

**POSITION PAPER OF THE  
ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL NURSES OF CONNECTICUT**

**CONNECTICUT STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION CERTIFICATION FOR  
SCHOOL NURSES**

**Position**

It is the position of the Association of School Nurses of Connecticut (ASNC) that the Connecticut State Board of Education should certify school nurses. School nurses must have specific educational and clinical competencies beyond licensure in order to optimize the safety, health and learning of all students.. The current mandate regarding school nurse qualifications,<sup>1</sup> is no longer sufficient to assure adequate preservice preparation and ongoing education of the pupil services specialists.

In recent years, the responsibilities of school nurses have expanded to address the multiple needs of a more divers and challenged student population. Their responsibilities have also been influenced by societal trends, for example, changing methods of delivering and financing health care, altered family and community resources, and rapidly evolving technologies in medicine, communication and education.

Accordingly, school nurses must bring to their positions enhanced abilities related to:

- the clinical, educational, technological and community aspects of child health<sup>2</sup>;
- the prevention and amelioration of biopsychosocial health conditions and their impact on student learning; and
- effective collaboration with families, student, school personnel and other members of the community.

Therefore, the State Board of Education should require school nurses to meet the following standards:

- enhanced minimum requirements for entry into school-based practice; and
- systematic continued education requirements comparable to other certified staff.

Teacher certification is the appropriate mechanism for ensuring that all school nurses function as effective partners in the education process; that they have the requisite professional competencies essential for initial practice in educational settings; and that, for professional certification, they achieve expertise in the specialty practice of school nursing.

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<sup>1</sup> C.G.S. 10-212-1 through 10-212-5

<sup>2</sup> “Health” pertains to physical, developmental, and psychosocial well-being.

## RATIONALE FOR POSTION PAPER ON CERTIFICATION

### THE ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL NURSES OF CONNECTICUT

- Certification of school nurses will result in the delivery of higher quality school health services to the school community.
- Certification will provide the school nurse with consistent academic credentials comparable to those of other faculty members in the school.
- Certification will provide quality assurance through standardization in the practice of school nursing.