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TITLE 126
LEGISLATIVE RULE
WEST VIRGINIA BOARD OF EDUCATION
CHAPTER 18A-3, 16-2
SERIES 5219.02

Title: Certification of School Nurses

Section 1. General

1.1 Scope - The purpose of this policy is to establish certification requirements for individuals serving as school nurses to improve health care services to students in the public schools of West Virginia.

1.2 Authority - West Virginia Code 18A-3-2, 16-2-5

1.3 Filing Date - October 17, 1986

1.4 Effective Date - December 17, 1986

Section 2. Rationale

School nurses are an integral part of the total school program in that they deliver health services, health care instruction, and health counseling. To ensure that individuals providing such services to public school students have the appropriate background, standards must be established which provide for the professional development of school nurses.

The school nurse follows established professional school nursing practice to deliver health services, health care instruction, and health counseling. School nurses collaborate with the county health services coordinator and the administrative staff to plan and implement the total school health program of health education, health services, and a healthful school environment.

Section 3. Definition

A school nurse is a registered nurse who uses professional nursing skills and theory to provide primary health care by identifying health problems, preventing illness and accidents, providing maintenance care and therapeutic intervention and serving the developmental and remedial needs of students at all grade levels.

Section 4. Certification

4.1 Beginning with the 1992-93 school year, personnel who are initially employed or contracted as school nurses must hold a valid professional service certificate endorsed to serve as a school nurse.

4.2 Beginning with the 1987-88 school year, all persons employed or contracted as school nurses must hold a valid professional service certificate, permit or permanent authorization endorsed to serve in that position and hold

a valid license issued by the West Virginia Board of Examiners for Registered Professional Nurses.

4.3 Professional Service Certificate

- a. A person who completes a West Virginia Board of Education approved educational preparation program for school nurses, holds a valid license issued by the West Virginia Board of Examiners for Registered Professional Nurses, and is recommended for certification under the regulations established by the West Virginia Board of Education will be granted the Professional Service Certificate issued provisionally and valid for three years.
- b. The regulations for renewal, conversion, and permanent certification shall be those contained in accord with state law and West Virginia Board of Education policy.
- c. Employment as a school nurse is not a condition for enrollment in the program or issuance of the certificate.

4.4 Permits for Persons Initially Employed or Contracted as School Nurses Prior to 1992

A person who is not eligible for a Professional Service Certificate or a Permanent Authorization shall be issued a renewable one-year permit based upon: 1). a valid license issued by the West Virginia Board of Examiners for Registered Professional Nurses; 2). submission of a Professional Commitment for Permit Teachers verifying enrollment in a West Virginia Board of Education approved program for school nurses and 3). the recommendation of the county superintendent.

4.5 Permanent Authorization for School Nurses

a. Option #1

A registered professional nurse with five full years of school nurse experience prior to July 1, 1987 may be granted a permanent authorization provided she/he:

1. Is legally serving as a registered professional school nurse in West Virginia during the 1985-86 or 1986-87 school year.
2. Has successfully completed at least one West Virginia Department of Education sponsored summer workshop for school nurses or its equivalent.
3. Is recommended for the permanent authorization by the employing or contracting superintendent.

b. Option #2

A registered professional nurse with a minimum of a bachelor's degree in a field other than nursing or a Board of Regents' degree and one full year of school nursing experience may be granted permanent authorization if he/she:

1. Is legally serving as a registered professional school nurse in West Virginia during the 1985-86 or 1986-87 school year.
2. Has successfully completed at least one West Virginia Department of Education sponsored summer workshop for school nurses or its equivalent.
3. Is recommended for the permanent authorization by the employing or contracting superintendent.

c. Option #3

A registered professional nurse who holds a bachelor's degree or above with a major in nursing and is employed or contracted as a school nurse by July 1, 1987 may be granted permanent authorization.

d. Option #4

A registered professional nurse who has provided seven years of school nurse services under a local board of health contract with a county board of education may be granted permanent authorization provided he/she:

1. Is legally serving as a registered professional nurse in West Virginia and providing school nurse services during the 1985-86 or 1986-87 school year.
2. Has successfully completed at least one West Virginia Department of Education sponsored summer workshop for school nurses or its equivalent.
3. Is recommended for the permanent authorization by the county superintendent.

4.6 Provision of Services

School nurse services may only be provided by county board of education employees certified as school nurses or through contract with a local board of health as provided for in West Virginia Code 16-2-5.