

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:

School Nurses/Associate School Nurse must make increasingly complex decisions in the care of students, the delegation of nursing tasks, and other responsibilities such as teaching. The School Nurse/Associate School Nurse retains responsibility and accountability for their own practice and compliance with the Vermont Nurse Practice Act and the Vermont State School Nurse Standards of Practice.

AUTHORIZATION/LEGAL REFERENCE:

12 V.S.A. § 519 -Emergency Care

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/section/12/023/00519>

16 V.S.A. § 1691a (10) – Definitions

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/section/16/051/01691a>

16 V.S.A. § 1696 – Licensing

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/section/16/051/01696>

16 V.S.A. §1756 - Protection of school directors, teachers, employees, and board members in damage suits.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/section/16/053/01756>

26 V.S.A. Chapter 28 – Nurse Practice Act

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/chapter/26/028>

Vermont Agency of Education – VT Standards Board for Professional Educators 5440-65/65A School Nurse/ Associate School Nurse (April 12, 2017) <http://education.vermont.gov/documents/educator-quality-licensing-rules#page34>. Pg. 132-137.

REQUIRED SCHOOL NURSE/ASSOCIATE SCHOOL NURSE ROLES:

- Maintain a license in good standing as a Registered Nurse in Vermont
- Maintain an educators license, in good standing, in the form of endorsement as a Licensed School Nurse or Associate School Nurse
- Practice nursing in accordance with the current American Nurses’ Association Code Ethics for Nurses

SUGGESTED SCHOOL NURSE/ASSOCIATE SCHOOL NURSE ROLES:

- Stay updated with new legislation concerning student health and follow the Vermont Nurse Practice Act.
- Follow the Vermont and NASN Standards of School Nursing Practice.
- Stay current on liability risks in nursing and school nursing to determine if you need professional liability insurance.
- Practice risk prevention and management strategies.

RESOURCES: [if a link does not appear to work, try copying it and pasting it into your browser]

American Federation of Teachers -- <http://www.aft.org/>

American Nurses’ Association (ANA) – www.ana.org

Code of Ethics for Nurses (2016) <http://nursingworld.org/DocumentVault/Ethics-1/Code-of-Ethics-for-Nurses.html>

American Nurses Association and National School Nurses Association (2011) *Scope and Standards of Practice: School Nursing*, (2nd Ed). Silver Spring, MD: Nursesbooks

https://portal.nasn.org/members_online/members/viewitem.asp?item=S001&catalog=MAN&pn=2&af=NASN

CNA Healthpro and Nurses Service Organization

Understanding Nurse Liability, 2006-2010: A Three-part Approach

<http://www.nso.com/Documents/pdfs/RN-2010-CNA-Claims-Study.pdf>

FERPA – HIPAA (See [Confidentiality section of this Manual](#))

Magnus Health Blog <http://web.magnushealth.com/insights/7-must-know-legal-facts-for-school-nurses>

National Association of School Nurses - www.nasn.org/Home

- Bobo, N., (2014) [Principals for Practice: Nursing Delegation to Unlicensed Assistive Personnel in the School Setting](#). Silver Spring, MD: National Association of School Nurses
- NASN: Code of Ethics for School Nurses <http://www.nasn.org/RoleCareer/CodeofEthics>

National Education Association - www.nea.org

National Center of Continuing Education Inc. <https://www.nursece.com/courses/99>

Nurses Service Organization - www.nso.com

Lachman, V.D., (Sept 30, 2010) "Strategies Necessary for Moral Courage" *OJIN: The Online Journal of Issues in Nursing* Vol. 15, No. 3, Manuscript 3.

<http://www.nursingworld.org/MainMenuCategories/ANAMarketplace/ANAPeriodicals/OJIN/TableofContents/Vol152010/No3-Sept-2010/Strategies-and-Moral-Courage.html>

Laubin, M., Schwab, N.C., Doyle, J. (2013) *Understanding the Legal Landscape*. In Costante, C.C. (Ed), *School Nurse Administrators* (pp. 459-519). Silver Spring, MD: National Association of School Nurses.

Pohlman, K.J. (2015) [Why you need your own malpractice insurance](#), *American Nurse Today* November Vol. 10 No. 11

Reising, D.L., (2007) [Protecting yourself from malpractice claims](#), *American Nurse Today*, February Vol. 2 Num. 2

Schwab, N., & Gelfman, M. *Legal Issues in School Health Services*, Sunrise Press, 2005.

Vermont NEA, Montpelier, Vermont - <http://www.vtnea.org/>

Vermont State Board of Nursing – <https://www.sec.state.vt.us/professional-regulation/list-of-professions/nursing.aspx>

RISK PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT

Best Strategies:

- **Know and comply with your state scope of practice, nurse practice act, and facility policies, procedures, and protocols.** For example, if regulations or organizational scope of practice differ, follow the most stringent ones. If unsure, contact your state board of nursing. Establish and regularly update written agency, policies, procedures, job descriptions, nursing protocols and standing orders, if they do not exist.

- **Follow documentation standards established by professional nursing organizations and comply with your employer's standards.** For example, be sure your documentation is complete, appropriate, timely, legible, and accurate. Avoid verbal medical provider orders.
- **Develop, maintain, and practice professional written and spoken communication skills.** For example, always consider what information to share, when to share it, how to share it (written versus spoken, in-person versus telephone), and with whom it should be shared.
- **Partner with your stakeholders (e.g. policy makers, parents, school community, consumers) to education them about best practices in school health and safety.**
- **Emphasize ongoing patient assessment and monitoring.** Remember that the healthcare team relies on nurses to communicate findings promptly and accurately. Collaborate with and network with medical providers
- **Maintain clinical competencies relevant to the patient population and healthcare specialty.** For example, complete continuing education programs to keep up your skills. Obtain adequate consent consistent with policy and regulation to provide care and perform procedures. Initiate quality assurance/risk management programs. Practice nursing per the ANA Code of Ethics for Nurses
- **Invoke the chain of command when necessary to focus attention on the patient's status and/or any change in condition.** In addition, identify instances of intimidation, bullying, retaliation, or other factors that impair invoking the chain of command.