Q) **How do school nurses help children learn?**

A) The school nurse’s role includes:
- Assessing student health status and making referrals
- Identifying vision and hearing problems that impact learning
- Delivering emergency care
- Administering medication and vaccines
- Performing health care procedures
- Disaster preparedness
- Providing health counseling and wellness programs

Q) **What benefits can I expect from hiring school nurses?**

A) Help students manage chronic illness, increasing attendance
- Improved attendance = academic success
- Addressing health concerns keeps students at school and parents at work
- Allows teachers to teach instead of providing health care for children
- Reducing number of 911 calls
- Health professional input on wellness programs for the school community

Q) **How many school nurses does my district need?**

A) NASN recommends a needs-based formula approach for determining full-time school nurse-to-students ratio. For example:
- 1:750 WELL students
- 1:225 in the student populations that may require daily professional school nursing services or interventions such as Special Ed inclusions
- 1:125 in student populations with complex health care needs
- 1:1 may be necessary for individual students with multiple disabilities

Q) **How are school nurses funded?**

A) Local school district budget, state budget, EPSDT, Title I, and Medicaid
- (accessed by only 42% of schools)

Q) **Can a secretary, teacher, or paraeducator fill this role?**

A) Not safely - due to inadequate medical training

Q) **What types of health concerns are found in the current population?**

A) 24% of children have vision deficiencies
- 17% of children are obese/32% are overweight
- 13% of children are prescribed medication more than 90 days
- 10% of children have mental/emotional behavioral problems
- 6% of children missed more than 11 days due to illness/injury
- 5% of children have asthma
- 5% of children have food allergies
- 5% of children have a seizure disorder
- 5% of children have hearing deficiencies
- 5% of children have ADHD
- 47% of 12th grade students report “lifetime” use of an illicit drug