

EIA Program Report for Fiscal Year 2011-12

Coversheet

EIA-Funded Program Name: Student Health and Fitness Act - Nurses

Current Fiscal Year: 2011-12

Current EIA Appropriation: \$6,000,000

Name of Person Completing Survey and to whom EOC members may request additional information:

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Question 1: History of the program: Please mark the appropriate response (choose one):

This program:

was an original initiative of the Education Improvement Act of 1984

was created or implemented as part of the Education Accountability Act of 1998

has been operational for less than five years

was funded last fiscal year by general or other funds

is a new program implemented for the first time in the current fiscal year

Other

Question 2: What SC laws, including provisos in the current year's general appropriation act, govern the implementation of this program? Please complete citations from the SC Code of Laws including, Title, Chapter, and Section numbers.

Code of Laws:

TITLE 59. EDUCATION * CHAPTER 10. PHYSICAL EDUCATION, SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES, AND NUTRITIONAL STANDARDS

SECTION 59-10-210. Funding for licensed nurses for elementary schools. [SC ST SEC 59-10-210] Beginning with the 2007-08 school year, the General Assembly, annually in the General Appropriations Act, shall appropriate funds to the Department of Education to provide licensed nurses for elementary public schools. The State Department of Education shall make these funds available through a grant program and shall distribute the funds to the local school districts on a per school basis.

SECTION 59-10-370. Funding for implementation of chapter. [SC ST SEC 59-10-370] Each phase of implementation of this chapter is contingent upon the appropriation of adequate funding as documented by the fiscal impact statement provided by the Office of State Budget of the State Budget and Control Board. There is no mandatory financial obligation to school districts if state funding is not appropriated for each phase of implementation as provided for in the fiscal impact statement of the Office of the State Budget of the State Budget and Control Board.

Proviso(s): (If applicable. Please make references to the 2011-12 General Appropriation Act as ratified. www.XXXXX)

http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess119_2011-2012/appropriations2011/ta11ndx.htm

1.91. (SDE: Student Health and Fitness) Funds appropriated for Student Health and Fitness shall be allocated to school districts to increase the number of physical education teachers to the extent possible and to provide licensed nurses for elementary public schools. Twenty seven percent of the funds shall be allocated to the districts based on average daily membership of grades K-5 from the preceding year for physical education teachers. The remaining funds will be made available through a grant program for school nurses and shall be distributed to the school districts on a per school basis.

Regulation(s):

None applicable.

Do guidelines that have been approved by the State Board of Education, the Commission on Higher Education or other governor board exist that govern the implementation of this program?

Yes

No

Question 3: What are the primary objective(s) or goals of this program? Please distinguish between the long-term mission of the program and the current annual objectives of the program. (The goals or objectives should be in terms that can be quantified, evaluated, and assessed.)

Under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 students with disabilities may require nursing services in order to provide a free appropriate public education. SC passed the Students with Special Health Care Needs Act in 2005 which requires an individual healthcare plan (IHP) for students with special health care needs even if they do not qualify for a federal 504 plan (Section 59-63-80 of the SC Code of Laws). The Development of the individual healthcare plan is consistent with the scope of practice for registered nurses as described in the Nurse Practice Act (Section 40-33 of the SC Code of Laws). The services agreed upon by those required to sign off on the plan could require nurses to provide the services. Many students require medications to fully participate in their educational program and the administration of medications falls within the scope of nursing practice (Section 40-33 of the SC Code of Laws).

Purpose

To assure quality nursing services for students during school that help each student meet his/her educational goals and that keep students in class where they can learn.

Goal for SHFA Funding

To meet the national standards of having a full-time licensed nurse for each school with minimum ratios of RN school nurses-to-students as follows:

- 1:750 for students in the general population,
- 1:225 in the student populations requiring daily professional school nursing services or interventions,
- 1:125 in student populations with complex health care needs, and
- 1:1 as necessary for individual students who require daily and continuous professional nursing services.

Objectives for 2011-2012 School Year

1. To maintain or increase the number of licensed nurses (as measured in full-time equivalents) employed to provide direct nursing services for students in South Carolina's public schools.
2. To maintain or increase the percentage of schools with a full-time licensed nurse employed to provide direct nursing services for students.
3. To maintain or improve South Carolina's RN school nurse-to-student ratio for the general student population.

