

SCHOOL HEALTH



CONTEXT

A robust school health program is a key component of youth well-being. Arlington has many school and community assets working hard to make schools healthy. One comprehensive component is the work of the nurses and clinic aids in Arlington's School Health Bureau (SHB) who staff each school. SHB is administered by Arlington's Public Health Division in close coordination with Arlington Public Schools (APS). Services provided by school nurses and aids include:

- First aid and emergency care
- Administration of medications
- Immunizations and TB skin tests
- Hearing and vision screenings
- Assistance to children with complex medical needs
- Linkage to community providers and resources
- Health education
- Training of APS staff in use of emergency medications
- Promoting prevention of communicable diseases
- Coordination with Special Education and Mental Health staff
- Response to outbreaks and emergencies

The table below details the services that students received in the school health clinic during the 2017-18 school year. Note: one student may receive multiple services during one clinic visit.

Arlington also has a School Health Advisory Board (SHAB), which includes Arlington school and county staff, parents, students, and community members. One critical advocacy component of SHAB has been to ensure that all schools have their own school wellness council to assess progress toward meeting wellness standards in a way that is tailored to each school's needs. More information about their work is online: <https://apsshaw.weebly.com/>.

FINDINGS

Thousands of students require in-school health services for asthma, diabetes, seizures, cancer, life-threatening food allergies, and other health conditions. The two most common chronic health conditions among APS students are asthma and food allergies. Asthma rates have consistently increased over the last several years. While there are no major findings in the number of students with self-reported food allergies, they remain one of the most common chronic health conditions.

The number of APS students with asthma and other chronic conditions has risen for four straight years.

IN SCHOOL CLINIC SERVICES RECEIVED, 2017-18 ¹	
First Aid	73,906
Medication Administration	26,493
Clinical Procedures	69,608
Immunizations	356
Other	25,904

