

In-District Health & Safety Specialist (2021-22)

The Nassau BOCES Health & Safety Training and Information Service was established in 1989 to help school districts meet the need for complying with health and safety regulations and assuring a safe environment for students and staff. This vision of then District Superintendent, Dr. Ira Singer, began with the enrollment of 13 participating school districts. Over the years this program has continued to grow along with the proliferation of regulatory requirements and unfunded mandates. Today, the program services all 56 Nassau County School Districts and addresses many issues including:

- Emergency Planning and Response (SAVE)
- Rebuilding Schools to Uphold Education (RESCUE)
- Water Quality
- Violent and Disruptive Incident Reporting (VADIR)
- Asbestos and Lead Management
- School Laboratory Safety (The Laboratory Standard)
- Illness and Injury Reporting
- Chemical Safety
- Green Cleaning
- Bloodborne Pathogens
- Hazardous Waste
- Communicable Disease
- Pest Management
- OSHA Compliance
- Indoor Air Quality

These are just some of over 40 separate health and safety issues impacting schools today. We also manage the Nassau Schools Emergency Planning Consortium Website which is a cooperative effort established by Nassau BOCES, the County Executive's Office, Police Department, Office of Emergency Management, Department of Health and Department of Mental Health. The program acts as a consulting service and develops the necessary written compliance programs and training required by law. For those districts desiring a higher level of service we provide In-District Health and Safety Specialists that work full-time in a district from one to four days per week. Due to the increase in violence in schools and the expanding number of regulatory requirements this is the fastest growing program within our service. 32 Nassau County School Districts currently subscribe to this enhanced service. Advantages of an In-District Specialist include:

- One or more full-days devoted to health and safety issues every week.
- The ability to customize responsibilities to the specific needs of the school district.
- One-on-one assistance for school building Principals and District Administrators on numerous issues including emergency plans, exercises and drills, staff training, compliance documentation and environmental concerns.
- Works closely with the facility director to assure compliance with OSHA related issues.
- Acts as the liaison to regulatory agencies.
- The ability to schedule numerous training opportunities.
- The ability to identify and correct non-conformance issue in advance.
- Develops a rapport with staff and unions.
- Customized development of required safety compliance plans (Exposure Control Plan; Hazard Communication Plan; Chemical Hygiene Plan; Confined Spaces Written Program; District-wide and Building-level Safety Plans; Lockout/Tagout Written Program; Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Assessment; and Occupational Illness & Injury Reporting).

The 2021-22 school year cost for a one-day per week In-District Health & Safety Specialist is \$28,160. This is a totally aidable cost.

Further information on obtaining an In-District Health and Safety Specialist can be obtained by calling 516-396-2387 or contacting pladuca@nasboces.org.