References

- Caseload Assignments:
<http://www.nasn.org/PolicyAdvocacy/PositionPapersandReports/NASNPositionStatementsFullView/tabid/462/ArticleId/7/Caseload-Assignments-Revised-2010>
- Healthy People 2020 (Educational and Community-based Programs Objective 5):
<http://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/topicsobjectives2020/objectiveslist.aspx?topicId=11>

Question 4: In the prior fiscal year, 2010-11, what primary program activities or processes were conducted to facilitate the program's performance in reaching the objective(s) as provided in Question 3? What, if any, change in processes or activities are planned for the current year?

Examples of program processes would be: training provided, recruiting efforts made, technical assistance services, monitoring services, etc.

Answers should be specific to the process undertaken at the state level to support the objectives of the program and should be quantifiable. Please include any professional development services provided.

IF the funds are allocated directly to school districts, please indicate any data collected at the state level to monitor how the funds are expended at the local level?

Funds to assist with elementary school nurse salaries and benefits are distributed to local school districts via a non-competitive formula grant. At the end of the grant period each school district submits a Summary Report that includes the name of the elementary school, the name of the nurse providing services at the elementary school, and the actual amount of the salary and fringe benefits paid during the grant period for each nurse.

To assist school districts with facilitating integration of school nurse's into the schools' student support systems and retaining school nurses, the SC Department of Education in partnership with the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control, through the work of the State School Nurse Consultant, provides the following services:

1. Technical assistance via e-mail and phone.
2. Information sharing via listservs for school nurses and school health services contacts and web pages on the SC Department of Education's and SC Department of Health & Environmental Control's websites.
3. Orientation for Nurses Practicing in South Carolina's School Settings: The "Orientation for Nurses Practicing in South Carolina's School Settings" is a three-day course designed to complement a school district's orientation for recently hired nurses by providing an introduction to issues pertinent to successful nursing practice within a coordinated school health framework. There is no registration fee for this course; however participants are responsible for costs related to travel, lodging and meals. Forty-three (43) participants have registered to attend September 2011. Participants earn nursing continuing education contact hours.
4. Annual School Nurse Conference: The Annual School Nurse Conference is a major source of nursing continuing education contact hours for South Carolina's school nurses and traditionally attracts approximately 500 participants. The Conference is held on a Friday afternoon and Saturday in January.
5. School Nurse Program Advisory Committee (SNPAC): School districts are invited to assign a registered nurse to participate as a member of the SNPAC. The SNPAC meets three (3) times each school year to:
 - review current health status indicators of South Carolina's school-aged children,
 - develop or revise standards, procedures, and/or policies for statewide dissemination,

- offer input for the development of new school nursing initiatives and/or program changes,
- review materials for school health services programs,
- identify ways to maximize the available health care resources, and
- provide guidance regarding continuing education programming for school nurses.

Question 5: In the prior fiscal year, 2010-11, and using the most recent data available, what were the direct products and services (outputs) delivered by this Program?

Examples of program outputs would be: number of teachers attending professional development seminars, number of and passage rates on AP exams, number of students served in the program, improvements in student achievement, retention and graduation.

School nurses submitted data for the two-week period, January 24, 2011 thru February 2, 2011 as a snapshot of the number of student and staff encounters for which they provided nursing services. An encounter represents each student or staff member for which nursing services were provided during the survey period. Multiple nursing services may have been offered during an encounter. See the tables below. The data suggest that during the 2011-12 school year 35,542 students were provided school health services by school nurses each school day (355,415 student encounters / 10 days) and that each nurse provided and managed nursing services for approximately 33 students each school day (35,542 students / 1073.32 nurse FTEs).

While the Students Health & Fitness Act funding focuses on providing elementary school nurses, its impact may extend beyond the elementary grades because school districts are encouraged in the grant application to use supplanted funds to improve their nursing infrastructure for other grades. Thus data for elementary, middle, and high schools are included below.

