

District School Nurses

District school nurses plan and implement a health services program which interrelates the components of health and education. Nurses organize and carry out activities consistent with Board policies and district philosophy.

District school nurses serve as consultants and resource staff for health information. Nurses identify the health needs of students through assessment, screening programs, observations, and conferences with parents/guardians and teachers and other professional persons who work with the child, and by review of health records and reports. Nurses are concerned with the health, growth and development, and social and emotional needs of the students.

District school nurses interpret findings of medical reports and review them with other school personnel as appropriate. Nurses also may make recommendations for special assistance, appropriate school placement, health care and referrals.

District school nurses supervise school health clerks and the care of sick and injured students, and use epidemiological methods to help control the spread of disease.

District school nurses coordinate consultation and health services for students with specific health needs who seek to attend or are in attendance at school. Health needs may be either temporary, as when a student returns to school following an illness or injury, or ongoing due to congenital conditions or other disabilities.

When a student's individualized health plan (IHP) requires the performance of independent nursing functions ordered by a health care practitioner, which are within the scope of practice of a district school nurse, the nurse may perform the function or delegate it to a staff member determined by the nurse to be capable of carrying out the task. Such functions may include the treatment of disease, pain, and injury or conditions that require specialized knowledge, judgment and skill.

1. No delegation will be made unless, in a district school nurse's professional judgment, the delegated task can be properly and safely performed by the designated staff members and that such delegation is commensurate with the student's safety and welfare.
2. Delegated nursing tasks are limited to tasks that are of a routine, repetitive nature not requiring the delegatee to exercise nursing judgment or intervention.
3. The decision to delegate will be based on the needs of the student including the student's medical stability and the risks associated with the performance of the nursing task; the skills and knowledge of the delegatee; the nature of the nursing tasks including degree of invasiveness, irreversibility, predictability of outcome, potential for harm, complexity and frequency; degree of immediate risk if the task is not carried out; availability of accessible resources, equipment and supplies to meet the student's needs; and the availability of adequate supervision for the delegatee.

4. Any delegation of a nursing task will be limited to a specific task delegated to a specific staff member for a specific student for a specific period of time. The delegatee may not further delegate a delegated nursing task.

District school nurses will be solely responsible for training and supervising delegates in the performance of the delegated nursing task. Although a parent/guardian or other individual may be proficient in performing a requested health care procedure, training by the parent/guardian or other such individual will not qualify a district staff member to undertake performance of the procedure. District school nurses must provide any necessary training and supervision.

District school nurses will also be responsible for ongoing evaluation of the needs of students regarding medical procedures, the performance of delegated tasks, the need for further instruction to the delegatee and the need to withdraw the delegation.

District school nurses will maintain documentation of medical procedures or nursing functions delegated, including the dates and nature of training, supervision, further instruction and any withdrawal of delegation.

Delegation, training and supervision by a district school nurse is not required where a practice, task or procedure is to be performed by a person registered, certified, licensed or otherwise legally authorized under state law to engage in the practice, task or procedure.

Note: A health care practitioner is defined as a licensed health care provider.

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