



The Magic of Advocacy: The Wand Works Both Ways

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Learning Outcomes

- Identify definitions and types of Advocacy
- Discuss challenges and opportunities of advocacy for school nurses
- Explore current advocacy efforts of NASN
- Examine principals of engaging in Advocacy
- Identify future plans to increase individual and collective advocacy as a School Nurse

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•The act or process of supporting a cause or proposal : the act or process of advocating something.




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Self-Advocacy

- The ability to speak up for yourself and communicate your needs, rights, and goals
- Understanding your strengths and needs, identifying your personal goals, knowing your legal rights and responsibilities, and communicating these to others.

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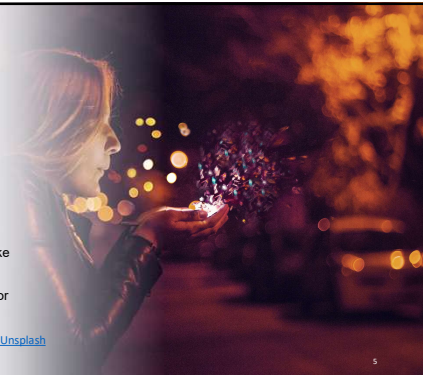


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Individual Advocacy-

- Speaking up for someone who is vulnerable or being treated unfairly
 - Formal - involves organizations that advocate for someone or for a group of individuals.
 - Informal - When people like parents, friends, family members or agencies speak out and advocate for vulnerable people

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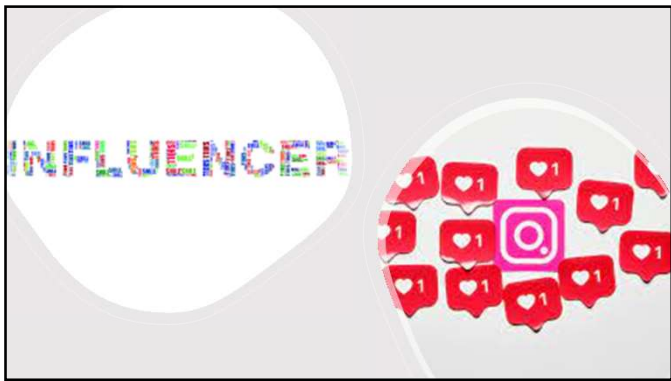
Systems Advocacy

- Working for long-term social change to protect the rights of a group of people
- Changing policies, laws or rules that impact how someone lives their life
- Targeted at a local, state, or national agencies

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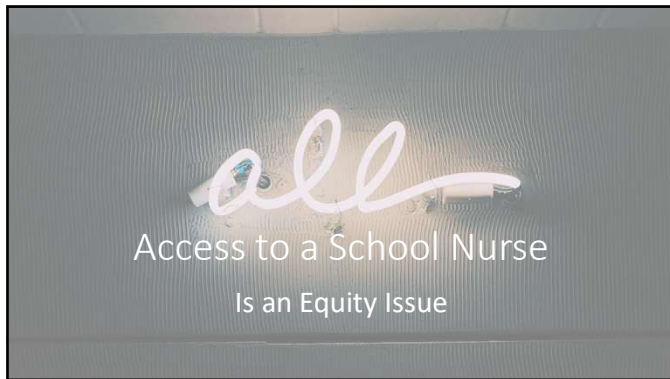
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PRINCIPAL

- Legislators, educational administrators, educators and members of Boards of Education have little knowledge of:
 - current and evidenced based health care
 - life threatening diagnosis
 - efficient and accurate individualized health care plans
 - health promotion and wellness



- Many healthcare providers in hospitals, clinics and community agencies have little knowledge of:
 - educational policies, process, rules and law
 - how schools have changed in educational strategies, movement, physical requirements and infrastructure.

