

**MECKLENBURG COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
SCHOOL HEALTH**

FAST FACTS 2009-2010

137,000 students attend CMS grades Pre-K through 12
176 schools are assigned a nurse at least one day a week

Public Health Department Staffing of Schools:

109 Public Health RNs	1 school nurse to 1,300 students
8 Assistants	1 nurse 2-5 days a week/ school
1 Nurse Practitioner	National recommendation 1:750
1 Social Worker	
4 Dental Hygienists	
2 Nutritionists	
1 Health Educator	
Other specialty and administrative staff	

Funding: Annual budget mostly from County taxes. Reduced by 10% in 09-10

Supplies: From CMS, PTAs and other donations

The staff of the MCHD School Health Program regularly reaches out to collaborate with and support all components of the Coordinated School Health Model. Together we can work to improve students' and staff's health and learning.

Our offices:

Mecklenburg County Health Department – School Health
5727 Westpark Drive

704-304-6700 Call this MCHD number to locate any School Nurse.

School secretaries have pager numbers for assigned nurses.

Director of School Health:

Maria Bonaiuto, RN,MSN,NCSN

704-304-6703 mbonaiuto@carolinas.org

Our priorities: To help children in CMS be healthy and ready to learn.....

- Identify children with health problems and help them to incorporate health needs into their school life. (ex: >400 children w/ diabetes, 10,000 w/ asthma)
- Establish Emergency Care Plans, with parents, school staff, and physicians for students who may be at risk for illness or injury at school because of known health conditions. (ex: asthma, seizures, diabetes)
- Provide legally *mandated* services to children with health care needs. These include assessment, planning, and monitoring of any health care procedure done in school. (blood sugar, catheterization, tube feeding)
- Identify and case-manage students who have frequent absences due to health problems. (asthma, migraine, depression, head lice).
- Contribute to school based teams in order to assess the role a child's health issues play in his success/failure in school, and to contribute to planning for remediation. (substance abuse, kidney dialysis, ADHD).
- Initiate or contribute to health screening, education, and health promotion activities which strengthen the health and/or learning readiness of individual students, groups, and/or the school community. (Smoking cessation, pregnancy support groups, health fairs, Open Airways for students with asthma).
- Assure medication safety through training and monitoring of staff on an ongoing basis.
 - Monitor doctors' orders to be sure that they are complete, reasonable, and signed.
 - Check that medications are correctly labeled and in the right container.
 - Help to organize the medications to provide greatest safety.
 - Train staff, assist with questions, monitor documentation
 - Review the medication for its effectiveness, side effect and sometimes for recalls.
- Assist CMS staff with compliance to immunization requirements, in order to avoid outbreaks of serious, preventable diseases. (interpret unclear records, verify completeness, notify parents of what is needed, connect with health care and help children get their shots).
- Remain available 5 days a week to all schools for phone consultation on health issues.