SCHOOL NURSE ENCOUNTERS & SERVICE DESCRIPTIONS TWO WEEKS: JANUARY 24, 2011 THROUGH FEBRUARY 2, 2011 (PRELIMINARY DATA)					
Data Element	Elementary	Middle	High	Other*	TOTAL
Student Encounters	207,127	78,670	56,261	13,357	355,415
Student Medications	69,801	29,815	19,988	5,875	125,479
Student Illness Treatments	99,787	38,200	29,749	4,943	172,679
Student Injury Treatments	24,983	9,357	5,866	1,206	41,412
Student Health Counseling	43,424	17,395	14,461	3,770	79,050
Parent/Teachers Communication	77,825	21,196	16,805	4,124	119,950
Students Returned to Class	180,637	69,516	48,674	12,066	310,893
Students Sent Home	25,565	8,437	6,522	1,210	41,734
Students Sent for Immediate Care	657	318	191	22	1,188
Staff Encounters	12,967	4,620	4,826	1,223	23,636

*Other schools refer to schools that include a combination of grades that make it difficult to categorize it as an elementary, middle, or high school (e.g., schools that serve students in grades K – 12).

SCHOOL NURSE ENCOUNTERS – SPECIAL PROCEDURES FOR STUDENTS*					
TWO WEEKS: JANUARY 24, 2011 THROUGH FEBRUARY 2, 2011					
(PRELIMINARY DATA)					
Special Procedures*	Elementary	Middle	High	Other**	TOTAL
Catheterization	477	485	381	36	1,379
Tracheostomy Care	96	20	19	24	159
Suctioning	417	179	18	95	709
Diabetes Monitoring	9,759	6,244	3,358	618	19,979
Tube Feeding	1,379	377	344	886	2,986
Nebulizer Treatments	1,251	274	62	81	1,668
TOTAL	13,379	7,579	4,182	1740	26,880

*This table does not reflect all of the special procedures provided; only those for which data were specifically requested.

** Other schools refer to schools that include a combination of grades that make it difficult to categorize it as an elementary, middle, or high school (e.g., schools that serve students in grades K – 12).

In addition to the services represented by the Two-Week Encounters Survey, school nurses:

- provided health screening and referral services,
- developed individual healthcare plans (IHPs) for students with certain chronic health conditions as required under Section 59-63-80 of the SC Code of Laws and participated in the development of 504 Accommodation Plans (504 Plans),
- developed or participated in the development of 29, 328 school health promotion activities,
- reported 1,190 instances of suspected child abuse or neglect or sexual abuse to DSS and/or law enforcement, and
- made 1,059 home visits as appropriate.

The data in the following tables provide additional information regarding screening and referral services and IHPs and 504 Plans.

**Students with IHPs and 504 Plans
(Preliminary data from the 2010-2011 School Nurse End of the Year Survey)**

Chronic Health Conditions Table 1

Health Conditions	# Students with Condition					# with IHP					# with 504 Plan				
	Elem	Mid	High	Other	Total	Elem	Mid	High	Other	Total	Elem	Mid	High	Other	Total
ADD/ADHD	18,693	8,776	7,571	752	35,792	2,788	962	792	253	4,795	801	729	722	41	2,293
Allergies (Severe)	6,273	2,066	2,249	222	10,810	3,663	1,033	836	129	5,661	118	33	39	8	198
Asthma	25,900	9,860	10,257	626	46,643	8,519	2,653	2,429	282	13,883	108	85	138	12	343
Diabetes	760	709	1,116	30	2,615	630	554	776	27	1,987	125	103	142	2	372
Epilepsy	1,832	712	957	191	3,692	1,089	402	535	182	2,208	88	57	70	0	215
Psychiatric Disorders*	2,386	1,274	1,990	252	5,902	290	139	238	106	773	217	133	146	2	498
Sickle Cell Anemia	434	170	281	14	899	185	79	98	5	367	31	15	31	4	81
Total	56,278	23,567	24,421	2,087	106,353	17,164	5,822	5,704	984	29,674	1,488	1,155	1,288	69	4,000

*In the count for "Psychiatric Disorders" include depressive disorders, anxiety disorders, phobias, conduct disorders, and pervasive developmental disorders. Students with ADD/ADHD should be counted separately in the appropriate row noted above.

