

Definition of School Nursing¹

School nursing is a specialized practice of professional nursing that advances the well being, academic success, and life-long achievement of students. To that end, school nurses facilitate positive student responses to normal development; promote health and safety; intervene with actual and potential health problems; provide case management services; and actively collaborate with others to build student and family capacity for adaptation, self-management, self-advocacy, and learning.

Roles of the School Nurse¹

The school nurse provides health care to the school community.

The school nurse provides leadership for the provision of health services.

The school nurse provides screening and referral for health conditions.

The school nurse promotes a healthy school environment.

The school nurse promotes health and safety.

The school nurse serves in a leadership role for health policies and programs.

The school nurse serves as a liaison between school personnel, family, community, and health care providers.

For More Information

Certification/Licensure

<http://regulations.delaware.gov/AdminCode/title14/1500/1582.shtml#TopOfPage>
(see Regulation 1582)

¹ The definition and roles are identified within the Issue Brief of the National Association of School Nurses, *Role of the School Nurse* (2002, Rev. April 2011).

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Department of Education
<http://www.doe.k12.de.us/>

School Nurse Orientation Class

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Delaware School Nurse Association
www.dsna.org

National Association of School Nurses
www.nasn.org



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So.....

You Want to be a Delaware School Nurse



PARTNERS WITH CHILDREN

Healthy children are successful learners

Is School Nursing for me?

Do you...

- Relish new challenges;
- Work well independently;
- Believe that healthy children are better learners;
- Have exceptional communication and collaboration skills;
- Enjoy working with children, adolescents, families and staff;
- Appreciate multi-tasking opportunities; and
- Value differences in children needing both emergency and chronic care?

If yes, School Nursing is for you!!!



Requirements

Prior to employment in a district as a school nurse in Delaware:

- Bachelor's degree in Nursing
- RN license to practice in Delaware
- 3 years supervised clinical experience
- Current CPR certification

How do I become employed as a School Nurse?

Check the school/ district website of your choice or call their Human Resources Office to determine if there are vacancies.

If vacancies exist, they will inform you of specific requirements for their district/ school. They will also guide you through the Department of Education licensure and certification process.

Licensure

A school nurse must complete a prescribed cluster of study (90 hours) within eighteen months of employment. The Induction Cluster includes four components:

- *School Nurse Orientation* (15 hours)
- *Issues in School Nursing* (45 hours)
- *Preventing Communicable Disease* (15 hours)
- *The Exceptional Child* (15 hours)

Additionally, the nurse must pass the Praxis I and successfully complete the mentoring program.

Upon meeting all requirements, a Continuing License with School Nurse Certification will be issued.

Questions & Answers

Q: Will any of the courses I took while pursuing my degree satisfy the current requirements?

A: No. The Induction Cluster is specific to the specialty practice of school nursing in Delaware. Other coursework will not satisfy this requirement.

Q: Can I complete the Induction Cluster, or take portions of it, before I am hired as a school nurse?

A: Yes.

Q: Will the school cover the cost of my courses?

A: Some schools provide reimbursement. The *School Nurse Orientation* class is free.

Q: When and where are the courses offered?

A: *Issues in School Nursing*
June/ July, University of Delaware
School Nurse Orientation
August, Dover
Preventing Communicable Disease
Fall, University of Delaware
The Exceptional Child
Winter, University of Delaware