



Gadsden Independent School District

Lisa Crawford, Nursing Coordinator



• **GISD covers 1,400 square miles between Las Cruces, NM and El Paso, TX**

- Mesquite
- Sunland Park
- Chaparral

• **The only towns in our district that are incorporated are:**

- Sunland Park
- Anthony

• **There are multiple other communities that make up our district:**

- Mesquite
- La Mesa
- Vado
- Berino
- Chamberino
- Santa Teresa
- Chaparral
- Many other smaller villages and colonias

•Socioeconomic status varies drastically

•Medical care variable

- Families travel to Las Cruces, El Paso, or Juarez, Mexico
- Approximately 85% of our students are on Medicaid
- Many families are undocumented
- School-Based Health Center (La Clinica de Familia)
 - Allows for students to have a medical home
 - Provides medical and mental health services for those who would not normally have access
 - Has provided a unique and cherished collaboration for our district and many others
 - Las Cruces
 - Hatch
 - Truth or Consequences

- **All the rules and regulations for the state do not change**
 - Immunizations have to be current
 - Vision and hearing screenings for Special Education Students continue
 - Care coordination between the school and medical providers for significant health conditions
 - Health education classes
 - Dental screenings and dental sealants
- **What does school nursing look like when students are remote?**
 - Educational pamphlets distributed in student Grab and Go meals
 - English and Spanish hotlines for families with questions
 - Nurses and health assistants would answer questions for families outside during meal pick up
 - Nurses and health assistants did Chromebook distribution for students (following distancing guidelines)
 - Virtual offices
 - Regular wellness phone calls to families
 - Coordination with schools and social workers to distribute food boxes to families in need
 - “Contact tracing” at the district level
 - Scheduling vision and hearing screening that meet social distance guidelines
 - Parental follow-up to ensure proper childhood vaccination, in accordance with the law
 - Maintaining current health records on all students



- **COVID**

- **Constant education for staff, students, and families**
 - Hand washing
 - Masking
 - Social distancing
 - Staying home when sick
- **Constant vigilance**

- **Increasing COVID positive cases**
- **Significant efforts in contact tracing**
 - Additional nursing staff
 - Johns Hopkins Contact Tracing Course
 - Time and documentation
- **What do GISD numbers look like?**



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New Mexico School Nurse Association

A STATEWIDE PERSPECTIVE



Introduction

- National Association of School Nurses (NASN)
 - 8,000 + members
 - Position statements, white papers, continuing education
 - Federal legislation
- New Mexico School Nurse Association (NMSNA)
 - State affiliate of NASN
 - 129 active members
 - Advocacy, legislation, continuing education

NMSNA Activities - 2020

- Seat at the table for NM PED Re-Entry Task Force
- Letter to district Superintendents
 - Encouraging support of school nurses
 - Asking to make school nurses a vital part of their COVID re-entry planning
- Letter to Office of School and Adolescent Health
 - Encouraging collaboration between OSAH, NM DOH, NM PED
- Weekly meetings with school nurse leaders from across the state
 - Encouraging advocacy
 - Sharing ideas
 - Providing open forum

2019-2020 Annual School Health Services Report

- 89 school districts in New Mexico
- 9 school districts did not report for 2019-2020
- 7 districts report NO school nurse on staff
- 11 districts report only a part-time nurse (0.25-0.3 time)
- Dexter Consolidated Schools reports more than 800 students
 - 1 nurse
 - 3 buildings
- Pojoaque Valley School District reports about 1,900 students
 - 1 nurse
 - 5 buildings

NMSNA Legislation

- New Mexico Healthcare Workforce Committee's 2020 Recommendations
 - "Ensure at least one school nurse in each school district statewide"
- 2019 Legislation
 - HB 321 Nurse and Social Worker in Every School
 - HB 476 School Nurse in Every School
 - Made it through HEC and HHHC, then died
- 2020 Legislation
 - School Nurse in Every District
 - School Nurse in Every School
 - Representative Debra M. Sariñana

Closing Thoughts

- The importance of school nurses
 - Essential during a “normal” school year
 - More than essential during a pandemic
- The importance of a School-Based Health Center
- Strike a balance
 - Consider health and safety of students and their families, staff and their families
 - Consider the mental, emotional, physical effects of an extended quarantine on students, staff, and families
 - Nurses can be critical in providing resources and education to students and families
- Provide the most transparent and complete information so that each local education agency can make the safest decisions for their staff and communities

Questions?



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