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The Future of Nursing 2020-2030

- School and public health nurses play a vital role in advancing health equity. Adequate funding for these nurses is essential if they are to take on that role.
- School nurses are front-line health care providers, serving as a bridge between the health care and education systems and other sectors.
- School nurses focus on the physical and mental health of students in the context of educational environments. They serve as both essential care providers for individuals and links to broader community health issues through the student populations they serve.

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"All public and private health care systems should incorporate nursing expertise in designing, generating, analyzing, and applying The Future of Nursing 2020-2030: Charting a Path to Achieve Health Equity." (p. 366-7).


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VISION

For the United States to advance health equity for all, we must:

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VALUE NURSES' CONTRIBUTIONS

- Public and private payers need to establish sustainable and flexible payment models to support nurses working in health care and public health.
- This includes school nurses, a group that is consistently undervalued and underutilized.

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PERMANENTLY REMOVE BARRIERS


- Policymakers need to expand scope of practice for advanced practice registered nurses, including nurse practitioners, and registered nurses.
- Employers need to remove institutional barriers, such as telehealth restrictions and restrictive workplace policies.



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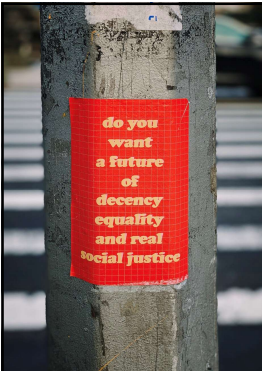
ENSURE ADEQUATE FUNDING

- 1 IMPLEMENT OR CHANGE STATE POLICIES TO ALLOW SCHOOL NURSES TO BILL MEDICAID, AND OTHER PAYORS, FOR SERVICES
- 2 REIMBURSE SCHOOL NURSE SERVICES THAT INCLUDE COLLABORATION WITH COMMUNITY AGENCIES
- 3 USE PAY SCALES FOR COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC HEALTH NURSES THAT ARE COMPETITIVE WITH HOSPITAL BASED PAY SCALES



National Association of School Nurses. (2018).

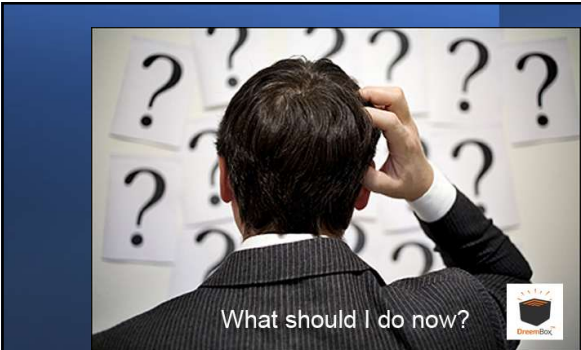
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PREPARE NURSES TO ADVANCE EQUITY

- Federal agencies, employers, nursing schools and other stakeholders need to strengthen the capacity of the nursing workforce to respond to public health emergencies and natural disasters, while also protecting nurses on the frontlines of this work.
- Nursing education programs need to strengthen education curricula and expand the environments where nurses train to better prepare nurses to work in and with communities.
- Employers need to support nurse well-being so nurses can in turn support the well-being of others. They, along with other stakeholders, should create and implement systems and evidence-based interventions dedicated to fostering nurse well-being.

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What should I do now?



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What can you do?

- Guest speaker
- Talking to college classes
- Career programs
- Talking to your students
- Others?



