

The Role of the School Nurse

School nurses recognize that positive behavioral health is essential for academic success. School nurses, because of their regular access to students and their experience with care coordination, are uniquely qualified to be members of interdisciplinary teams and do the following:

- Identify students with potential behavioral health concerns
- Collaborate with school personnel, community healthcare professionals, students, and families in the assessment, identification, intervention, referral, and follow-up of children in need of behavioral health services
- Assist school and community-based behavioral health professionals in providing services including prevention and treatment of mental illness and substance use disorders
- Serve as advocates, facilitators, and counselors of behavioral health services within the school environment and in the community
- Help address and reduce the stigma of a behavioral health diagnosis, decrease fragmentation of care, and remove barriers to behavioral health services.