Students with IHPs and 504 Plans (Continued)
(Preliminary data from the 2010-2011 School Nurse End of the Year Survey)

Chronic Health Conditions Table 2: Other Health Conditions not included in Chronic Health Conditions Table 1

Health Conditions	# Students with Condition					# with IHP					# with 504 Plan				
	Elem	Mid	High	Other	Total	Elem	Mid	High	Other	Total	Elem	Mid	High	Other	Total
Cardiovascular Disorder	435	247	553	14	1249	120	57	69	6	252	11	10	19	0	40
Digestive System Disorder	538	204	333	69	1144	141	58	51	56	306	18	6	19	0	43
Nervous System Disorder	391	164	361	13	929	156	49	73	13	291	23	15	30	0	68
Ear/Hearing Disorder	368	116	91	14	589	40	15	23	6	84	37	21	23	2	83
Orthopedic Disorder	229	102	134	63	528	75	29	38	60	202	11	12	34	0	57
Skin Disorder	353	81	37	8	479	40	5	3	0	48	2	2	0	0	4
Muscular System Disorder	215	104	114	13	446	57	35	43	10	145	21	22	24	0	67
Eye/Visual Disorder	278	50	107	9	444	34	6	13	4	57	18	6	18	1	43
Blood Disorder	116	46	57	1	220	47	24	18	1	90	9	5	1	1	16
Excretory Disorder	79	53	85	3	220	21	19	10	2	52	4	5	10	0	19
Endocrine System Disorder	90	49	72	1	212	42	16	19	1	78	5	4	5	0	14

Health Conditions	# Students with Condition					# with IHP					# with 504 Plan				
	Elem	Mid	High	Other	Total	Elem	Mid	High	Other	Total	Elem	Mid	High	Other	Total
Immune System Disorder	67	30	36	1	134	24	11	12	0	47	6	8	11	0	25
Cancer/Tumor	76	18	34	2	130	24	3	14	1	42	9	2	7	0	18
Respiratory System Disorder	74	12	34	8	128	50	10	27	8	95	9	3	3	0	15
Reproductive System Disorder	2	0	1	1	4	1	0	1	1	3	0	0	1	0	1
Total	3,311	1,276	2,049	220	6,856	872	337	414	169	1,792	183	121	205	4	513

Screening and Referral Services

(Preliminary data from the 2010-2011 School Nurse End of the Year Survey)

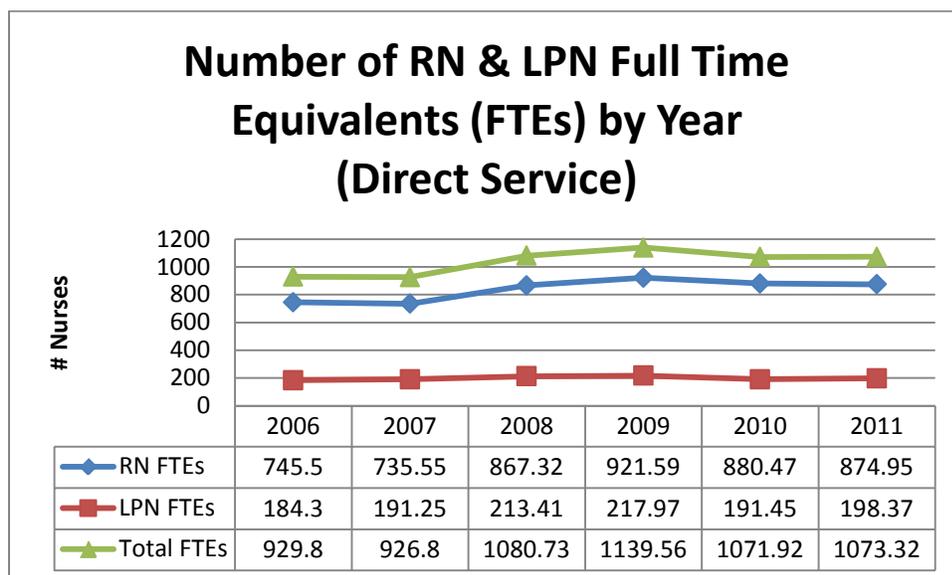
Screening	# Students Screened	# Referred	# Referrals Completed	% of Referrals Completed
Blood Pressure	53,133	1,111	707	64%
BMI	73,640	2,820	334	12%
Dental	140,061	12,452	6,658	53%
Hearing	246,294	4,522	2,731	60%
Postural	15,450	527	141	27%
Vision	332,189	23,302	12,008	52%
Total	860,767	44,734	22,579	50%

Question 6: What are the outcomes or results of this program?

Outcome can be both quantitative and qualitative and should address the program's objectives. Please use the most recent data available:

Examples of outcomes would be: results of surveys, student achievement results, increases in participation, reduction in achievement gaps, loans awarded, textbooks purchased, etc.