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BE WELL
PREPARED TO
BRIDGE MEDICAL
AND SOCIAL
NEEDS



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ADVOCATE FOR POLICIES THAT ADDRESS POVERTY, RACISM
AND OTHER CONDITIONS THAT STAND IN THE WAY OF HEALTH
AND WELL-BEING

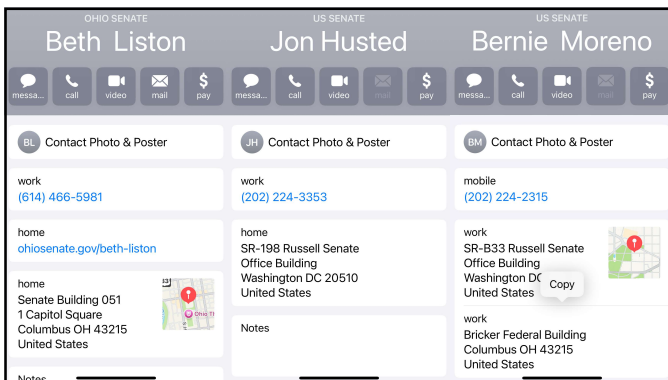
| Read and know | Read and know | Serve on | Contact |
|---|--|---|---|
| Read and know the health and educational policies of the local district | Read and know the laws and rules pertaining to health care in schools. | Serve on local, state and national professional organizations | Frequently contact local, state and national government officials |

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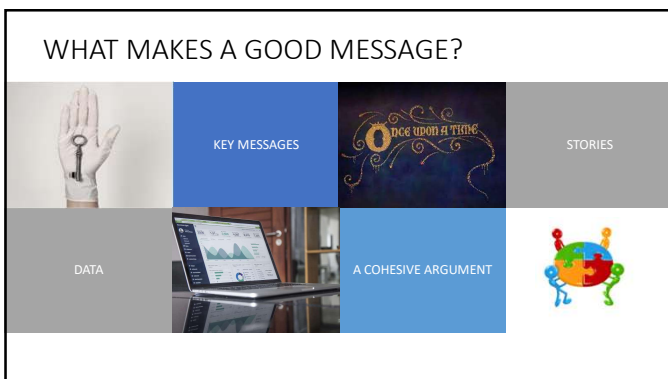
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ACTIVITY: TELLING OUR STORIES OF ADVOCACY



- This will be hard:
 - Write down your story in 5 sentences- 2 MINUTES
 - Share your 5 sentences at your table- 5 MINUTES

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MY STORY



1. I am very worried about measles
2. I printed a list of my students who have an exemption.
3. I called every parent to tell them why I am concerned about their child and I asked what I could do to help them reconsider
4. Most were appreciative of the individual reach out
5. 12 out of 15 agreed to consider vaccination

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NASN Advocacy Priorities

www.nasn.org/advocacy/our-advocacy-priorities

Student Well-being



Secure Sustainable Funding



Evidence of School Nursing Value



School Nursing Workforce




www.nasn.org/advocacy/our-advocacy-priorities

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Sign on Letters

| Date | Initiated by | Synopsis of Letter | | |
|------------|--|--|------------|---|
| 1/17/2025 | Council of Public Health Nursing Organizations | Use common sense definition of PFAs | 10/22/2024 | Rep. Grace Meng (D-NY) |
| 1/23/2025 | Medicaid in Schools | Raise awareness of the importance of the school-based Medicaid program and the harm that would come from various budget reconciliation proposals to cap or limit Medicaid spending at the federal level. | 10/21/2024 | American Nursing Association |
| 1/30/2025 | Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments | Statement that contains information on the environmental health concerns of these wildfires, along with resources and call-to-action items. | 10/21/2024 | Diabetes Leadership Council |
| 1/31/2024 | National Campaign to End Period Poverty | Statement from encouraging Medicaid to cover menstrual products. | 8/18/2024 | Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids |
| 11/20/2024 | Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids | Tobacco-related issues in final FY 25 appropriations bills. | 8/9/2024 | Senator Cory Booker (D-NJ) |
| | | | 8/18/2024 | Rep. Paul Tonko (D-NY) and Rep. Patrick Fitzgerald (D-PA) |
| | | | 8/18/2024 | Nursing Community Coalition |
| | | | 8/16/2024 | American Nursing Association |
| | | | 7/17/2024 | Congresswoman Jahana Hayes (D-CT) |



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Endorsed the House Good Samaritan Mandate Bill. Products for which would ease the way for transport and other people products to be donated.

