

Title – Reducing Unnecessary Visits
Content Area –Health/School Nurse Teacher
Grade Level – Elementary
Students – Approximately 300 students in grades K-5
Interval of Service – SY2013-2014

Main Criteria	Element	Description
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Essential Question: What are the most important knowledge/skill(s) I want my students to attain by the end of the interval of service?

Priority of Content	Objective Statement	Increase instructional time by decreasing unnecessary visits to the nurse’s office and the amount of time students spend waiting in the nurse’s office.
	Rationale	<p>Each day, between 15-25 students seek care at the nurse’s office for medication, first aid (e.g. band-aids, inhalers), and illness. In addition, between 10-15 students per day visit the nurse’s office unnecessarily. This is defined as students who are not visiting to receive medication or because they are ill or injured. For example, students often come to the office seeking hand sanitizer, tissues, or water.</p> <p>The office has the most student traffic at the end of or just after the two recesses. When many students arrive simultaneously, it is difficult for me to properly assess each student, administer the appropriate care, and return them to class quickly. As a result of the crowding, students who do actually need care often have to wait to be seen, resulting in additional missed instructional time.</p>

Essential Question: Where are my students now with respect to the objective?

	Baseline Data / Information	I have identified this as an issue to our faculty for several years. However, I had never collected any data to support my belief that many students were visiting the nurse’s office unnecessarily. Therefore, I decided to record the number of unnecessary visits (students who are not seeking medication or care for illness or injury) during the last two weeks of September. The average was 38/week.
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Essential Question: Based on what I know about my students, where do I expect them to be by the end of the interval of service? How will I measure this?

Rigor of Target	Target(s)	My target is to reduce the weekly average of unnecessary visits to the nurse’s office by approximately 50%.
	Rationale for Target(s)	<p>I believe I can greatly reduce unnecessary visits because I have identified several proactive strategies (outlined below) and I have the support of the principal and faculty.</p> <p>However, I do not expect to eliminate all unnecessary visits, as it is often difficult for teachers to distinguish between students who really do need to visit the nurse and those who do not. In such cases, I would always prefer for teachers to err on the side of caution and refer these students to the nurse.</p>

		Based on this, I think a 50% reduction is both rigorous and attainable.
Quality of Evidence	Evidence Source(s)	I will record number of unnecessary visits during one week in November, January, and March to monitor the impact of my strategies and determine if there are any important trends (Are a disproportionate number of students coming from particular grades or classrooms? Are there individual students who are repeatedly visiting the nurse's office unnecessarily and, if so, what is causing this?). To gather evidence for this SOO, I will record the average number of unnecessary visits during across two weeks at the end of May and beginning of June.
	Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I have worked with my principal to ensure that tissues, hand sanitizer, and paper cups for water will be ordered regularly as part of our monthly purchasing and that teachers have access to these supplies to restock their classrooms. • I created Recess Kits containing these supplies, which will be monitored by the teacher(s) who have recess duty each day. • At the beginning of the year, I spoke to all teachers at a faculty meeting and asked for their help in this effort. I gave them a reference guide for what to ask and look for when referring students to the nurse and answered any questions they had about referrals to the nurse's office. I plan to check back in with them at the beginning of cold/flu season and at the beginning of allergy season. • I set up a "Self Service Station" just inside the nurse's office with tissues, hand sanitizer, paper cups, and a water cooler so that older students (those in grades 4&5) can quickly help themselves to if they stop at the nurse's office on their way to or from the cafeteria, recess, or the lavatory.