



MSNO Inc.
Massachusetts School
Nurse Organization

Massachusetts School Nurse Outlook

The Mission of the Massachusetts School Nurse Organization is to promote and advance quality school health services throughout the Commonwealth and to promote the rights, interests and professional growth of its members.

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SCHOOL NURSE ORGANIZATION
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President's Message: Celebration and Reflection

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Mimi Stamer, BSN, MSN, PNP-BC
President, MSNO

After three months of an incredibly busy fall, we enter the special season of celebration and reflection. We will begin the New Year with the theme of **Voice, Vision and Visibility – Honoring Our Own Power** guiding the direction of MSNO.

During this public health crisis and these critical economic times, our voices are needed more than ever to speak up for the needs of children and the services we provide in maintaining the public health safety of our school communities.

As health care providers we have become the trusted and reliable source for information and reassurance for students, parents, staff, family, friends and even the media. This has created an opportunity for our visibility to shine and our role to be valued as health professionals on the front line. MSNO participates in partnerships and coalitions, committees, and boards regarding not only contagious diseases, but also such issues as children's mental health, nutrition, physical activity, health disparities, homelessness and

academic achievement. MSNO's contributions are recognized and respected by legislators, educators, and children's health advocates.

Our vision for the new year must include strategies to prevent budgetary decisions and constraints from dismantling the health and safety net of school age children. The *School-Based Health Programs* line item 4590-0250 has been cut by 32% in FY'10. The FY'10 budget for the *Essential School Health Services Grant* programs was reduced again via the Governor's emergency 9c cuts. This impacts services provided in public and non public schools and results in 13 districts being reduced by an additional 50%, and 67 districts reduced by an additional 3%. Our voices with legislators, the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS), and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) are vital to prevent additional 9c cuts for FY'10 and continued reduction of funding for the ESHS program in FY'11.

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See page 16 for a survey
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