

**The School Nurse: Collaborating with General Education Teachers  
to Improve Outcomes for Students with Disabilities**  
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Going to the NASN national conference is always so informative and inspirational. I'm happy to share some of what I gained with other Florida school nurses.

One session I found especially useful, titled: "The School Nurses Role: Collaborating with general education teachers to improve outcomes for students with disabilities." The role of the school nurse as defined by NASN was used by educators from Vanderbilt University in their learning tool. They see the nurse as a vital component in collaborating to improve educational outcomes for students. I feel this standard model will go a long way towards clarifying and strengthening the role of the school nurse.

You can go to their website and see the information for yourself. The web site is: <http://iris.peabody.vanderbilt.edu>. This web site can be used as a reference for the school nurse and the general education teacher. It is encouraging to see the school nurse's role, as a collaborator; included in an educational learning model. This is a group dedicated to the study of how people learn. The "star legacy modules" provide a format to give successful approaches to learning. Go to the web site then click on star legacy modules – then click on collaboration—the modules – school nurse; roles and responsibilities in the school and working with your school nurse are both good. The modules include how to meet the health care needs of students who have Section 504 plans and IEP's. They list the many roles of the school nurse, such as, promotes health education for all students, provides a variety of health care services, participates in meetings to develop Section 504 plans and IEP's, as well as advocates for students and collaborates with families, school personnel, and community professional.

I will use this model to improve my present role as a school nurse; to increase my collaboration with the teachers and to continue to improve outcomes for all students. It will also be useful to educate the teaching staff on what my roles are.