



COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT LEADERSHIP UNIT

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ESSENTIAL SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES

The goal of school health is to maintain the physical, mental, and social health of children so they can benefit maximally from their educational opportunities and to assist students in the development of positive health attitudes and practices so that they will be able to assume responsibility for their own health and health care after leaving the school community.

Essential School Health Services Guidelines was developed as a joint project of the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment, the Colorado Department of Education, Colorado School Nurse Supervisors, and the Colorado Association of School Nurses to identify those school health services delivered by school nurses that schools must provide. This document further identifies those services that enhance the quality of health for all students.

In addition to the guidelines, a tool to assess the level of services being provided was also developed. It is hoped that these documents will be used to identify gaps in services and to enhance the level of health services for Colorado students.

Revised September 2008

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

ESSENTIAL SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES GUIDELINES

Ensure mandated school health services in the educational environment

- *Identify students with health needs requiring modifications or accommodations in the school setting or during school sponsored events and activities
- *Obtain and interpret student health data, as deemed necessary, for child find/special education assessments and 504 accommodation plans.
- * Participate as the health expert on the response to intervention (RTI), special education and 504 teams by mitigating health related obstacles to learning.
- *Develop and implement Individual Health Care Plans for students with health care needs
- *Provide for the administration of medication and nursing procedures
- * Ensure safe delegation to unlicensed assistive personnel by adhering to the provisions of the Colorado Nurse Practice Act.
- *Assure the provision of first aid and provide triage for physical, oral and mental health issues
- *Implement health screening programs and facilitate follow-up care needs.

Assess the health of the school community

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

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 school health policy development

Protect against environmental hazards

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

**Mandated Services: Critical components of effective school health services that are provided or coordinated by the professional 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 students with special needs 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 teams

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
- Collect evidenced-based data to improve and support school health services
- *Evaluate the provision of school health services using outcomes based measurements
- *Submit annual reports to state and local boards

Collaborate and coordinate with students, families, community health services and other outreach programs

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

The professional school registered nurse (RN) is educated and licensed to provide health services in the school setting. Personnel without medical licensure require training, delegation and supervision from the professional school nurse to perform delegated nursing tasks in schools.

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