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Date

Dear [Supervisor's Name]

I am writing to request support in attending the school nursing conference next spring. School Nursing is a specialty practice in nursing which, by definition, “protects and promotes student health, facilitates optimal development, and advances academic success.(Nurses, NASN)” Data shows that healthy students learn better!

As health professionals in an educational setting, the National Association of School Nurses says school nurses “bridge health care and education, provide care coordination, and advocate for quality student-centered care.” **This work requires a unique skill set.** In Oregon, the Nurse Practice Act (OAR 851-045-0040) requires nurses to **ensure their own competency** and to self-regulate their professional practice by adhering to professional practice and performance standards.

**Professional development which supports the school nurse’s continuing competence in the skill set required to practice in the school setting is available through school nursing professional organization conference opportunities; it is essential that nurses participate in these events.**

Learning outcomes at OSNA conferences are competency based and are adapted from the Framework for 21<sup>st</sup> Century School Nursing from National Association of School Nurses (NASN) and embed nurse competencies outlined by agencies which guide nursing education, including the Quality and Safety Education for Nurses (QSEN) (2020), the American Association of College of Nursing (AACN) (2021), and the Quad Council Coalition (2018). This specifically designed curriculum is essential for current, evidence-based, best practice in the school setting.

**The 2026 OSNA Spring Conference**, an in-person event which will be held at the Pendleton Conference Center on April 30-May 1, 2026, will address the following topics:

**Neurology:** 5+ hours of instruction including the following topics:

- Clinical update on TBI & concussion
- Management of concussion in the school setting
- Seizures (including VNS)
- Hydrocephalus (including VP shunts)
- Migraine

**Neurodiversity:** Cinical updates on ADHD and ASD

**Diabetes:** 3 hours of instruction including the following topics:

- Trends in Diabetes management in the school setting
- Collaborating with Ambulatory Care Nurses (including diabetes educators)
- 504 Accommodation for Diabetes

**Orthopedic Injury:** Recognition and response

Additionally, the second annual **Health Technology and Skills Fair** will give school nurses access to interactive exhibits and equipment to provide them with hands-on experience with diabetes technology, airway management, clean intermittent catheterization, G-tube management, and orthopedic injury stabilization.

Beyond the specific content, OSNA conferences give school nurses from across the state opportunities to collaborate with one another, to align school nursing practice with evidence-based standards of care.

**Attendance at school nursing specific conferences is essential to strengthen my skill set and will benefit our school community**, improving student care and reducing district liability. Evidence-based approaches to care coordination keeps students safe, healthy, and in school; this is increasingly important as students are attending school with increasingly complex health conditions.

I appreciate your consideration.