

Weekly Email Updates November 4, 2010

It was such a pleasure to see 250 MA school nurses at the School Health Institute conference on 11/2/10! The following e-mail is short so I took the opportunity to float some ideas....and make some requests....

This is an important time for school nursing in Massachusetts as several laws have direct impact on your practices and offer tremendous opportunities to work with other disciplines;

- 1. The BMI regulations:** As you complete the required BMI screenings this year, there is a wonderful opportunity to share the data with a wide variety of audiences and secure their assistance for improved nutrition and physical activity---PTAs, school committees, municipal authorities, etc. It will entail all of our becoming public speakers....as this is a major issue regarding the future health of our students.
- 2. The sports concussion bill:** We are in the process of writing regulations as required by this law--see attached. This will provide opportunities to work with your coaches and athletic directors on this critical subject---which, fortunately is receiving more attention.... We would also like to receive your suggestions on the regulations.
- 3. The school nutrition bill:** We are writing regulations on food standards for those foods outside of the breakfast and lunch programs, as well as regulations for school health advisory/wellness committees. Please send your ideas. When passed, these regulations will give major support for these committees and community participation---and an opportunity for school nursing leadership.

When the above two sets of regulations are drafted, we would like very much to submit testimony, either written or oral, at the hearings. We want to make the regulations as strong as we can, and we will need your input.

Thank you and have a nice weekend!

Attachments:

1. Safe Routes to School Events

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