

## Innovations in Funding School Nursing Services\*

Funding of school nursing and school health services has traditionally been through education dollars. As budgets are stretched and more student health concerns impact schools, we looked for other innovative funding solutions. A systematic literature review was undertaken, interviews were conducted, and a Think Tank was convened to identify possible sources of funding beyond education.



### School-Based Medicaid Expansion

Healthcare occurs in schools. Schools can be reimbursed for eligible school health services, including nursing.

Funds should go back to the services that were billed.

Each state has its own Medicaid plan.

For example: Massachusetts state plan allows for reimbursement of specific school nurse activities.



### State Legislative Funding

Some state legislatures have appropriated funds for school nursing.

Example: Washington State's legislature funds the School Nurse Corp to assist and provide the services to rural and small school districts.



### Local Tax Levies

Communities have leveraged local tax levies to help fund school health.

Example: In Pinellas County Schools (Florida) a portion of property taxes specifically fund school nursing.



### Partnerships

Districts may partner with local health departments or healthcare systems to collaborate on funding and employing school nurses.

Example: Akron Children's Hospital contracts with local school districts to provide school nursing services.



### Other Taxes & Possibilities

State taxes can be earmarked for specific purposes. Although not currently found, this could include school health.

Example: In Missouri, part of the tobacco tax is used to fund health initiatives. In Wyoming, partial funding for schools comes from minerals royalties.

Could population-based Medicaid reimbursement or community organizations pooled funds be used to help support school health?

Simplified examples are provided for easier understanding. It's important to note that altering tax or legislative funding to accommodate rising needs or the cost of living can be challenging and should be considered within the comprehensive bill or plan.

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