

INDIVIDUAL HEALTH PLANS/SCHOOL NURSE SERVICES

School health services and school nurse services refer to health services that are designed to enable a child with a disability to receive a free appropriate public education (FAPE) as described in the child's individualized education program (IEP). School nurse services are services provided by a qualified school nurse. School health services are services that may be provided by either a qualified school nurse *or* other qualified person. School health services and school nurse services are considered related services under the Individualized with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

An "individual health plan" or "individualized health plan" (IHP) generally focuses exclusively on addressing a student's medical needs and may be appropriate for students in general education or who have Section 504 Plans, as well as a student receiving special education services.

An IHP is a formal written agreement developed in collaboration with the school staff, the student, the student's health care provider(s) and the student's family. An IHP is written for students whose healthcare needs affect or have the potential to affect safe and optimal school attendance and academic performance. The IHP document should include the following:

- **Assessment:** The data collection phase helps determine the student's current health status and any actual or potential health concerns.
- **Diagnosis:** The school nurse uses the assessment data to formulate a nursing diagnosis, including a diagnostic label, etiology, and presenting signs and symptoms.
- **Outcome Identification:** The school nurse identifies the desired results of nursing intervention and states these in measurable terms.
- **Planning:** Interventions are selected to achieve desired results.
- **Implementation:** The written IHP is put into practice and care provided is documented.
- **Evaluation:** The professional school nurse measures the effectiveness of nursing interventions in meeting the identified outcome. Changes and updates are made to the plan as needed.

Each school district must maintain fundamental school health services at a level adequate to accomplish all of the following:

- Preserve the pupils' ability to learn;
 - Fulfill existing state requirements and policies regarding pupils' health; and
 - Contain health care costs through preventive programs and education.
- (Ed. Code, § 49427)

Credentialed school nurses are authorized to perform the following services:

- Conduct immunization programs;
- Assess and evaluate the health & developmental status of pupils;
- Interpret health and developmental assessments;
- Design and implement individual student health maintenance plans;
- Refer the pupil, parent, & guardian to community resources;
- Maintain communication to promote needed treatments;
- Interpret medical and nursing findings;
- Consult with, conduct in-service training for, and serve as a resource person to others, as appropriate;
- Develop and implement the health education curriculum;
- Participate in implementing health instruction curriculum; and
- Counsel & assist pupils & parents in health-related adjustments.