



**NASN Position Statement: Naloxone Use in the School Setting: The Role of the School Nurse**  
***SUPPLEMENTED WITH WASHINGTON STATE SPECIFIC INFORMATION***

**Summary of the National Association of School Nurses Naloxone Use in the School Setting: The Role of the School Nurse Position Statement**

The position statement for *Naloxone Use in the School Setting: The Role of the School Nurse* was first adopted by the National Association of School Nurses (NASN) in June, 2015. The most recent revision was June 2020. This is the first position statement for *Naloxone Use in the School Setting: The Role of the School Nurse* by the School Nurse Organization of Washington (SNOW).

*It is the position of the National Association of School Nurses (NASN) that the safe and effective management of opioid-related overdoses in schools must be incorporated into the schools emergency preparedness and response plan. The registered professional school nurse (hereinafter referred to as school nurse) provides leadership in all phases of emergency preparedness and response. When emergencies happen, including drug-related emergencies, proper management of these incidents at school is vital to positive outcomes. The school nurse is essential to the school team responsible for developing and implementing emergency response procedures. School nurses in this role should facilitate access to naloxone for quick response in the management of opioid-related overdoses in the school setting (NASN, 2020).*

The full NASN position statement: *Naloxone Use in the School Setting: The Role of the School Nurse* can be found by following this link: <https://www.nasn.org/advocacy/professional-practice-documents/position-statements/ps-naloxone>

**Supplementary Information Specific to Washington State**

In 2019, Washington State passed Substitute Senate Bill 5380. This legislation added sections [28A.210.390](#) and [28A.210.395](#) to chapter 28A.210 RCW clarifying the following:

- Development of school district opioid-related overdose policy guidelines and training requirements.
- School Districts with 2000 or more students obtaining and maintaining opioid overdose reversal medication in each of its high schools.
- Statewide standing order for an eligible entity or person to dispense naloxone.
- Liability, injury or harm due to the administration of an opioid overdose reversal medication.

## SCHOOL NURSE ORGANIZATION OF WASHINGTON

### SUMMARY

It is the position of SNOW that when implementing naloxone use as part of a school district's emergency response plan, school nurses should be familiar with all federal, state and local laws and regulations impacting Washington State schools. This should include protection from criminal liability for naloxone administration by school lay persons or first responders (SAMHSA, 2018).

School nurses also have a crucial role to play in opioid-related misuse and overdose awareness education, research-based prevention strategies and the identification of community resources for K-12 students and their families (NASN 2020).

### REFERENCES/RESOURCES

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