Definition of School Nursing: School nursing, a specialized practice of nursing, protects and promotes student health, facilitates optimal development, and advances academic success. School nurses, grounded in ethical and evidence-based practice, are the leaders that bridge health care and education, provide care coordination, advocate for quality student-centered care, and collaborate to design systems that allow individuals and communities to develop their full potentials (National Association of School Nurses 2017).

School nurses are key members of the education team and leaders of school health who keep students healthy, safe, and ready to learn. School nurses utilize a team-based approach to:

- Partner with school personnel to collaboratively develop and implement evidence-based intervention, prevention and educational programs based on multi-tiered system of supports (MTSS).
- Facilitate activities for student engagement and family involvement.
- Partner with community healthcare providers and social services.

School nurses bridge access to health care within and across school communities. As a member of the school-based mental health team, school nurses offer a continuum of wellness services with the ultimate goal of improving academic achievement:

- Student learning experiences to promote mental and physical well-being
- Prevention services to support a safe learning environment
- Health education curricula to increase healthy behaviors
- Partnerships for interprofessional collaboration
- Screening to identify early warning signs
- Student-centered care coordination

Contact Information:
Dr. Dianne Mennitt
School Nurse Consultant
Florida Department of Education
dianne.mennitt@fldoe.org
850-245-7851
NASN’s Framework for 21st Century School Nursing Practice (the Framework) provides structure and focus for the key principles and components of current day, evidence-based school nursing practice. It is aligned with the Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child model that calls for a collaborative approach to learning and health (ASCD & CDC, 2014). Central to the Framework is student-centered nursing care that occurs within the context of the students’ family and school community. Surrounding the students, family, and school community are the non-hierarchical, overlapping key principles of Care Coordination, Leadership, Quality Improvement, and Community/Public Health. These principles are surrounded by the fifth principle, Standards of Practice, which is foundational for evidence-based, clinically competent, quality care. School nurses daily use the skills outlined in the practice components of each principle to help students be healthy, safe, and ready to learn.