



California School Nurses Organization
Optimizing Student Health and Enhancing Learning

**Strategies for School Nurses to
Address Chronic Absenteeism**

1. As case manager, create trusting and caring relationships that promote open communication among families, students, administrators, teachers, staff, community health care providers;
2. Ensure that students feel safe at school;
3. Personalize services provided to students with chronic health conditions (i.e. would having a school nebulizer make it easier to address asthma flares so that students can return or remain in school with support beyond the MDI?);
4. Be open to partnering with families to effectively manage the health barriers to good attendance;
5. Provide professional development and support for teachers and other school staff to enable them to understand the medical barriers to health and to engage them as partners in meeting the diverse cognitive, emotional, and social needs of students;
6. Assess student needs related to physical activity, nutrition, and obesity, and provide counseling and other services to meet those needs;
7. Address chronic tardiness, early dismissals, and class absence in addition to chronic absenteeism;
8. Advocate for school-wide approach to addressing chronic absenteeism;
9. Ask the student and parent for permission to link them into other school support systems in order to build student-school connectedness;
10. Conduct parent/caregiver and student classes on health topics;
11. Encourage utilization of reporting systems for better data collection;
12. Increase number of children who receive care after in-school screenings have identified they have unmet needs;
13. Help students/families access necessary physical or mental healthcare providers;
14. If the parent has no insurance, link them into the Covered California Exchange (www.coveredca.com) by identifying an assisting agency.