

# RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CONNECTICUT SCHOOL NURSE ADVISORY COUNCIL

JANUARY 2019

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## Background and Purpose of the Report

Section one of Public Act No. 13-187, *An Act Concerning a School Nurse Advisory Council and An Advisory Council on Pediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorder Associated with Streptococcal Infections*, effective July 1, 2013 established the School Nurse Advisory Council. The Council makes recommendations to the Commissioners of Public Health and Education and the joint standing committees of the General Assembly on matters related to education and public health including (1) professional development for school nurses; (2) school nurse staffing levels; (3) the delivery of health care services by school nurses in schools and other matters that affect school nurses; (4) protocols for Emergency Medication Administration; and (5) protocols for evaluating certain temporary medical conditions that may be symptomatic of serious illnesses or injuries.

The Council is in its fifth year and meets four times per year. Annual reports are submitted prior to February 1.

Schools in Connecticut are under local control, resulting in school health services, school nurse professional development, staffing levels and health services protocols that vary from district to district. Members of the School Nurse Advisory Council give careful deliberation to the needs of districts in Connecticut and to state and national regulations, guidelines and best practice.

Recommendations are put forward with the support of the:

- American Federation of Teachers, Connecticut, AFL-CIO
- Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE)
- Association of School Nurses of Connecticut (ASNC)
- Connecticut Association for Health Care At Home
- Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents (CAPSS)
- Connecticut Nurses Association (CNA)
- Connecticut Federation Of School Administrators
- Connecticut Chapter Of The American Academy Of Pediatrics (AAP)

## Recommendations

### I. Professional Development for School Nurses

Professionals in all fields are expected to participate in professional development to remain current. CGS 10-212-a Qualifications for School Nurses, dated 1982, require school nurses to participate in a minimum of 10 hours of professional development every two years<sup>1</sup>. Proposed recommendation for school nurses related to professional development

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<sup>1</sup> CT Public Health Code, sec. 10-212-5. <http://www.dir.ct.gov/dph/PHC/browse.asp>.

is to **increase continuing education from 10 hours every two years to 15 hours every two years commencing July 1, 2020.**

Additional recommendation related to CGS 10-212 is to **revise regulations written in 1982 to include entry level requirement for school nurses as a Bachelor of Science in Nursing or a related field. Nurses entering without a Bachelor's degree will have 5 years to gain the degree.** Children in Connecticut schools deserve highly qualified school nurses managing their health care needs and comply with the requirements for school health in Connecticut. Over 50% of school nurses currently have a Bachelor degree with additional school nurses holding a Master degree or higher.

## II. School Nurse Staffing

Recommendations for 2019-20 are pending dependent on input from all stakeholders

## III. The Delivery of Health Care Services by School Nurses in Schools and Other Matters that Affect School Nurses

## IV. Protocols for Emergency Medication Administration

Recent legislation is placing more and more responsibility for emergency medication administration on unlicensed school personnel. The School Nurse Advisory Council supports the requirement for staff who agree to administer emergency medication to do so voluntarily. **Unlicensed school shall not be required to administer emergency medication involuntarily.**

### Conclusion

Recognition to all members of the Council and those who will review this document for their dedication and efforts on behalf of school health and the health of Connecticut's children is given. The Council submits the recommendations narrated in the body of this document below:

1. To **revise regulations written in 1982, CGS 10-212**
  - a. **entry level requirement for school nurses as a Bachelor of Science in Nursing or a related field.**
  - b. **nurses entering without a Bachelor's degree will have 5 years to gain the degree.**
  - c. **increase continuing education from 10 hours every two years to 15 hours every two years commencing July 1, 2020.**

For submission to:  
Co-Chairs of Education Committee  
Co-Chairs of Public Health Committee  
Commissioner of Education-State Department of Education  
Commissioner of Public Health-State Department of Public Health

Respectfully submitted by,

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Co-chairs School Nurse Advisory Council

