INTRODUCTION

The National Association of School Nurses defines school nursing as a “specialized practice of professional nursing that advances the well-being, academic success, and lifelong achievement and health of students. To that end, school nurses facilitate normal development and positive student response to interventions; promote health and safety including a healthy environment; intervene with actual and potential health problems; provide case management services; and actively collaborate with others to build student and family capacity for adaptation, self-management, self- advocacy, and learning” (National Association of School Nurses [NASN], 2013).

The registered professional school nurse’s role is defined by the National Association of School Nurses / American Nurses Association (NASN / ANA) (2011) as the leader in the school community to oversee school health policies and programs. The school nurse, using clinical knowledge and judgment, provides expertise and oversight for the provision of school health services, continuity of care for student healthcare issues, and promotion of health education. The school nurse may be the only healthcare provider in the school setting. The school nurse serves as a liaison between school personnel, family, community, and healthcare providers to advocate for health care and a healthy school environment (AAP, 2008).

FEDERAL STATUTES

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<th>Statute</th>
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<td>Section 504, Rehabilitation Act of 1973</td>
<td>Protects the rights of children with special health-care needs (CSHCN) by providing related services, including health services, to those not eligible for special education.</td>
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<td>34 CFR Part 300 Individuals with Disabilities Act of 1997 (IDEA)</td>
<td>Guarantees access to education and related services to assist children with disabilities benefit from special education. Reauthorization of 2004, Sec. 602 (26) list school nurse services as a related service.</td>
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MICHIGAN GENERAL STATUTES – SCHOOL HEALTH

Delegation and Scope of Practice

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<td>§ 333.16104</td>
<td>Defines delegation as the “authorization granted by a licensee to a licensed or unlicensed individual to perform selected acts, tasks, or functions which fall within the scope of practice of the delegator and which are not within the scope of practice of the delegatee and which, in the absence of the authorization, would constitute illegal practice of a licensed profession”.</td>
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<td>§ 338.10104</td>
<td>The Michigan Board of Nursing has promulgated specific administrative rules about delegation. In accordance with the Board of Nursing General Rules on Delegation, only a</td>
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Michigan Department of Community Health and Michigan Department of Education
Michigan School Nurse Task Force – School Nurse Practice Committee
November 2013
registered nurse may delegate nursing acts, functions, or tasks.

| § 333.16109 | Supervision requires continuous availability of direct communication in person or by radio, telephone, or telecommunication between the supervised individual and a licensed health professional, the availability of the licensed health professional to review the practice of the supervised individual to provide consultation to the supervised individual, to review records, and to further educate the supervised individual in the performance of the individual’s functions. |

**Health Services**

**Public Health Code (Excerpt) Act 368 of 1978, Part 9101**

The department (MDCH) shall establish a plan for health services for pupils in elementary and secondary schools of this state. Plan shall include a definition of school health services and standards for implementation. Calls for MDCH to “develop a plan for health services for pupils in elementary and secondary schools; establishment; contents; cooperation in developing plan; consistency with program of school nursing services; employment of certified school nurses; excusing pupils from health instructions and class attendance”.

**Medication Administration**

| §380.1178 | Liability- sets forth legal provisions for the immunity of school employees, designated by the school administrator, against an allegation of “simple” negligence if the employee administers the medication under certain requirements including being in the presence of another adult. If a school employee is a licensed registered professional nurse, subsection (1) applies to that school employee regardless of whether the medication is administered in the presence of another adult. |

**Attorney General Opinion, No. 5679, April 11, 1980**

A physician must delegate and supervise the act of medication administration if the school district does not employ a school nurse.

**School Nurses**

| Administrative Rule R340.1163 | Pertains to function of the school nurse. Assess and evaluate health status; interpret medical evaluations; plan course of action to minimize or prevent health problems; intermediary to family, physician, and social agencies; initiate supplemental testing; develop in-services and school policies. |

**MCLA 380.1252**

The board of a school district may employ registered nurses necessary to provide professional nursing services.

Role of the School Nurse

The School Nurse Certification Rules outlines the role of school nurse in Michigan:

- Assess and evaluate the health and development status of students through nursing diagnosis and the use of appropriate evaluative techniques.
- Interpret nursing assessments of medical evaluations to the students, their parents, and school personnel and provide an understanding of implications for the educational performance of students, while recognizing and maintaining the confidential nature of the information.
- Plan a course of action and assist students, their parents, and school personnel in assuming proper roles for eliminating, minimizing, preventing, or understanding the health problems that interfere with effective learning by the student. This may include the provision or related nursing services as required by law.
- Recommend to parents and appropriate school personnel modifications in the educational program as indicated by the health and developmental status of students.
- Stimulate incorporation of health education in the school curriculum by serving on curriculum committees, serving as a consultant and resource person or participating in teacher-parent education programs.
- Serve as intermediary between the school and the home, licensed health care provider and health and social agencies regarding the health status of students and their needs for consideration in future community health planning.
- Assist students and their families to obtain optimum health and well-being by stimulating behavior change through the educative process, including individual or group counseling.
- Interpret health information when serving as a member of a special education placement committee or other programs in which health information is desirable.
- Plan and provide in-service education, in cooperation with other appropriate personnel, for school personnel regarding health observations, referral systems and first aid, emergency care procedures, blood borne pathogens, and medication administration training.
- Identify and recommend students for placement in special programs, initiate referrals for supplemental testing when health information or developmental history indicates, and refer students to appropriate personnel when necessary.
- Assume leadership in the development and revision of written health related policies.
- Recommend and implement school policies to comply with established health laws, and make specific recommendations to students and school personnel regarding immunizations, communicable diseases, and emergency preparedness.
- Collaborate with the administration and staff in establishing school health program policies and procedures in order that professional skills and knowledge may be used effectively in working with students, teachers, and parents.

REFERENCES


**Resources**

National Association of School Nurses www.nasn.org/
Michigan Association of School Nurses www.michiganschoolnurses.org/

*Contributions to the development of this document were made by Priscilla Jimenez (2013). Oakland University.*