

# ADDRESSING SCHOOL NURSE SHORTAGES

## In Education Districts Nationwide

Our nation's shortage of nurses has not excluded schools. In fact, only three out of five schools employ a full-time nurse, with one-quarter of schools employing no nurse at all. This often results in unqualified staff and administrators having to step in to provide some level of care when health or dental needs occur. Adding to this burden, nurses who are available are often tasked with providing additional coverage to other schools with no nurse on staff.

### Keys to Success: Innovative Delivery Models

For schools who don't have the advantage of an on-site healthcare professional, it's important to consider options such as third-party school-based health centers or mobile health units that can deliver care on-site as needed. In either method, these innovative delivery models give students access to care in a location that is safe and convenient. These approaches also benefit schools by expanding existing care, decreasing gaps in staffing, improving access to healthcare for youth in the community, and support for their busy parents. By bringing health services directly to schools, these types of solutions help keep children healthy, in school, and learning.

### The Student Health Impact Project



The Student Health Impact Project (SHIP) is a multidisciplinary health and wellness approach that supports schools and communities facing health disparities. The mission is to help identify, address, and manage health barriers to learning by implementing and expanding access to care for all children and adolescents where they live, learn, and play.

After launching SHIP, DOCS partnered with Philadelphia Eagles safety, Rodney McLeod, Jr., to create the Healthy Attitude program, a popular student health and wellness movement. Both of these outcome-based programs were designed to build collaboration between school health personnel and primary care providers, serving as a "safety-net" for students who may not have regular access to medical care. These programs have resulted in both increased attendance and better consent return rates.

### Benefits of Working With DOCS

- **Since 2008**, DOCS has delivered care services to school students.
- DOCS understands the perspectives of all school stakeholders, including **district administrators, principals, school nurses, parents, and students**.
- DOCS has a long-standing history of serving **schools and under-resourced communities!**



DENTRUST  
OPTIMIZED  
CARE  
SOLUTIONS  
WITH YOU FOR LIFE

267.927.5000

[docs.health](https://docs.health)