

ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL NURSES OF CONNECTICUT

POSITION PAPER

NURSING CARE FOR BOARD OF EDUCATION EMPLOYEES

Position

It is the position of the Association of School Nurses of Connecticut that school nurses do not provide routine¹ nursing care to board of education employees.

The Association of School Nurses of Connecticut agrees with the premise of Comprehensive School Health Programs which include the following eight components:

- School Health Education
- School Health Services
- Health School Environment
- School Food Services
- Physical Education and Fitness
- Integrated School and Community Health Promotion
- School Counseling
- Health Promotion for Faculty and Staff.

The primary role of the school nurse, in addition to doing mandated screenings is to assess, to plan and to implement care for, and to evaluate the health care needs of **students** in schools, as these health care needs impact their education. When a school provides a comprehensive school health program, the school nurse's role expands to health promotion activities for the faculty and staff. Such activities might include administering flu vaccine, blood pressure and other screening clinics, as well as additional prevention and promotion activities as might be considered. While we agree that it is important to provide health promotion programs as well as emergency nursing care and occasional health counseling for board of education employees, we do not agree that school nurses should be providing routine² nursing care for board of education employees.

An employee requiring routine nursing care in any other setting would be required to make arrangements for someone to provide that care. It does not follow that because there is a nurse on premises to provide nursing care to students, that her/his duties would include providing routine nursing care to staff members. Time spent providing routine nursing care to employees interferes with the provision of services to the students.

¹ Routine is defined as a "regular, more or less unvarying procedure, prescribed, or habitual, as of business or daily life. (Webster's New World Dictionary-Third College Edition).