Objective 1: To maintain or increase the number of licensed nurses (as measured in full-time equivalents) employed to provide direct nursing services for students in South Carolina's public schools.



Objective 2: To maintain or increase the percentage of schools with a full-time (FT) licensed nurse employed to provide direct nursing services for students.

Data Source: School Nurse End of the Year Surveys

Elementary School Nurse Staffing

School Year	# Elem Schools	# with FT RN	# with FT LPN	# (%) with FT RN or LPN
2008-09	645	495	117	612 (94.9%)
2009-10	664	500	118	618 (93.1%)
2010-11	664	491	109	600 (90.4%)

Middle School Nurse Staffing

School Year	# Middle Schools	# with FT RN	# with FT LPN	# (%) with FT RN or LPN
2008-09	234	158	38	196 (83.8%)
2009-10	231	160	29	189 (81.8%)
2010-11	236	162	32	194 (82.2%)

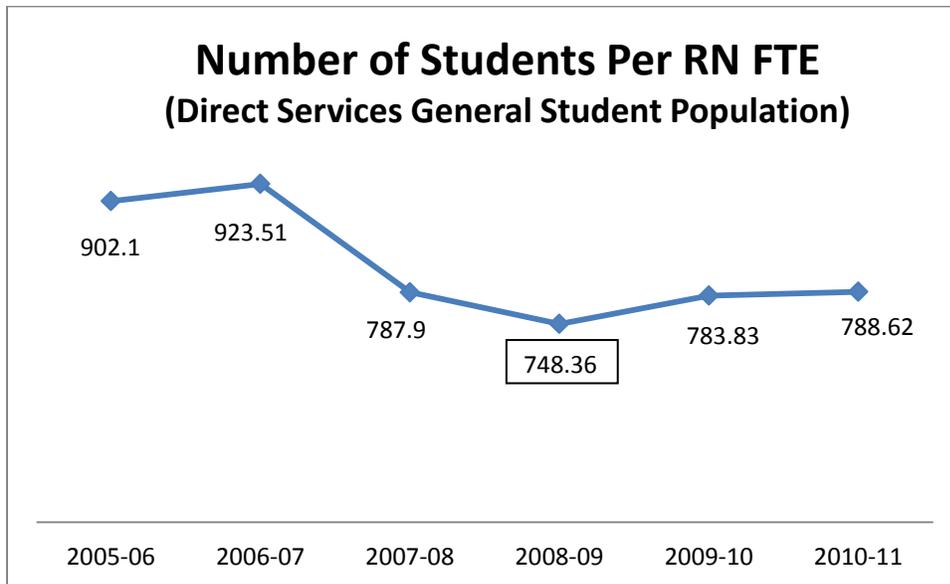
High School Nurse Staffing

School Year	# High Schools	# with FT RN	# with FT LPN	# (%) with FT RN or LPN
2008-09	186	127	28	155 (83.3%)
2009-10	186	126	29	155 (83.3%)
2010-11	190	127	32	159 (83.7%)

Other School Nurse Staffing (Schools that do not fit elementary, middle, or high category.)

Year	# Other Schools	# with FT RN	# with FT LPN	# (%) with FT RN or LPN
2008-09	54	44	8	52 (96.3%)
2009-10	40	27	6	33 (82.5%)
2010-11	37	23	7	30 (81.1%)

Objective 3: To maintain or improve South Carolina’s RN school nurse-to-student ratio for the general student population. (Goal: 1:750)



Question 7: Program Evaluations

What was the date of the last external or internal evaluation of this program?

See below.

Has an evaluation ever been conducted?

Yes

No

If an evaluation was conducted, what were the results and primary recommendations of the most recent evaluation?

Not applicable, this program has not been evaluated.

Can you provide a URL link, electronic version, or hard copy of this evaluation to the EOC?

Not applicable, this program has not been evaluated.

Yes

No

If yes, please provide URL link here.

If no, why not?

Not applicable, this program has not been evaluated.

Question 8:

While EIA revenues increased in 2010-11 over the prior fiscal year and no mid-year cuts were made to any EIA programs, programs and agencies continue to implement conservative budget practices.

