

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:

All schools should establish a process for appraising the physical and mental health of the students and a process for providing health counseling and resources for treatment and services to students and their parents/ caregivers.

AUTHORIZATION/LEGAL REFERENCE:

Early, Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) & Title V Maternal and Child Health Services (MCH) Block Grant Program (Section 505 [42 U.S.C. 705] (a)(5)(F):

<https://mchb.hrsa.gov/maternal-child-health-initiatives/mchb-programs/early-periodic-screening-diagnosis-and-treatment>

Medicaid Administrative Claiming (Title XIX of the Social Security Act, section 1903(a)

<https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/finance/admin-claiming/index.html>

Vermont Education Quality Standards - Section 2120.8.5 Health

<https://education.vermont.gov/sites/aoe/files/documents/edu-state-board-rules-series-2000.pdf>

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- Rules Governing the Licensing of Educators and the Preparation of Educational Professionals—
<https://education.vermont.gov/documents/educator-quality-licensing-rules#page34>
 - [School Nurse/Associate School Nurse Endorsement: 5440-65 School Nurse \(Revised March 2017\) \(page 178\); 5440-65A Associate School Nurse \(Revised Sept. 2019\) \(page 182\)](#)

18 V.S.A. § 1123 Communicable Disease: Immunizations

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/section/18/021/01123>

RATIONALE

School nurses are the healthcare clinicians in school with the knowledge and competence to assess all students for health barriers to learning. Nurses assess for social determinants of health such as food, housing, and transportation security which impacts overall well-being and ability to learn (NASN, 2015). The SN/ASN can refer students and families to appropriate services when these factors are identified. A current annual health update form allows the School Nurse/Associate School Nurse to initiate a record review on each enrolled student. This appraisal should be completed prior to student attendance on any field trip or at the beginning of each school year.

REQUIRED SCHOOL NURSE/ASSOCIATE SCHOOL NURSE ROLE:

- Utilize concepts the Framework for 21st Century School Nursing Practice™, including leadership, public and community health, quality improvement, care coordination, and standards of practice. Use nursing judgement to develop your plan for annual health appraisals of all students.
- Review and update annually the process for distribution, collection, and review of the school or LEA's annual health - emergency update, and new student enrollments forms (SAMPLES online in Manual: Health Appraisal).
 - The annual update forms are required for both newly enrolled students and returning students. The forms cover different content needed for the nursing assessment of student needs.

- For schools and LEAs with electronic portals to their student record system, work with your local LEA internet technology (IT) staff to update question language to reflect recommended question wording and standardization. Have a kiosk available at the school for those that don't have computer access or need in person assistance with completing required health appraisal forms.
- All students should have a current form on file with the school nurse prior to attending any field trips.
- Assess for students with chronic health conditions that need an individualized healthcare plan and or an emergency action plan (see Manual Section 27 Students with Special Health Needs).
- Reference the health appraisal form for standard language to collect the following health information:
 - Health insurance status
 - students with asthma and with current asthma action plans
 - students with comprehensive annual well care visit and annual dental exam visits:
- Report on the Vermont School Nurse Report about EHR use:
 - If they use an electronic health record (EHR) system to track and maintain Individual Healthcare Plans.
 - If the school promotes the American Academy of Pediatrics *Bright Futures: Guidelines for Health Supervision of Infants, Children, and Adolescents* recommendation of an annual well exam on the school's website, or within a handbook (i.e. student, parent, or teacher handbook).
- **Complete and submit by January 1st each school year, all information requested for the Vermont Health Department Annual School Nurse Report.**
- BELOW is a sample reflecting the overall school level questions at the beginning of the SNR

