

PTA Takes Action



CALL TO ACTION - Save our School Nurses!

You have received the dreaded phone call from school: your child is in the clinic, sick or injured. Do you know how many visits are made to your school's clinic every day, every week, every year? School nurses treat children for much more than playground cuts and scrapes. They administer medicine to treat diabetes, asthma, ADD, ADHD, severe allergies, headaches (including migraines), seizures, and many other health issues. Without a school nurse, who will administer the epi-pen or insulin in a life-threatening situation? Who will stabilize broken bones? Who will be the trained first responder at your school?

You can make a difference.

GA PTA calls on every school in Georgia to conduct a Popsicle stick/tongue depressor campaign.



- *For every child who visits the clinic in a week write the grade of the child and what s/he needed whether it was for medicine, a cut, a lice check, a stomachache, etc.*
- *Bundle the sticks and send them to your State legislator with a note from your school calling for the funding for school nurses to be restored.*
- *Call your legislators to tell them to restore funding for school nurses*

To look up your legislators' contact information go to Capitol Watch on the Georgia PTA website (www.georgiapta.org) and click on *Officials* then *GA District Lookup*.
http://www.ciclt.net/sn/pol/po_districtlookup.aspx?ClientCode=gapta&State=ga&FIPS=13

It's that simple. Make our legislators understand the vital services school nurses provide. School secretaries can't keep all the prescription and non-prescription medicines in their drawers and dispense them when they have time. Teachers can't stop instruction – especially with increasing class sizes – to dispense medicine at specific times, attend to the child who is sick to his stomach or the student who fell on the playground and needs immediate medical attention.

Now is the time to act. Talk to your school nurse. Send the sticks in today! Most parents have received that dreaded call from the school nurse, now it's time for you to make the call to help our schools keep that nurse for our children's safety!

To learn more about advocating for your child attend **PTA Day at the Capitol** on **Feb. 24**. Details and registration are available on the Georgia PTA website (www.georgiapta.org).