Rules from The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to require minimum staffing standards for registered nurses (RNs) and nurse aides in long-term care (LTC) facilities.

Consensus document in support of Type 1 Diabetes Monitoring during Diabetes Awareness month.

Support of CDC's National Youth Tobacco Survey.

Endorsed Senate School-based Evidence Legislation.

Endorsed the House "Indoor Air Quality and Healthy Schools Act of 2024."

Request to FDA to have more nurses on task forces and councils.

Request to DHS to categorize nursing as a STEM degree.

Endorsed the "Keeping guns out of Classrooms" resolution.

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Media Engagement

- Fielded 25 media requests between June 2024 and February 2025. Major media that NASN worked with this year to place stories advancing an accurate school nurse narrative included CNN with President Kate King's interview, The Chicago Tribune, The Washington Post, and USA Today.



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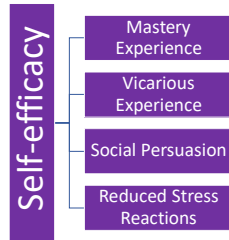
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Theoretical framework: Bandura Self-efficacy Theory

- "Successful efficacy builders do more than convey positive appraisals. In addition to raising people's beliefs in their capabilities, they structure situations for them in ways that bring success and avoid placing people in situations prematurely where they are likely to fail often." (Bandura, 1994, p. 3).



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Creating Voice

• Self-efficacy

- School Nurses practice in relative **isolation**
- Many do not **communicate** expertise and self-efficacy (Buresh & Gordon, 2013)
- A lack of social modeling, social persuasion and mastery combined with isolated practice **limits the possibility** of increasing self-efficacy. (Bandura, 1997, Yonkaitis, 2017)
- School nurses **verbalize lack of confidence** providing communication with difficult or angry people (CCS Professional Development Evaluation, 2017)

• Voice

- School nurses must have the skills to communicate and advocate for best practice (ANA and NASN, 2017)

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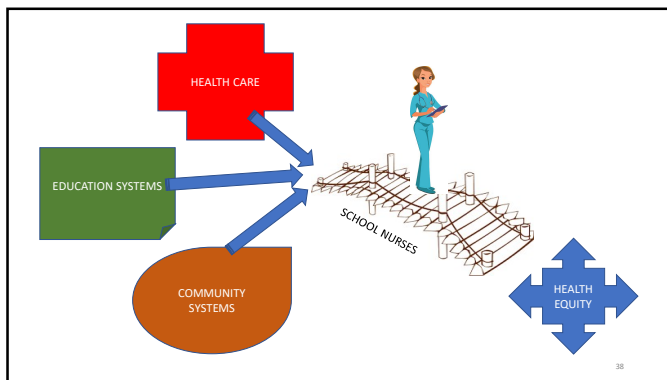


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Individual and Collective Voice



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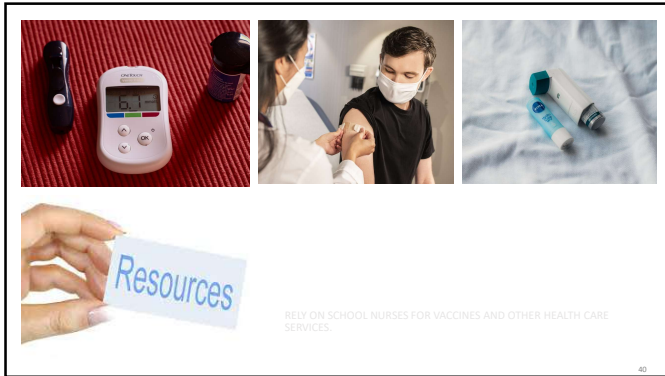


