

title	School nursing at general schools
Short name:	SPLASH
Duration:	24 month / September 2016 to August 2018
Status / Financing:	Third-party funding project / funding by the Hessische Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Gesundheitsförderung e.V. (HAGE)
Management / Coordination:	Ewers / Tannen
Processing:	Adam / Ebert
Description:	<p>The health and education chances of children and adolescents are closely linked, and both are adversely affected by poverty and other related social factors. In addition, the general changes along the morbidity spectrum also affects children and adolescents, with a marked increase in chronic illnesses during childhood in the recent years. However early life years foster good opportunities for promoting individual health and education chances, as well as the prevention and mitigation of the negative effects of chronic health impairments. Given that children and adolescents spend a lot of time in school, this setting is being increasingly used for the delivery of health promotion and prevention interventions.</p> <p>In many countries, school nursing has been established as an effective strategy to address the health promotion and preventive potential in this age group, to control age- and setting-specific health risks, as well as to provide students, parents and teachers with support in dealing with the effects of chronic diseases. These international experiences are to be taken up in two federal states in Germany - Brandenburg and Hessen. Within the framework of a pilot project conducted by the AWO Bezirksverband Potsdam e.V. and the HAGE e.V. Frankfurt / Main (the sponsor of the pilot project), 10 school health specialists are expected to take over a wide range of health-related tasks in 10 schools or school networks, based on setting specific requirements and general conditions. The pilot project is being developed and implemented in close cooperation between the project sponsors and the responsible state ministries for education and health, as well as other stakeholders (e.g. the health insurance company AOK Hessen).</p> <p>This pilot project is subjected to participatory scientific monitoring and evaluation, which aims to provide an analysis of the baseline situation at participating schools, reflective implementation support, as well as an initial classification and evaluation of health effects observed over the project implementation period. In addition to regular consultations with the project managers, standardized surveys are carried out for a comparison of the situation before and after the input provided by the school health specialists. Moreover, students, teachers, parents and school health specialists' subjective views on the pilot project are collected via qualitative interviews.</p> <p>The scientific monitoring and evaluation study is expected to generate information on the requirements for a successful use of school health specialists in general schools in Germany. Moreover, initial findings about the ways in which school health specialists can influence health and educational opportunities as well as strategies for coping with chronic diseases in the school setting are expected. From the perspective of health and nursing science, specific opportunities for the expansion of nurses' traditional range of intervention and the ways in which nurses contribute to the promotion of public health in the school setting in the sense of "public health nursing" are also of particular interest.</p>
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