



CONTRACTED NURSING SERVICES:

Why an Electronic Health Records System Purpose-Built for K-12 Schools is the Best Choice

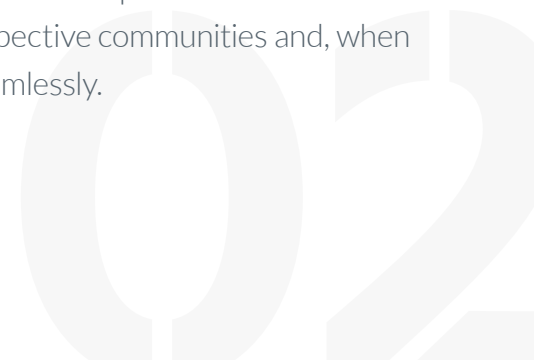




WHY AN ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORDS SYSTEM PURPOSE- BUILT FOR K-12 SCHOOLS IS THE BEST CHOICE?

In many K-12 school districts, there is an increasing reliance on contracted nursing services to meet the health needs of students. Instead of hiring full-time, permanent school nurses, districts contract with external agencies or individual healthcare providers to deliver specific services or cover set hours. However, it's crucial that school districts ensure these external providers are seamlessly integrated into the school environment, maintaining the standards of care and communication essential for student well-being.

While school district nursing services, state or county departments of health, special health districts, and private health organizations all share a common goal of promoting health and well-being, their structures, mandates, and operational nuances are distinct. Recognizing and understanding these differences is paramount for them to effectively serve their respective communities and, when necessary, collaborate seamlessly.





COMMON TYPES OF CONTRACTED NURSE SERVICES



State or County Departments of Health & Special Health Districts:

These bodies are primarily focused on public health and its promotion across the entire state or a specific jurisdiction. Their mandate often includes disease prevention, health education, community health initiatives, and emergency responses. They are primarily funded through state or county budgets, federal grants, and other public funds. Their resources are distributed based on public health needs across various regions and programs.

Private Health Organizations: These can range from large hospital networks to smaller, specialized clinics. Their main goal is to provide healthcare services to the general public, often with a profit motive, although there are many non-profit organizations in this category as well. Their funding comes from a mix of service fees, private insurance reimbursements, donations, and, in some cases, grants. They need to ensure profitability or sustainability based on their financial model.

School District Nursing Services: Their primary concern is the health and well-being of students and staff within a particular school district. They are specifically tailored to address the unique health challenges within an educational environment. They are usually funded through the school district's budget, which is derived from state funds, local taxes, and federal sources. Their resources are specifically allocated for school health services.



THE IMPORTANCE OF A K-12 SPECIFIC EHR SYSTEM

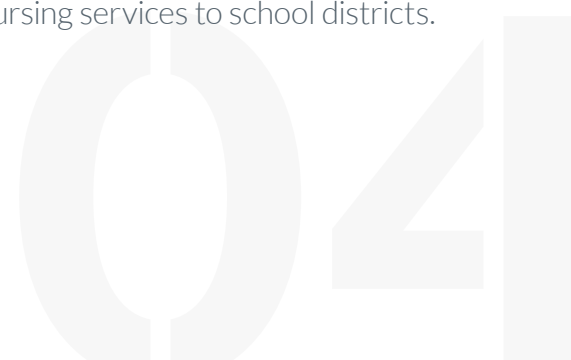


Electronic Health Records (EHR) systems have revolutionized the way health care is delivered, and when it comes to K-12 schools, the requirements are unique.

In K-12, you have a couple options for managing health records. You could use spreadsheets or your SIS, which a lot of schools do. But in addition to the number of tedious, manual tasks associated with spreadsheets, compliance with FERPA, for instance, becomes a more labor-intensive effort.

Systems that are tailored specifically for K-12 schools, like that offered by Frontline Education, are undeniably the best fit for state or county departments of health, special health districts, and private health organizations that provide contracted nursing services to school districts.

