

The Role of the School Nurse in the 21st Century

MICHIGAN SCHOOL NURSE GUIDELINES AND RESOURCES

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MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL NURSES THE ROLE OF THE SCHOOL NURSE IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Disclaimer: *This guideline, "Role of the School Nurse in the 21st Century", contains recommendations for current best practices for the health service topic addressed. It has been reviewed by the Michigan School Nurse Advisory Council, a function of the Michigan Association of School Nurses Board of Directors as a means to provide consistent and safe care to the students. Specific laws and regulations that direct school nursing practice or other health services are identified in the guideline. There is no guarantee that the use of guidance in this document will lead to any particular result or outcome. The information in this document was researched in May, 2020.*

INTRODUCTION

The National Association of School Nurses defines school nursing as a "a specialized practice of nursing, protects and promotes student health, facilitates optimal development, and advances academic success. School nurses, grounded in ethical and evidence-based practice, are the leaders who bridge health care and education, provide care coordination, advocate for quality student-centered care, and collaborate to design systems that allow individuals and communities to develop their full potential".

(National Association of School Nurses (NASN), 2017).

The practice of the 21st Century school nurse is based on leadership, community health/public health, care coordination, quality improvement and standards of care. (NASN, 2016) The care is student-centered and occurs within the student's family and school community. (NASN, 2018)

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. "The role of the school nurse has expanded to include critical components, such as surveillance, chronic disease management, emergency preparedness, behavioral health assessment, ongoing health education, extensive case management, and much more." (AAP, 2016).

FEDERAL STATUTES	
Section 504, Rehabilitation Act of 1973	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.
34 CFR Part 300 Individuals with Disabilities Act of 1997 (IDEA)	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.

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MICHIGAN GENERAL STATUTES – SCHOOL HEALTH	
Delegation and Scope of Practice	
<p>§ 333.17201 PUBLIC HEALTH CODE (EXCERPT) Act 368 of 1978</p>	<p>Defines nursing scope of practice. The RN’s scope of practice includes the teaching, direction, and supervision of less skilled personnel in the performance of delegated nursing activities. Public Health Code, 1978 PA 368, as amended, recognizes registered nurses as fully licensed health professionals.</p>
<p>§ 333.16104</p>	<p>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”.</p>
<p>§ 338.10104</p>	<p>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 registered nurse may delegate nursing acts, functions, or tasks.</p>
<p>§ 333.16109</p>	<p>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.</p>
Health Services	
<p>Public Health Code (Excerpt) Act 368 of 1978, Part 9101</p>	<p>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”.</p>
Medication Administration	
<p>§380.1178</p>	<p>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. <i>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.</i></p>
<p>Attorney General Opinion, No. 5679, April 11, 1980</p>	<p>A physician must delegate and supervise the act of medication administration if the school district does not employ a school nurse.</p>
School Nurses	
<p>Administrative Rule R340.1163</p>	<p>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</p>

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	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.
R 340.1161 - R340.1170	School Nurse Certification rules through the Michigan Department of Education. http://www7.dleg.state.mi.us/WebORRGSA/105_40_AdminCode.pdf

Role of the School Nurse

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

Care Coordination

- 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.
- Recommend to parents and appropriate school personnel modifications in the educational program as indicated by the health and developmental status of students.
- Interpret health information when serving as a member of a special education placement committee or other programs in which health information is desirable.
- 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.

Community Health/Public Health

- 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.

Leadership

- Assume leadership in the development and revision of written health related policies.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

Quality Improvement

- Participate in data collection at both the state and national level.

REFERENCES

American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), Committee on School Health. (2016). Role of the school nurse in providing school health services. *Pediatrics*, 371(6), 1052 -1056. doi: 10.1542/peds.2016-0852. <https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2016-0852>

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National Association of School Nurses. (2016). Framework for 21st century school nursing practice. *NASN School Nurse*, 31(1), 45-53. doi: 10.1177/1942602X15618644

National Association of School Nurses (NASN). (2018). *Position statement: The role of the 21st century school nurse*. <https://www.nasn.org/nasn/advocacy/professional-practice-documents/position-statements/ps-role>

Resources

Michigan Association of School Nurses www.michiganschoolnurses.org/

- [MASN Nursing Guidelines](https://michiganschoolnurses.org/page/42401-michigan-school-nurse-guidelines) <https://michiganschoolnurses.org/page/42401-michigan-school-nurse-guidelines>

National Association of School Nurses www.nasn.org/

- [NASN Position Statements](https://www.nasn.org/advocacy/professional-practice-documents) <https://www.nasn.org/advocacy/professional-practice-documents>
- [NASN Issue Briefs](https://www.nasn.org/nasn/advocacy/professional-practice-documents/positionbriefs) <https://www.nasn.org/nasn/advocacy/professional-practice-documents/positionbriefs>