How Health and Student Services Education Support Professionals Make Public Schools Great for Every Student

Education support professionals who work in health and student services make public schools great by performing a wide variety of jobs that improve and protect student health and welfare. In addition to the traditional tasks of providing first aid, monitoring immunizations, conducting health screenings, and assisting sick and injured children, we provide education that encourages students to maintain good health independently. Health professionals also help students surmount physical obstacles to their learning by assisting students with chronic conditions and disabilities. Family and community service professionals help parents and families take advantage of assistance and services that are available to support their children’s education.
**NEA’s Health and Student Services Members Are:**

**Well-trained.** Eighty-seven percent of us have attended college. Thirty-one percent have earned a two-year college degree, 23 percent a four-year college degree, and 15 percent a master’s degree or higher. Fifty-four percent of us take special coursework for our positions, 53 percent have special certificates, 55 percent have college credits, and 56 percent have licenses. Forty-three percent of us take examinations or courses regularly to maintain our positions.

**Committed.** On average, health and student services ESP members have been working as ESPs for 10 years. Eighty-four percent plan to stay in the ESP field, and 73 percent plan on staying in our current positions until retirement.

**Active in the school community.** Fifty-four percent of us have volunteered time to support a parent education association. Forty-seven percent have volunteered to teach or support art or musical activities. Twenty-seven percent have coached or supported a student sports program. Seventy-three percent of us have spent our own money to purchase lunch or school supplies for students.

**Workplace Conditions and Issues**

Health and student services professionals need **accurate job descriptions** to help ensure that we are working within our job classifications and legal authority. Fifty-nine percent of us have no input into updating or changing our job descriptions, and 48 percent are asked to perform duties outside of our job descriptions.

We are concerned about **safety.** We help students with a wide range of health problems, from mild aches to chronic disabilities. We are vulnerable to muscle strain and other problems caused by lifting and caring for physically handicapped students. We face high workloads and often need **more support** for our work.

Health and student services professionals like the **personal fulfillment** we get from our work and the freedom to decide how to do our jobs. We would like **better pay** and more **professional development** to help maintain our skills.

**Fast Facts about NEA’s Health and Student Services ESP Members**

- **43%** of us work with preschool, kindergarten or elementary level students.
- **88%** work at school buildings.
- **73%** work with special education students.
- **85%** work full-time.
- **96%** of us are female and **82%** are married.
- **Our average age is 50.**
- On average, we have been NEA members for **8 years.**

**Health and Student Services Jobs Include:**

- Licensed Practical Nurses
- Nurses’ and Health Aides
- Health Technicians
- Family and Parent Services Aides
- Community Welfare Services Workers
- Nonmanagerial Supervisors

**We’re National Education Association**

Visit us on the Web at www.nea.org/esphome

For additional information, please contact:

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