

The Ontario Association of Public Health Nursing Leaders
Leading the Way for Public Health Nursing

October 22, 2022

Public health plays a critical role in school health and is well positioned as a key partner to advance an integrated system that works to achieve health and wellness outcomes in school settings. Based on the findings of the School-Focused Nurse Initiative Evaluation, the Ontario Association of Public Health Nursing Leaders (OPHNL) is making the following recommendations:

Recommendation One: The School-Focused Nurse initiative becomes part of permanent base funding for public health nurses to implement comprehensive school health, infection prevention and control, and other work related to supporting wellness and health equity in school settings within the Ontario Public Health Standards.

Recommendation Two: The School Health Standard continue to be a requirement of the Ontario Public Health Standards.

Recommendation Three: School Nurses continue to fulfill board of health requirements to improve the health of school-aged children and youth as per the School Health Standard and related guidelines and protocols during future public health emergency and outbreak responses.

These recommendations support public health units to continue to focus on health promotion, illness/injury prevention, health protection, and health equity in schools as part of integrated health and education systems.