



April 2025

Dear Superintendent:

The National Association of School Nurses has designated Wednesday, May 7, 2025, as National School Nurse Day. Since 1972, National School Nurse Day has been set aside to recognize school nurses and to foster a better understanding of the role of school nurses in the educational setting. School Nurse Day is celebrated on the Wednesday during National Nurses Week.

The healthcare needs of so many students today are complex, and families deserve to feel confident that their children will be cared for when they are at school. School nurses understand the link between health and learning and are poised to make a positive difference for children every day as members of school-based teams (e.g. school health services, 504/IEP, disaster/emergency planning). Their collaborative work and care for the whole child helps improve student attendance and engagement in learning.

We, at the Ohio Department of Health (ODH), are grateful for the school health leadership that school nurses provide every day. Please join us in recognizing these exceptional individuals and let them know the importance of their work to students, staff, school, families, and the community. You may find some resources to help you do this at the [National Association of School Nurses website](#).

The ODH School Nursing program provides free nursing continuing education opportunities to support the ongoing professional development of nurses. In addition to the annual *Orientation for Nurses New to Ohio Schools*, three *Annual School Nurse Conferences*, and online, independent study courses, ODH staff provide technical assistance by phone or email through the Regional School Nurse Consultants.

On June 11, 2025, the ODH School Nursing program will partner with the ODH Asthma program to host a [conference](#) for school nurses on *Asthma in the School Setting*. Registration will open in [OhioTRAIN](#) in April. Please consider encouraging your school nurse to attend this free professional development opportunity for current information about this common chronic illness.

In closing, thank you for taking time on May 7 to join people nationwide to recognize the profession of school nursing and the individuals who provide health care services in Ohio schools every day.

Sincerely,

Bruce Vanderhoff, MD, MBA
Director of Health