

ESSENTIAL SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES GUIDELINES FOR THE PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL NURSE

Ensure mandated health services in the educational environment

- *Identify students with health needs requiring modifications or accommodations in the school setting
- *Obtain and interpret health data for child find, special education and 504 accommodation plans.
- * Participate as the health expert on the IEP and 504 teams by mitigating health related obstacles to learning.
- *Develop and implement Individual Health Service Plans for students with health care needs
- *Train, delegate and supervise unlicensed assistive personnel for medication administration and nursing procedures.
- *Assure the provision of first aid and provide triage for physical and mental health issues
- *Implement screening programs.

Assess the health of the school community

- Survey trends related to health issues such as absenteeism, mental, physical and oral health.
- Monitor accident/incident reports
- Provide screening and intervention for identified health concerns
- Utilize surveillance and screening data to implement health programs and initiatives.
- Assess student health risk behaviors and protective factors
- Communicate health and wellness issues to school and community

Advocate for the physical and emotional safety of the school community

- *Provide education and serve as a resource regarding child protection issues
- Promote a safe and drug free school environment
- Initiate prevention programs based on assessment of high-risk behaviors
- Provide interventions to promote healthy behaviors and prevent child and adolescent morbidity/mortality
- Participate in comprehensive health education programs and curriculum development

Protect against environmental hazards

- Assess and provide recommendations regarding environmental safety
- Assist in the development of policy to provide a safe school environment

**Mandated Services: Critical components of effective school health services that are provided by the school nurse and mandated for all school health programs*

Contain the spread of disease

- *Promote and monitor immunizations
- *Institute appropriate disease control measures
- *Assist in the development of policy and provide recommendations to support public health law
- Educate about infectious and nuisance diseases

Respond to disasters and assist communities in recovery

- *Design response plans to assist all special needs students in emergencies
- Participate in the development of emergency plans for natural, man-made and hazardous materials disasters in school and community
- Participate in crisis-response team

Ensure the quality and accessibility of school health services

- *Align school health programs with National and State standards and evidence based practice
- Communicate and coordinate with other school programs
- Coordinate school health or medical advisory councils
- *Evaluate school health services
- *Submit annual reports to state and local boards
- Collect evidenced-based data to improve and support school health services

Collaborate and coordinate with community health services and other outreach programs

- Serve as a liaison between student, school, parent, and community health care providers and organizations
- Provide case management and assist families in accessing resources

The professional school nurse is educated and licensed to provide health services in the school setting. Personnel without medical licensure require training and supervision from the professional school nurse to provide nursing care in schools.

**Mandated Services: Critical components of effective school health services that are provided by the school nurse and mandated for all school health programs*