

MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL NURSES

HISTORY The traditional role of school nurses has changed dramatically in the last several decades. The role of the school nurse has expanded to meet the increasing health needs of children who attend school. This role includes the “provision of acute, chronic, episodic, and emergency health care, assessment of students’ health status, identification of health problems that may affect educational achievement, development of health care plans, and administration of medications. In addition, school nurses provide health education and health counseling for students and families, advocate for students with disabilities, provide wellness programs for school employees, and are involved in program planning, development, management, and evaluation.”



The roles and responsibilities of the school nurse are extremely diversified. The goal of the school nurse program is to advance the health and educational success of students. Michigan’s School Code, Rules 380.1252, 340.1165-340.1170 defines the functions of the school nurse. The functions of the specialized school nurse includes but are not limited to the following:

- 1 Promotes and protects the optimal health status of children.
- 2 Provides health assessments.
 - Obtains a health and developmental history
 - Screens and evaluates findings of deficit in vision, hearing, scoliosis, growth, etc.
 - Observes the child for development and health patterns in making nursing assessment and nursing diagnosis
 - Identifies deviant health findings
- 3 Develops and implements a health plan.
 - Interprets the health status of pupils to parents and school personnel.
 - Initiates referrals to parents, school personnel and community health resources for intervention, remediation and follow-through
 - Provides on-going health counseling with pupils, parents, school personnel and health agencies
 - Recommends and helps to implement modification of school programs to meet student’s health needs
 - Utilizes existing health resources to provide appropriate care of students.
- 4 Maintains, evaluates, and interprets cumulative health data to accommodate individual needs of students.
- 5 Participates on the child education evaluation team to develop the Individual Education Plan (IEP) by interpreting the health information and assists in planning the development of the IEP.
- 6 Plans and implements school health management protocols for the child with special health needs, including the administration of medication and health treatments.
- 7 Participates in home visits to assess the family’s needs as related to the child’s health in school.
- 8 Develops procedures and provides for crisis intervention for acute illness, injury and emotional disturbances.

- 9 Promotes and assists in the control of communicable diseases through preventive immunization programs, early detection, surveillance and reporting of contagious diseases.
- 10 Recommends provision for a school environment conducive to learning.
- 11 Provides health education:
 - Teaches parenting skills as they relate to child development and health needs of children.
 - Provides direct health education and health counseling to assist students and families in making decisions on health and life styles that affect health.
 - Participates in health education directly and indirectly for the improvement of health by teaching persons to become more assertive health consumers and to assume greater responsibility for their own health.
 - Counsels with students concerning problems such as pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, mental health issues, and substance abuse in order to facilitate responsible decision-making practices.
 - Serves as a resource person to the classroom teacher and administrator in health instruction and as a member of the health curriculum development committees.
- 12 Coordinates school and community health activities and serves as a liaison person between the home, school and community.
- 13 Acts as a resource person in promoting health careers.
- 14 Provides health counseling for staff.
- 15 Provides leadership and/or support for staff wellness programs.
- 16 Engages in research and evaluation of school health services to act as a change agent for school health programs and school nursing practices.
- 17 Assists in the formation of health policies, goals and objectives for the school district.



THE ROLE OF THE SCHOOL NURSE

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