

SCHOOL NURSES

Code **JLCF** Issued **9/12**

Purpose: To establish the basic structure for meeting the health needs of students while under the charge of individuals employed or contracted to act on behalf of the district.

The district will employ or contract for the services of licensed nurses to provide school nursing services for students during the regular school hours and will work toward meeting or exceeding the minimum caseload assignments for nurses considered optimal by the National Association of School Nurses and/or governmental agencies such as the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Nurses must possess a current unrestricted license recognized by the South Carolina Board of Nursing for nursing practice in South Carolina. The duties and responsibilities of nurses will be set in accordance with the laws and regulations governing nursing in South Carolina.

Provision of school health services

A licensed nurse employed by or contracted to work for the district may train school personnel who are not licensed nurses to provide certain nursing tasks and services for specific students. Training will occur in accordance with South Carolina Board of Nursing Advisory Standards. All training must be provided using procedures and curricula approved through the appropriate district processes.

Consistent with the laws governing nursing practice in South Carolina and the most current South Carolina Board of Nursing Advisories, training for school personnel who are not licensed nurses may include the following.

- Performing nursing tasks related to meeting a student's needs for personal hygiene; meeting a student's needs related to nutrition, ambulation or elimination; taking a student's vital signs; maintaining asepsis; and observing, recording and reporting any of the tasks enumerated above.
- Providing emergency medications and assistance for specific students in the event that the students experience an emergency event when a licensed nurse is not available.
- Assisting students with routine medications (i.e., medications given on a routine schedule) if the licensed nurse assigned to the school on a full-time basis is absent or not available.

A registered nurse who is an employee of the district will be available via telecommunications to provide support for trained school personnel who are providing nursing tasks and services in the absence or unavailability of a licensed nurse.

The district will comply with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act to assure that the need for health services does not impede any student's access to a free appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment.

For quality assurance purposes, all school personnel and contract personnel providing health services will follow district procedures for reporting errors related to medications and other health services.

Adopted 9/11/12

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Legal references:

A. Individuals with Disabilities Education Act:

1. 34 C.F.R. Part 104 - The purpose of this part is to effectuate section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.
2. 20 USCA Sections 1400-1485 - The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.
3. The Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004.

B. SC Code of Laws, 1976, as amended:

1. Section 40-33-30 - Does not prohibit nursing assistance in case of an emergency.
2. Section 40-33-42 - Tasks delegable to persons not licensed to practice nursing.
3. Section 30-33-44 - Exceptions to supervision requirements for licensed practical nurses.

C. SC Code of Regulations

1. Section 43-205 - Administrative and Professional Personnel Qualifications, Duties, and Workloads.

Other references

- *Board of nursing advisory opinion # 33*: Is it within the role and scope of a licensed practical nurse (LPN) to practice without on-site registered nurse (RN) supervision under certain circumstances? <http://www.llr.state.sc.us/POL/Nursing/index.asp?file=AdvisoryOp/advisoryop.htm>
- *Board of nursing advisory opinion # 50*: Is it within the role and scope of a licensed nurse practicing in a school setting to select, train, determine competency and evaluate unlicensed school personnel in the provision of treatments and the administration of medications required to meet a specific student's needs in the event that a medical emergency occurs when a licensed nurse is not readily available? Role of RN and LPN in training related to medical emergencies <http://www.llr.state.sc.us/POL/Nursing/index.asp?file=AdvisoryOp/advisoryop.htm>
- *Board of nursing advisory opinion # 51*: Is it within the role and scope of a licensed nurse practicing in a school setting to select, train, determine competency of and evaluate unlicensed school personnel in the provision of select nursing tasks required in order for a student to attend school? Role of RN and LPN in training related to select nursing tasks <http://www.llr.state.sc.us/POL/Nursing/index.asp?file=AdvisoryOp/advisoryop.htm>
- *Board of nursing advisory opinion #52*: Is it within the role and scope of a registered nurse (RN) or licensed practical nurse (LPN) practicing in a school setting to select, train, determine the competency of and evaluate unlicensed school personnel for assisting students with medications taken on a routine schedule? Role of RN and LPN in training related to routine medications <http://www.llr.state.sc.us/POL/Nursing/index.asp?file=AdvisoryOp/advisoryop.htm>
- *Caseload assignments (National Association of School Nurses)* <http://www.nasn.org/PolicyAdvocacy/PositionPapersandReports/NASNPositionStatements>
- *Healthy People 2020 ECBP-5 (U.S. Department of Health & Human Services)*: Increase the proportion of the nation's elementary, middle and senior high schools that have a full-time registered school nurse-to-student ration of at least 1:750. <http://healthypeople.gov/2020/topicsobjectives2020/objectiveslist.aspx?topicId=11>