary health and developmental screening program is initiated for children before entering kindergarten in MN.

1970

1977 Immunizations of DPT, MMR, and polio are now required for school entrance. School nurses ensure compliance.

1988 MN legislature requires school nurses. "By July 1, 1988, a board of a school district with 1,000 pupils or more must employ at least one full-time licensed school nurse."

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 students with disabilities to obtain a public school education. Its reauthorization in 1997 allocates funding for school nursing.

1990

1990 Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Federal American Disability Act of 1990 require school districts to provide reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. School nurses coordinate health accommodations.

1997 Saint Paul Public Schools claims Medicaid reimbursement for school nursing services to 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.

2000

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.

2009 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.

2005 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.