

# IS A CAREER AS A CERTIFIED SCHOOL NURSE RIGHT FOR YOU?

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## WHAT IS A CERTIFIED SCHOOL NURSE AND WHERE DO THEY WORK?

A Certified School Nurse is a licensed healthcare professional who helps students stay healthy and safe at school. They usually are the go-to person in a school when a student gets hurt or isn't feeling well. School nurses work with teachers, counselors, and families to make sure students get the help they need to feel better and do well in school.

School nurses work in all kinds of schools—from preschool to high school. They may work in classrooms where students need extra medical help. In some areas, a nurse might care for students at several schools and travel between buildings to make sure everyone gets the care they need.

## WHAT MIGHT A CERTIFIED SCHOOL NURSE DO EACH DAY?

- Give daily medications and help students who are sick or hurt.
- Run health screenings for vision, hearing, or height and weight checks.
- Keep track of health records including shots, physicals, and dental.
- Help students stay healthy and safe during field trips and community outings.
- Teach students and staff about bus safety, food allergies, emergency plans, and preventing injuries.
- Make health plans with families and doctors for students who need special care.

## YOU MIGHT ENJOY A CAREER AS A CERTIFIED SCHOOL NURSE IF YOU:

- Want to be a nurse and work in schools with students.
- Like helping others feel better.
- Care about both physical and mental health.
- Are good at working with people, especially school-age children.
- Can stay calm and organized, even in emergencies.

## VOICES FROM THE FIELD: MEET A CERTIFIED SCHOOL NURSE



Jamie Thim  
Certified School Nurse  
Bucks County Intermediate Unit 22

Scan the QR code to watch the interview.



## HOW TO BECOME A CERTIFIED SCHOOL NURSE IN PENNSYLVANIA:

1. Earn a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) or a bachelor's degree in another field.
2. Obtain a Pennsylvania registered nurse license.
3. Complete an approved [Pennsylvania Department of Education \(PDE\) Educational Specialist: School Nurse PK-12 Certification Program](#).
4. Apply for the School Nurse PK-12 Educational Specialist I Certificate.