Here's why:





THE IMPORTANCE OF A K-12 SPECIFIC EHR SYSTEM CONT'D

1. Tailored to K-12 Needs: K-12 schools have distinct health needs, from handling childhood ailments to managing chronic conditions like diabetes and allergies. A purpose-built EHR system can seamlessly cater to these unique demands.

2. Streamlined Data Management: Some Health Care Districts receive upwards of half a million visits in just one school year. The sheer volume of data from illness and injury reports, medication administration, screenings, and consultations require a system robust enough to manage and report it efficiently.

3. Compliance with State Mandates: Many states mandate screenings for vision, hearing, BMI, and scoliosis, and more. A specialized EHR ensures that these specific requirements are seamlessly integrated and easily reported, helping schools stay compliant.

4. Efficient Handling of Emergencies: In the wake of global health concerns like COVID-19, schools are on the front lines of screening and testing for contagious diseases. An EHR designed for K-12 schools will have built-in capabilities to address such emergent needs.



THE IMPORTANCE OF A K-12 SPECIFIC EHR SYSTEM CONT'D



5. Streamlined Medication Administration: The detailed process involved in administering medication to students can be efficiently managed with a K-12 specific EHR. This ensures that every student's medication is administered correctly, recorded meticulously, and that all compliance measures are in place. And this includes medication inventory management, as well.

6. Chronic Health Condition Management: For students with conditions like diabetes, asthma, or cystic fibrosis, consistent health monitoring and intervention are crucial. A dedicated EHR allows for a streamlined process, ensuring that students with chronic health conditions receive the care they need.

7. Collaboration and Partnership: Many health care providers in the school setting work in tandem with other organizations. A K-12 specific EHR facilitates better communication, coordination, and collaboration between different partners, be it the School District or the Department of Health.

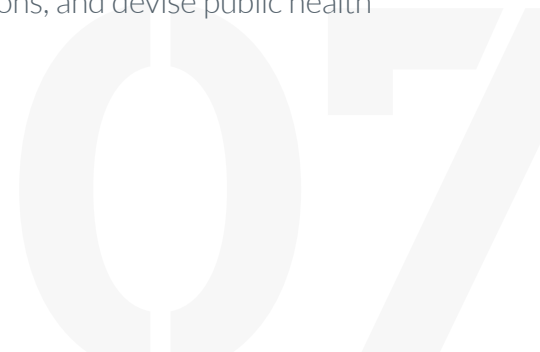




A UNIFIED EHR SYSTEM

The healthcare landscape is vast and diverse, encompassing state or county departments of health, special health districts, private health organizations, and school district nursing services. Each of these entities has its unique operational needs and challenges. Yet, despite these differences, there's an emerging consensus around the idea of adopting a unified Electronic Health Record (EHR) system. **Here's why this approach can be transformative:**

- **Seamless Data Integration:** With one unified EHR system, data can flow seamlessly between different health entities. This ensures that a student's health record from school can be easily accessed by groups contracted to provide school districts nursing services, ensuring timely and informed care.
- **Improved Student Outcomes:** With all health data centralized in one place, healthcare providers can have a holistic view of a student's history. This reduces the chances of medical errors, enhances diagnosis accuracy, and allows for more personalized treatment plans.
- **Enhanced Security:** Consolidating into one EHR platform, especially one that's role-based, allows for better security measures. With a singular focus, it's easier to enforce strict cybersecurity protocols, ensuring the confidentiality and integrity of patient data.
- **Better Research and Policy Making:** A unified EHR system can offer a goldmine of data for the school district and the contracted providers. With comprehensive data from diverse sources in one place, it's easier to identify health trends, make policy recommendations, and devise public health strategies.





Conclusion:

In the rapidly evolving world of health care, specificity is key. For K-12 schools, the challenges and requirements are distinct. State or county departments of health, special health districts, and private health organizations that provide contracted nursing services to school districts would be best served by investing in an EHR system specifically designed for K-12 schools, ensuring that students receive the best care, right where they learn.