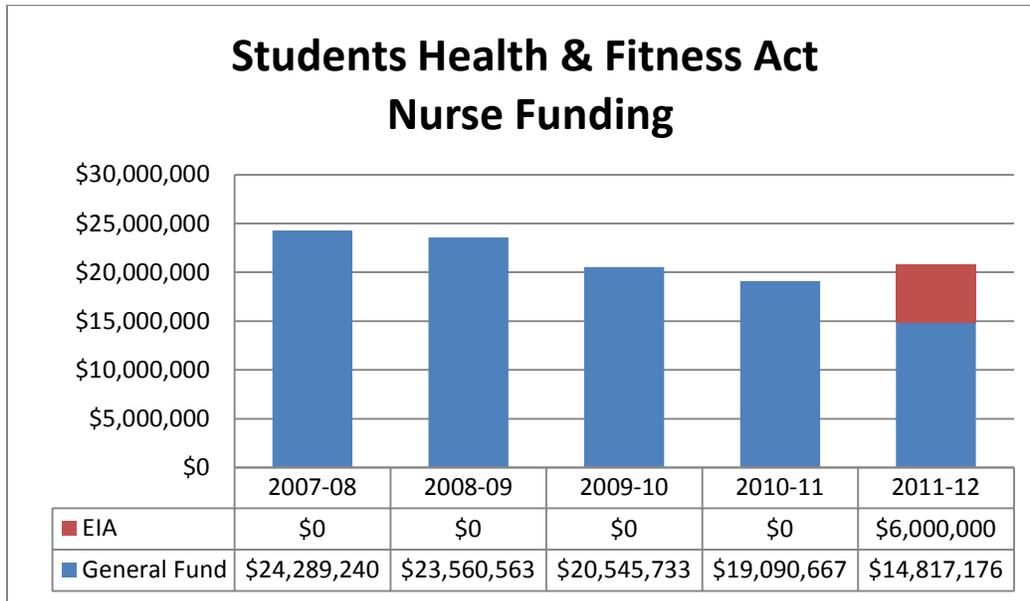
Please describe how the program and/or organization would absorb or offset potential EIA reductions totaling 5%, and 10% in the current fiscal year, Fiscal Year 2011-12?

Any reductions will be passed to the school districts that receive funding for elementary school nurses from EIA funds. Local school districts depend on funding made available pursuant to the Students Health and Fitness to provide the nursing services that allow students access to a free appropriate public education and that support a safe learning environment for each child. A reduction in EIA funding may force school districts to reduce even further the number of nurses that they employ.

Question 9:

If no additional EIA revenues were appropriated to this program in Fiscal Year 2012-13 above the current year’s appropriation level, how would the objectives, activities and priorities of this program change?

Please be specific to address the impact to students, teachers or schools. Are there regulatory or statutory changes that you would recommend to the legislature that would assist this program/organization in meeting its objectives?



General funds available for elementary school nurses have decreased each year since its inception. Although appropriated funds do not fully cover all school districts’ costs for school nurses’ salary and fringe benefits, the funds have made it possible for schools to retain some of their nurses during these difficult fiscal times. EIA funds were appropriated during Fiscal Year 2011-12 to (a) prevent further school nurse reductions which would jeopardize student safety, (b) avoid a shift of some health services tasks to teachers and other school staff which would negatively impact teachers’ ability to focus on educating children and other staff’s ability to focus on the jobs for which they were hired, and (c) reduce the legal risks for school districts that may consider themselves forced to assign nursing services to individuals who are not licensed by the SC Board of Nursing to practice nursing.

If EIA funding is not made available during the Fiscal Year 2012-13 appropriations and General Funds are also not allocated for maintaining the current Students Health and Fitness Act total appropriations, school districts will likely reduce the number of school nurses. The end result will be that students may not receive the services that are designed to keep them healthy and in school where they can learn. School faculty and staff morale may suffer as health services tasks are shifted. Reductions in other areas of school budgets have already resulted in additional duties for faculty and staff (including school nurses). Many faculty and staff have stated that they are

reluctant to take responsibility for health services students. With the high acuity level of students being served in schools, this reluctance is understandable.

A funded mandate for school nurses is needed to assure a stable school nurse work force to meet the needs of students every school day. A funded mandate will allow for consistent nurse staffing among districts and program planning that can focus on increasing the number of students with individual healthcare plans in place, completed referrals, and other services that directly impact a student's ability to perform up to her/his potential.

If you want to provide supporting documents or evaluation reports, either reference a website below or email the report directly to mbarton@eoc.sc.gov.