OPENING QUESTIONS

Does this school have an Electronic Health Record?	<input type="text" value="Yes"/>
Name of Software	<input type="text" value="SNAP"/>
Does the school nurse at this school use the Electronic Health Record to identify, track and maintain current individual health care plans* for students with asthma, diabetes, life threatening allergies or seizures?	<input type="text" value="In Progress"/>
Comments	
* For more information about what qualifies as an individual health care plan, please reference the Standards of Practice: School Health Services Manual (specifically the chapter titled, <i>Health Appraisal of Students, and Students With Special Health Needs</i>), and the National Association of School Nurses Position Statement titled, <i>Individualized Healthcare Plans, The Role of the School Nurse</i>	
Does this school include information regarding the American Academy of Pediatrics, <i>Bright Futures- Guidelines for Health Supervision of Infants, Children and Adolescents</i> recommendation of an annual well care visit on schools website, or within a handbook (i.e. student, parent, or teacher handbooks)?	<input type="text" value="No"/>
Comments	hoping to put on website
Did you use the standardized question wording provided in the Standards of Practice manual (Section 16, Health Appraisal of Students) for gathering the following information?	
Insurance data	<input type="text" value="Yes"/>
Well-care visit data	<input type="text" value="Yes"/>
Dental checkup data	<input type="text" value="Yes"/>
Asthma and Asthma Action Plan data	<input type="text" value="Yes"/>

- BELOW is a SAMPLE reflecting the types of questions asked by grade in your Annual School Nurse Report:

KINDERGARTEN

Total enrollment for this grade _____ 19

Step 1: Asthma Data

Note that when entering data, zeros are acceptable. Blanks will be considered incomplete upon submitting.

	Yes	No	Do not Know/Not Sure	Did not answer
When asked if a doctor, nurse or other health professional has EVER said that their child has asthma, how many responses were (responses must add up to the Total Enrollment figure):	1	18	0	0
When asked if their child STILL has asthma, how many responses were: (responses must add up to the "EVER" had Asthma "Yes" count)	1	0	0	0
How many have a current VT Asthma Action Plan? (responses must be less than or equal to the "STILL" has Asthma "Yes" count)	1			

Step 2: Health Data

Answers to the individual Health questions must add up to the total grade enrollment figure. Zeros are acceptable. Blanks will be considered incomplete upon submitting.

	With	Without	No Response
Health Insurance	19	0	0
Well Care Visit within Past Year	19	0	0
Dental checkup within Past Year	19	0	0

- Complete and submit by January 1st each school year, all required immunization data to the Vermont Health Department, the Annual Immunization Report.
- Details can be found on the Vermont Immunization Program Annual Reports webpage: <https://www.healthvermont.gov/disease-control/immunization>
- Immunization Requirements can be found here: <https://www.healthvermont.gov/immunizations-infectious-disease/immunization/child-care-school-providers>

SUGGESTED SCHOOL NURSE/ASSOCIATE SCHOOL NURSE ROLES - INSURING THAT ALL STUDENTS HAVE ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE:

- Ensure that all students have access to and use high quality health care.
- Ensure that the administrative support staff or registrar request that parents/caregivers fill out the emergency health form and provide all available immunization data prior to or on the day of student entry to classes.
- Train administrative support personnel to encourage families to contact the SN/ASN ASAP if they have questions about the required Annual Health Update/Emergency Form and the form for newly enrolled students.
- Inform parents/caregivers each year about the American Academy of Pediatrics, *Bright Futures Guidelines for Health Supervision for Infants, Children, and Adolescents, 4th edition*, recommendation for annual comprehensive well care visits to the medical home (primary care provider), for all school-age children.
 - Post this (or similar) language in the school district’s parent/student handbook:
 - This district and school board support the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommendations for an annual comprehensive well care visit to the medical home (primary care provider).
 - Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT or Children’s Medicaid) is a comprehensive and preventive healthcare program for children and youth (up to 21 years of age) receiving Medicaid benefits [link below]. Through EPSDT, children receive health screenings, as well as medically necessary diagnostic and treatment services for identified conditions. One of the EPSDT program objectives is to ensure that children

receive appropriate health services and that their full learning potential is not threatened by poor health.

