

Moses Taylor Foundation School Nurse Support Strategy

The goal of Moses Taylor Foundation's Northeastern Pennsylvania School Nurse Needs Assessment was to identify barriers and gaps that prevent school nurses from being as effective as they can be as they work on the front lines of student health. However, it is important to emphasize that, despite the challenges they face, school nurses are overwhelmingly resourceful, passionate, and committed to their profession. They regularly go above and beyond to care for students and families, and are a tremendous asset to our community. The below strategies seek to amplify their efforts by eliminating barriers that dampen, but by no means extinguish, their potential impact. We look forward to engaging partners and the community as we champion this work.



1

Barrier: School health mandates, laws, and policies have the potential to support the work of school nurses, but many are currently outdated and no longer in accordance with best practices.

Strategy: Support and participate in advocacy for regular reevaluation of school health mandates, laws, and policies.

2

Barrier: Better connections and understanding of the modern role of the school nurse among the education and healthcare sectors, as well as the broader community, would allow school nurses to capitalize on partnerships to holistically address the needs of children.

Strategy: Foster connections and understanding between school nurses and communities, parents, educators, and healthcare providers.

3

Barrier: Greater consistency in certification programs, increased professional development opportunities specific to the needs of school nurses, and more on-the-job training would better support school nurses in their efforts to practice to best standards.

Strategy: Support professional development opportunities for school nurses.

4

Barrier: Staffing levels and availability of substitutes were raised as issues during the assessment, although the precise reasons were not clear.

Strategy: Investigate school nurse staffing shortage and potential alternative funding streams and models for school nurses.

5

Barrier: The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted, and will continue to result, in increased health needs that fall within the scope of school nurses.

Strategy: Support emergent pandemic-related needs to help school nurses keep students, families, and themselves healthy and well.

For more information, please contact:

Christine Marcos, Program Officer
cmarcos@mosestaylorfoundation.org

