



## CINCINNATI HEALTH DEPARTMENT SCHOOL HEALTH PROGRAM

### **Mission Statement**

The School Health Program of the Cincinnati Health Department is committed to the premise that all children have the need for and right to receive comprehensive quality health services.

### **Target Population**

The School Health Program provides school health services to 49 Cincinnati Public elementary schools and one high school.

### **Goals of the Cincinnati Health Department School Health Program**

- ◆ To plan, implement and evaluate a comprehensive school health program.
- ◆ To deliver needed health services to school-aged children through the nursing process of assessing needs, planning and implementing interventions and evaluating outcomes to promote a healthier student population.
- ◆ To advocate for health rights of children and families both within the school setting and the community.
- ◆ To provide health counseling & guidance for school-aged children and their families.
- ◆ To participate in health education activities for children, parents, & school personnel.
- ◆ To provide referral and case management for students with chronic health problems and unmet health needs.

### **Nursing Services**

- Screening and referral (includes follow-up) of health problems that interfere with student achievement and school attendance by:
  - Vision screening in grades K, 1, 3, 5, 7 & 9 in all assigned schools
  - Hearing screening in grades K, 1, 3, 5 & 9 in all assigned schools
  - Scoliosis screening in grades 6 & 7
  - Dental screening in grades K, 1, 3, & 5
  - BMI screening of all Kindergarten students and referral as indicated.
- Physical examinations by a nurse practitioner at selected schools for children who do not receive regular medical care. School nurses provide follow-up for identified problems.
- Health assessment, case management, and coordination of care for students with acute and chronic health problems that interfere with academic achievement:
  - Frequently seen in office or sent home with acute illnesses or injuries
  - Chronic disease
  - Frequent absenteeism, truancy or suspension
  - Behavior problems at school
  - Developmental or physical impairments
  - Substance abuse
  - Teen pregnancy
  - Child abuse and/or neglect
- Assessment of student immunization records to meet minimum State of Ohio immunization requirements for school entry & attendance.
- Development and implementation of standards of care & protocols for illness & injury at school.

- Development of *Individual Health Plans* (IHP's) for students with chronic health needs.
- Presentation of programs focused on disease prevention and health promotion.
- Individual health counseling and consultation on health issues for students & school staff.
- Control of communicable disease by:
  - screening of students and school personnel
  - assisting with investigation and surveillance of communicable diseases
  - administration of immunizations
- Identification of potential health or safety hazards in the school environment.
- Recommendations to accommodate students with handicapping condition.
- Participation on emergency preparedness team for incident response & management.
- Identifying students at risk for having health and/or academic problems.
- Advocate for student & family within health care system & community.

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