- Recommend that all children have a dental home. Primary care physician or health providers recommend, based on oral health risk assessments refer to the dentist, as early as six months of age and no later than 12 months of age. (AAPD, 2018)
- Recommend annual well care visits to the medical home to allow for identification of and referrals related to mental health problems Depression screening is a recommend part of the adolescent comprehensive well care visit.
- Establish the use of Vermont Asthma Action Plan in collaboration with parents/caregiver and medical home for students with asthma.
- Monitor health status to improve outcomes. Specifically:
 - Provide resources for insurance to parents/caregivers who indicate no current health insurance coverage.
 - Inform all families served by the Local Education Agency (LEA) of the Vermont Medicaid program and its benefits.
 - Assist families in determining their eligibility for participation in Vermont’s Medicaid program.
 - Share information about Vermont Health Connect (Vermont’s health insurance exchange), and local assistor organizations, e.g. area hospitals and larger medical provider offices.
 - Ensure that early screening, diagnosis, and treatment occur in a timely manner, ideally through a medical/dental home, and using the EPSDT periodicity schedule (link below).
 - Work to ensure that the health-related services obtained by students in the LEA enrolled in Medicaid are of sufficient amount, duration, and scope to correct or ameliorate any diagnosed condition. [Medicaid Administrative Claiming Agreement, (2018-20), Vermont Department of Health]
- Work with the Vermont Department of Health (VDH) to establish linkages between Local Education Agencies (LEA) and the VDH in order to better carry out the following EPSDT administrative responsibilities:
 1. Seek out eligible children and inform them and their parents or guardians about the benefits of prevention, and of the health services and assistance available to them.
 2. Assure the availability of health services.
 3. Assess children’s health needs periodically and as concerns arise.
 4. Help children and their families use health care resources effectively and efficiently.
 5. Assure that health problems found are diagnosed and treated early, that needed services are provided in a timely and efficient manner, and that duplicative and unnecessary services are avoided.
 6. Monitor health status and maintain and/or improve outcomes.
- Develop an individual healthcare plan, based on your health appraisal of the student with the family/caregivers and the medical home if student has chronic health conditions that may impact learning, e.g. asthma, life-threatening allergies, asthma, seizures, and re-evaluate the care plan on a regular basis (see Students with Special Health Needs section of the Manual).
- Partner with relevant LPN or Assistive Personnel (AP) in the schools to implement training, assessment of competencies, and monitoring to ensure proper implementation of IHP.

RESOURCES

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY - Policy on the Dental Home (2018):

https://www.aapd.org/media/policies_guidelines/p_dentalhome.pdf

Bright Futures: Guidelines for Health Supervision of Infants, Children, and Adolescents, 2017. 4thrd Edition, American Academy of Pediatrics. <https://brightfutures.aap.org/Pages/default.aspx>

Colorado School Nursing and Health - Health Conditions (October 2015)

School Nurse Assessment Tool:

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/healthandwellness/schoolnurseassessmenttool-oct2015-word>

EPSDT & Title V Collaboration to Improve Child Health

<http://www.amchp.org/AboutAMCHP/Newsletters/Pulse/Archive/2010/April2010/Pages/Feature1.aspx>

Medicaid & the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). <https://www.insurekidsnow.gov/>

Medical and Dental Home: <https://medicalhomeinfo.aap.org/Pages/default.aspx>

National Association of School Nurses. (2016). Framework for 21st Century School Nursing Practice. *NASN School Nurse*, 31(1), 45-53. doi: [10.1177/1942602X15618644](https://doi.org/10.1177/1942602X15618644)

NASN (2015). School Nurse Workload: Staffing for Safe Care. Retrieved 10/23/19 from:

<https://www.nasn.org/nasn/advocacy/professional-practice-documents/position-statements/ps-workload>

Olson, K.R., Durwood, L., Demeules, M., Mclaughlin, K.A. (2016). Mental Health of Transgender Children Who Are Supported in Their Identities. *Pediatrics*. March.

<http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/early/2016/02/24/peds.2015-3223>

Periodicity Schedule: *Recommendations for Preventive Pediatric Health Care*: Bright Futures/American Academy of Pediatrics. Copyright © 2019 by the American Academy of Pediatrics. https://www.aap.org/en-us/professional-resources/practice-support/Periodicity/Periodicity%20Schedule_FINAL.pdf

Students with Special Needs: Section 22 of the Vermont *Standards of Practice: School Health Services Manual*

<https://www.healthvermont.gov/family/school/standards-practice-school-health-services-manual>

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Homeless Children and Youth Education Program: <https://education.vermont.gov/documents/edu-cfp-serving-homeless-children-and-youth>

