

## ***Definition of School Nursing<sup>1</sup>***

School nursing, a specialized practice of public health nursing, protects and promotes student health, facilitates normal development, and advances academic success. School nurses, grounded in ethical and evidence-based practice, are the leaders that bridge health care and education, provide care coordination, advocate for quality student-centered care, and collaborate to design systems that allow individuals and communities to develop their full potentials.

## ***School Nurse Role***

- Maintain current competency in school nursing
- Obtain school nursing certification
- Seek understanding, knowledge and training when responsible for a student, whose condition or treatment is new to the nurse
- Maintain current registered nurse license and school nurse certification
- Select continuing education that enhances the skills needed in the nurse's current school setting

<sup>1</sup> This definition is identified within the Position Statement of the National Association of School Nurses, *The Role of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century School Nurse 2016*.

## ***For More Information***

### **Certification/Licensure**

Regulation 1582:  
<http://regulations.delaware.gov/AdminCode/title14/1500/1582.shtml#TopOfPage>  
Phone number – 1-302-857-3388

### **Department of Education**

<http://www.doe.k12.de.us/>  
Delaware Department of Education  
35 Commerce Way, Suite 1  
Dover, DE 19904  
Phone number: 302-857-3354

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### **Delaware School Nurse Association**

[www.dsna.org](http://www.dsna.org)

### **National Association of School Nurses**

[www.nasn.org](http://www.nasn.org)



So...  
You want to be a  
Delaware School  
Nurse



*Healthy children are successful learners*

## *Is School Nursing for me?*

### Do you...

- Relish new challenges;
- Work well independently;
- Believe that healthy children are better learners;
- Have exceptional communication and collaboration skills;
- Enjoy working with children, adolescents, families and staff;
- Appreciate multi-tasking opportunities; and
- Value differences in children needing both emergency and chronic care?

### If yes, School Nursing is for you!!!



## *Requirements*

**Prior** to employment in a district as a school nurse in Delaware:

- Bachelor's degree in Nursing
- RN license to practice in Delaware
- 3 years supervised clinical experience
- Current CPR/AED certification

## *How do I become employed as a School Nurse?*

**Public** school openings are listed at <http://www.joindelawareschools.org>. You can also check the school/district/charter website of your choice or call their Human Resources Office to determine if there are vacancies.

If vacancies exist, they will inform you of specific requirements for their school. They will also guide you through the Department of Education licensure and certification process.

## *Licensure*

**A school nurse** must complete *The School Nurse Certificate Program* (90 clock hours) by the second school year after date of hire. This program is based on the Framework for 21<sup>st</sup> Century School Nursing Practice developed by the National Association of School Nurses.

Additionally, the nurse must complete the School Nurse Mentoring Program which is a four year process.

Upon meeting all requirements, a Continuing License with School Nurse Certification will be issued.

## *Questions & Answers*

**Q:** Will any of the courses I took while pursuing my degree satisfy the current requirements?

**A:** No. *The School Nurse Certification Program* is specific to the specialty practice of school nursing in Delaware.

**Q:** Can I complete the Program, or take portions of it, if I am hired as a substitute nurse?

**A:** No. At this time, only new school nurses may enroll in the Program.

**Q:** Will the school cover the cost of this Program?

**A:** Some schools provide the required textbooks and the Leadership class fee. These are the only costs.

**Q:** When and where are the courses offered?

**A:** The program includes:

- **Online** - Self-directed courses available in PDMS/Schoology that include Assessments and Assignments
- **Onsite** - August Class & Demonstration Class in Dover
- **Attendance** at Leadership Conference presented by the Delaware School Nurse Association

