



Hello Georgia School Nurses,

We hope that your year is off to a great start!!! The **Georgia School Health Counts Task Force** (formerly the GA Step Up Be Counted Task Force) would like to share some great news and update you on the status of the state data collection initiative. First, we would like to thank the 104 school systems who submitted data for the 2016-2017 school year. Great job...we celebrate you! We will send a summary of the data report in the near future. The drawing for the \$100.00 School Health gift card for all systems who submitted their data before September 1st has been done and the winner is Douglas County!!!! Congratulations!

Although the task force was **thrilled** with the response from these school systems and School Nurses, we definitely want to keep the momentum and level of participation going! The task force is already working on plans for this year's data collection process but we need your support. We want our school nurse's workforce information and school health data to be a true reflection of all the hard work of all Georgia school nurses.

As you noticed, we have officially changed our name to **GA School Health Counts** (GSHC). The National Association of School Nurses (NASN) will also be renaming and rebranding the former Step Up Be Counted initiative and the plans for the work of the National Data Base campaign will continue. The task force will officially report to GASN.

As a reminder, the data collection initiative is aimed at bringing visibility to the immense health needs of our students and clarifying the school nurse workforce. Additionally, data collected in this initiative clearly depicts the nature of our specialty practice and outcomes of our care. Collecting and sharing data in this fashion is a unique way to advocate for the resources needed by school nurses and students, and it validates the unique and irreplaceable role of school nurses.

Stay tuned for more information regarding this year's data collection. Additionally, there will be a survey sent to all designated Lead School Nurses in the near future. The purpose of this survey is to share feedback about any barriers that you may have in submitting data for this initiative. We realize each school system maintains records/information in various ways and there are different data systems used across the state. We want to address your needs and if we can assist you with completing and compiling your data, we want to help! Please be on the lookout for the survey. We urge every school and district to complete the survey.

Please let us know if you have questions about this year's data collection.

Thank you and we will continue to share updated information.

Georgia School Health Counts Task Force

Lynne P. Meadows, RN, MS, GASN State Director &
State Data Champion
Coordinator, Student Health Services, Fulton County Schools

Debbie King, RN, BSN
Fayette County School Health Services Coordinator

Gail Smith, BSN, RN
Regional School Nurse Coordinator
Children's Healthcare of Atlanta

Krista Lowe, RN, BSN, MEd.
School Nurse Specialist
Georgia Department of Education

Kim Conley, RN, BSN
Lead School Nurse, Butts County Schools

Lisa Morrison, RN, GASN President
Lead School Nurse, Glynn County Schools

JoAnn Harris, MSN, RN, AE-C
Lead School Nurse, DeKalb County Schools

Sara Kroening, RN, MSN, FNP-BC
Regional Community Health Coordinator
Children's Healthcare of Atlanta