

CHAP ADVOCACY BRIEF

Changes to the DC School Health Services Program

March 2026

PURPOSE

To inform the community about AJE's **Community Health Advisory Panel (CHAP)** recommendations on improving the effectiveness, equitable access, and sustainability of the DC School Health Services Program and its integration with school-based health systems.

OVERVIEW

The DC Department of Health's School Health Services Program (SHSP) delivers comprehensive clinical services across **186** school health suites, including:

- medication administration
- emergency care
- chronic disease management

SERVICE DELIVERY MODEL

The SHSP is a team-based model where **Registered Nurses (RNs), Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs), and School Health Technicians** serve multiple schools. This is intended to improve efficiency but may also affect continuity and on-site presence.

ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

- **Registered Nurses (RNs)**: Clinical oversight, develop care plans, and manage complex cases.
- **Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs):** Skilled procedures such as feeding tubes, catheters, and IEP/504 team participation and compliance.
- **School Health Technicians**: Frontline care (medication administration, first aid, monitoring chronic conditions).

KEY FEATURES

- Teams serve multiple nearby schools.
- Allows flexible allocation of clinical expertise.
- Expands coverage amid workforce shortages.

CHAP POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Define minimum clinical presence standards per school.
- Expand pipeline programs for school nurses and health technicians.
- Formalize care coordination pathways (including LinkU and referral systems).

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