



SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

Chris Reykdal Old Capitol Building · PO BOX 47200 · Olympia, WA 98504-7200 · <http://www.k12.wa.us>

December 14, 2017

() Action Required

(X) Informational

BULLETIN NO. 096-17 STUDENT ENGAGEMENT AND SUPPORT

TO: Educational Service District Superintendents
School District Superintendents
Charter School Administrators
Tribal Compact School Administrators
School Business Managers
School Building Principals
School Nurses

FROM: Chris Reykdal, Superintendent of Public Instruction

RE: [Substitute House Bill 1346](#) – School Nurse Authority and Supervision

CONTACT: Nicole Klein PhD, RN-BC, Health Services Program Supervisor
360-725-6040, nicole.klein@k12.wa.us

PURPOSE:

On April 20, 2017, Governor Inslee signed into law Substitute House Bill 1346 that clarifies the authority of a nurse working in a school setting. The bill went into effect on July 23, 2017. This legislation added a new section [28A.210.305](#) to chapter [28A.210 RCW](#).

BACKGROUND:

Specific laws and regulations govern nursing practice. The nurse requires a unique license to practice. Knowledge of the laws, regulations, and rules governing nursing practice, nursing practice standards, and nursing performance standards are the bases for clinical supervision of the registered nurse (RN) or advanced registered nurse practitioner (ARNP). The RN or ARNP is authorized and responsible for the nursing care of students to the extent that the care is within the practice of nursing. Nurses working in the school setting are held accountable for errors in nursing judgment and actions that include, but not limited to, supervision, delegation, authorized medication and treatment administration, decision to summon emergency medical assistance, evaluation of nursing practice, and compliance with the Nurse Practice Act and Code of Ethics.

Individuals who are not nurses are unqualified to make nursing judgments and assessments. However, non-nurse administrators may supervise a RN or an ARNP in aspects of employment other than the practice of nursing. Non-nurse administrators may also consult with a registered nurse or an ARNP regarding nurse practice.

KEY POINTS OF BILL

- A registered nurse or an advanced registered nurse practitioner licensed under chapter [18.79](#) RCW working in a school setting is authorized and responsible for the nursing care of students to the extent that the care is within the practice of nursing.
- Only a licensed registered nurse or an advanced registered nurse practitioner may supervise, direct, or evaluate a licensed nurse working in a school setting with respect to the practice of nursing.
- A registered nurse or an advanced registered nurse practitioner is not required clinical supervision in a school setting.
- A non-nurse School administrator may supervise, direct, or evaluate a registered nurse or an advanced registered nurse practitioner in aspects of employment not related to the practice of nursing, such as, matters of administration, terms and conditions of employment, and employee performance.
- A non-nurse School administrator may confer with a registered nurse or an advanced registered nurse practitioner working in a school setting with respect to the practice of nursing.

Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) will continue to work with school nurses and administrators, as capacity permits, to assist districts in implementing the new law by providing support and guidance through technical assistance.

INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE

For question regarding this bulletin, please contact Nicole Klein PhD, RN-BC, Health Services Program Supervisor, at 360-725-6040 or email nicole.klein@k12.wa.us. The OSPI TTY line is 360-664-3631.

Information is available on OSPI's website at www.k12.wa.us/BulletinsMemos/bulletins2017.aspx.

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