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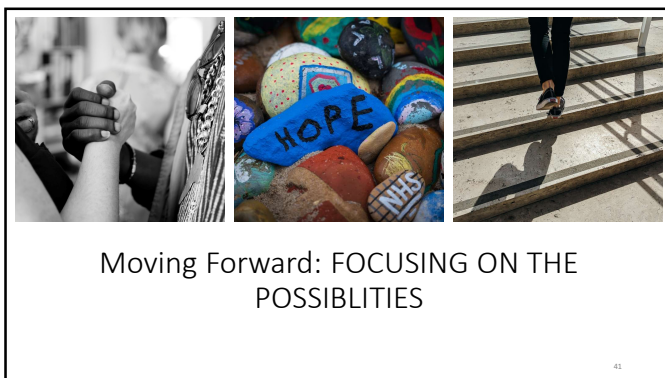
School Nurse Role in SEL needs



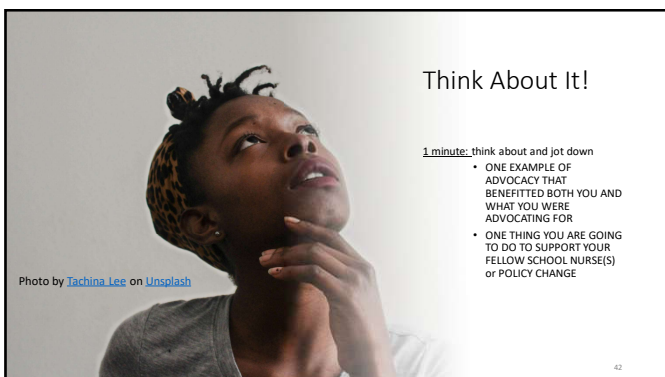
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A spell of transformation


- *Leave work on time*
- *Don't sacrifice the good for the perfect*
- *It's OK to get a "B"*
- *You cannot be all things to all people*

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Support




From Each Other



TOGETHER


From our Professional Organizations

From Key Alliances



Alliances

From School Leaders



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WHAT WE ARE SEEING

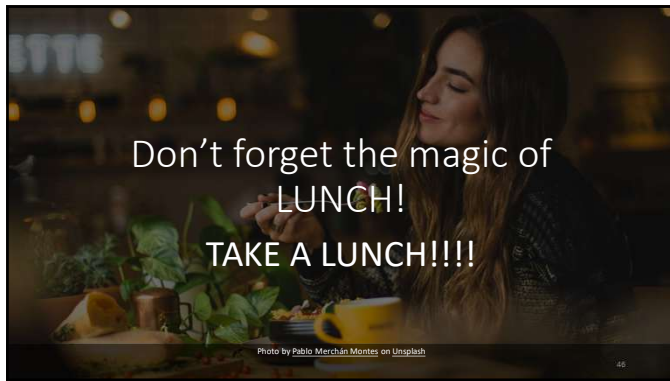
INCREASED UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT SCHOOL NURSES DO

CHANGING THE WAY WE ARE DOING THINGS

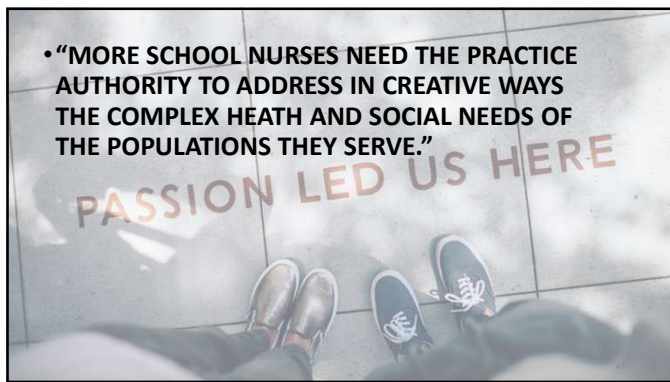
COLLABORATION WITH OTHER DISCIPLINES AND LEGISLATORS

CHANGING WORK PRACTICE AND CHANGING WORK ETHIC

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