

California School Nursing Roles and Responsibilities
Information from California Education Code 49426
Prepared by California School Health Centers Association, August 2010

Qualifications and services of school nurses in California
Law Section #: Education Code 49426

A school nurse is a registered nurse who also possesses a current credential in school nursing. School nurses assist in the educational process by improving and protecting the health of children and by identifying and assisting in the removal or modification of health-related barriers to learning. The major focus of school health services is the prevention of illness and disability and the early detection and correction of health problems. The school nurse is uniquely qualified in preventive health, health assessment, and referral procedures.

Services of the school nurse may include:

- Conducting of immunization programs that are in compliance with the law, including consent of parent/guardian, and good health practice.
- Assessing and evaluating the health and development of students.
- Interpreting the health and developmental assessment to parents, teachers, administrators, and other professionals concerned with the student.
- Designing and implementing a health maintenance plan for individual students, incorporating plans directed by a physician.
- Referring students and their parents or guardians to appropriate community resources for necessary services.
- Maintaining communication with parents and all involved community service providers.
- Interpreting medical findings and making recommendations appropriate to the student's individual educational plan.
- Consulting with and conducting in-service training to, and serving as a resource person to teachers and administrators. Providing current information regarding nutrition, preventive dentistry, mental health, genetics, prevention of communicable diseases, self-health care, consumer education and other health areas for students.
- Counseling students and their parents regarding community health services available, health-related attendance problems, adjusting to physical, mental and social limitations, attitudes, information and values which affect health behavior, and overcoming financial and other barriers to receiving health services.

If the school nurse holds a services credential with a specialization in health and also completes the necessary special class authorization requirements, then the nurse is authorized to teach classes on health in preschool, K-12, or to adults.