- Definition of Homeless
- Vermont Homeless Education Resources
- McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act

SAMPLE POLICIES, PROCEDURES AND FORMS (on [Website](#) listed under Section 16: Health Appraisal)

1. Annual Health Update & Emergency Form (Manual Link – Health Appraisal of Students (A))
 - a. See Required SN/ASN Role and questions above
 - b. School nurses may adapt other parts of the form
2. Form for newly enrolled students Form (Manual Link – Health Appraisal of Students (B))
 - a. See Required SN/ASN Role and questions above
 - b. School nurses may adapt other parts of the form
3. When students are new to the United States – additional assessments and resources (below)
4. **Vermont Asthma Action Plan:**

Download from here and copy: <https://www.healthvermont.gov/wellness/asthma/asthma-action-plan> OR

Order Hard Copies:

- a. Contact your local **District Office** for a copy
- b. Order by phone: 1-866-331-5622 (toll free) or 1-802-863-7514
- c. Mail your request:
Vermont Department of Health
Asthma Program
108 Cherry St., P.O. Box 70
Burlington, VT 05402-0070

5. SAMPLE Calendar of School Nurse activities for the year (Manual Link – Health Appraisal of Students (C))

STUDENTS WHO ARE NEW TO THE UNITED STATES OR HAVE OTHER SOCIAL DETERMINANT FACTORS:

Work with your LEA's Student Services Director and School Counselor to --

- Identify health status and how long they have been in the US.
 - Students who are officially Refugees under the UN High Commission qualify for certain services and hold legal status.
 - Undocumented students
- Identify that student has access to financial and social resources such as access to:
 - Family
 - Housing/shelter
 - Food
 - Safety
 - Healthcare, including immunizations (see Immunization section of this Manual and the [VDH School Entry Requirements](#))
 - Dental care
 - Insurance
- As with all students facilitate their access to a medical and dental home. Students from some countries may have been exposed to endemic disease, i.e. tuberculosis, HIV, Hepatitis so access to care may be of higher importance as they attend school.
- Please use the resources below for assistance with the topics above

ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE FOR STUDENTS IN VERMONT NEW TO THE US or with other concerns

<https://www.healthvermont.gov/health-professionals-systems/hospitals-health-systems/rural-health>

Free Clinics: FQHC: Federally Qualified Health Clinics in Vermont and

VT Coalition of Clinics for the Uninsured

<https://www.healthvermont.gov/systems/health-professionals/dental-and-primary-care>

Immunizations

<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/hcp/imz/catchup.html>

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT NEW AMERICANS, REFUGEES, IMMIGRANTS AND ILLEGAL TRAFFICING OF MINORS

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

CDC <http://www.cdc.gov/immigrantrefugeehealth/profiles/> /

Center for Applied Linguistic [and cultural diversity]

<http://www.cal.org/>

Culture grams

<https://ethnomed.org/culture>

Connecting Cultures and NESTT (New England Survivors of Torture and Trauma)

<http://newenglandsurvivorsoftorture.org/> are good resources for supporting refugee students and families with mental health needs

Interpreters: Statement on the use of trained interpreter and translated materials

<http://refugeehealthta.org/access-to-care/language-access/best-practices-communicating-through-an-interpreter/>

National Child Traumatic Stress Network

<http://nctsn.org/trauma-types/refugee-trauma/guidance-teachers>

Trafficking of Vulnerable Children and Youth

Human Trafficking and Exploitation of Children and Youth in the United States

http://www.luc.edu/media/lucedu/chrc/pdfs/Conference_Outcome_Document_2011.pdf

Undocumented Immigrants & Access to Health Care

<http://www.undocumentedpatients.org/issuebrief/health-policy-and-access-to-care/>

United Nations High Commission on Refugees:

<http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/home>

University of Vermont

- Migrant Education Program

<http://www.uvm.edu/extension/agriculture/farmworker/vmep/?Page=services.html>

Vermont Department of Education -- English Learners: <https://education.vermont.gov/student-support/federal-programs/english-learners>

World Health Organization

<http://www.who.int/topics/refugees/en/>