

School Health



Our mission in School Health at the Harvard Public Schools is to provide health services that assist each student to reach their full educational and physical potential. The program is dedicated to the promotion and maintenance of the health and wellness of the entire school community.

Throughout the year, the nursing staff attended several continuing education opportunities and trainings. We also take part in training others within the district. Once a year, CPR/AED training is held at Hildreth Elementary School (HES) for staff members of the district. Within the classroom, HES students have participated in proper hand washing presentations, allergy education classes, and worked with the nursing staff on the Children's Garden. The Bromfield School (TBS) nurses along with SADD arranged for the 11th and 12th grade students to experience the texting while driving simulator. Approximately 120 students and a few staff members found out firsthand the dangers of texting while driving.

The nursing department is a recipient of the Essential School Health Grant from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH). Harvard is partnered with the Hudson Public Schools. The grant funds are to be used for equipment, education, and new staffing in the health office. Our goals for funding this year is to replace assessment equipment and to pay for assistance with our mandated health screenings.

At HES and TBS the nurses see students and staff members in the health office for a variety of different reasons. These include health, injury, and psychosocial issues to name a few. In 2016, there were:

School	Students	Staff	Total
HES	3,476	43	3,519
Bromfield	5,893	133	6,026
Total	9,369	176	9,545

All medications given in the schools were administered in accordance with the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and with the consent of the parent or legal guardian. All our over the counter medication orders are reviewed and approved by our school physician. In 2016, 6,000+ medication administrations (prescription and non-prescription) were given to students and staff in the health office. This has been steadily increasing each year due to increased health needs of our students. These health needs include diabetes, asthma, cardiac issues, and life threatening and non-life threatening allergies.

The MDPH mandates that health screenings be done at specific grade levels. Though some parents opt to have them done through their primary care provider, most students have the screenings done in school.

Screening	Grades	# Of Students
Vision	Pre-K – 5 th , 7 th , 10 th	703

Hearing	K – 3 rd , 7 th , 10 th	639
BMI/Growth (ht and wt)	1 st , 4 th , 7 th , and 10 th	362
Postural	5 th – 9 th	433

At HES, a dental hygienist from The Nashoba Board of Health will again be visiting this winter to provide the students with information about the importance of good oral health. She will also provide dental cleaning and fluoride treatments to those who wish their children to receive them.

In addition to seeing students and staff in the health office throughout the school day, nurses also attend staff meetings, multidisciplinary team meetings, parent meetings, home visits, committee meetings, and policy meetings regarding health policies of the district.

We develop Individual Health Care Plans (IHCP) with the staff and parents for children who have specialized health care plans in the school. At this time we have over 100 children with IHCP's in the district.

We will continue to assist the students of the Harvard Public Schools to reach their full educational and physical potential by promoting good health and safety practices. I appreciate all the support that we receive from the staff and the community and look forward to the challenges of the upcoming year.

Respectfully submitted,
 Colleen Nigzus, RN, MSN
 Nurse Leader
 Harvard Public Schools