SCHOOL NURSES (NEW)

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 (e.g., 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

Legal References:

A. Federal Law:
   1. The Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004, 20 U.S.C.A. Section 1400, et seq.

B. S.C. Code, 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 40-33-44 - Exceptions to supervision requirements for licensed practical nurses.

C. S.C. Code of Regulations: