

SENATE, No. 2573

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 15, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator M. TERESA RUIZ

District 29 (Essex)

Senator RICHARD J. CODEY

District 27 (Essex and Morris)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes position of State School Nurse Consultant in DOE to promote quality school nursing services and school health programs.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/25/2020)

1 AN ACT establishing the position of State School Nurse Consultant
2 in the Department of Education and supplementing chapter 4 of
3 Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

4
5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
6 *of New Jersey:*

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8 1. a. The Commissioner of Education shall appoint a State
9 School Nurse Consultant. The State School Nurse Consultant shall
10 be a certified school nurse who holds a master's degree in nursing
11 and has management experience and leadership and education
12 administration training or skills. The State School Nurse
13 Consultant shall work with school districts and school nurses to
14 promote quality school nursing services and school health programs
15 that address the broad health needs of students. The State School
16 Nurse Consultant, in performing the duties of the position, shall
17 collaborate with the Department of Health and the New Jersey State
18 Board of Nursing.

19 b. It shall be the duty of the State School Nurse Consultant to:

20 (1) Serve as a liaison and resource expert in school nursing and
21 school health program areas for local, regional, State, and national
22 school health care providers, and policy setting groups;

23 (2) Provide consultation and technical assistance to school
24 districts, parents, and community members;

25 (3) Coordinate school health program activities with public
26 health, social services, environmental, and educational agencies as
27 well as other public and private entities;

28 (4) Monitor, interpret, synthesize, and disseminate relevant
29 information associated with changes in health and medical care,
30 school nursing practice, legislation, and legal issues that impact
31 schools;

32 (5) Facilitate the development of policies, standards, and
33 guidelines and interpret updates and disseminate policies, standards,
34 guidelines, and procedures to enhance coordinated school health
35 programs;

36 (6) Foster and promote staff development for school nurses,
37 which may include planning and providing orientation, coordinating
38 or providing educational offerings, and networking with universities
39 and other providers of continuing education to meet identified
40 needs;

41 (7) Promote quality assurance in school health services by
42 initiating and coordinating a quality assurance program that
43 includes needs assessment, data collection and analysis, and
44 evidenced-based practice;

45 (8) Participate in State-level public interagency partnerships and
46 private partnerships with Statewide stakeholders to foster a
47 coordinated school health program, representing school nurses in
48 multi-disciplinary collaborations;

1 (9) Initiate, participate in, and utilize research studies related to
2 a coordinated school health program, the health needs of children
3 and youth, school nursing practice, and related issues; and

4 (10) Serve as a liaison regarding school health issues with the
5 Department of Health and the Legislature.

6
7 2. The State School Nurse Consultant shall report annually to
8 the Governor, and to the Legislature pursuant to section 2 of
9 P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1). The report shall include a
10 summary of the activities of the State School Nurse Consultant
11 during the year, and any specific recommendations deemed
12 appropriate and necessary concerning school nurse services and
13 school health service programs.

14
15 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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20 This bill requires the Commissioner of Education to appoint a
21 State School Nurse Consultant to work with school districts and
22 school nurses to promote quality school nursing services and school
23 health programs that address the broad health needs of students
24 through the State. The person appointed to the position is required
25 to be a certified school nurse who holds a master's degree in nursing
26 and has management experience and leadership and education
27 administration training or skills. The State School Nurse
28 Consultant is required to collaborate with the Department of Health
29 and the New Jersey State Board of Nursing and perform the
30 following duties:

31 • Serve as a liaison and resource expert in school nursing
32 and school health program areas for local, regional, State,
33 and national school health care providers, and policy
34 setting groups;

35 • Provide consultation and technical assistance to school
36 districts, parents, and community members;

37 • Coordinate school health program activities with public
38 health, social services, environmental, and educational
39 agencies as well as other public and private entities;

40 • Monitor, interpret, synthesize, and disseminate relevant
41 information associated with changes in health and
42 medical care, school nursing practice, legislation, and
43 legal issues that impact schools;

44 • Facilitate the development of policies, standards, and
45 guidelines and interpret updates and disseminate policies,
46 standards, guidelines, and procedures to enhance
47 coordinated school health programs;

- 1 • Foster and promote staff development for school nurses;
- 2 • Promote quality assurance in school health services by
- 3 initiating and coordinating a quality assurance program;
- 4 • Participate in State-level public interagency partnerships
- 5 and private partnerships with Statewide stakeholders to
- 6 foster a coordinated school health program, representing
- 7 school nurses in multi-disciplinary collaborations;
- 8 • Initiate, participate in, and utilize research studies related
- 9 to a coordinated school health program, the health needs
- 10 of children and youth, school nursing practice, and related
- 11 issues; and
- 12 • Serve as a liaison regarding school health issues with the
- 13 Department of Health and the Legislature.

14 School nursing services are a vital component of the support
15 services required for the health and safety of students and staff
16 while at school. The State School Nurse Consultant will provide
17 nursing leadership to ensure effective school nurse services
18 throughout the State and, in addition, develop and promote quality
19 standards for school health services programs that reflect current
20 school nursing practice. The leadership provided by the State
21 School Nurse Consultant will foster a better understanding among
22 educators, parents, and the general public regarding the relationship
23 between health status and a student's capacity to learn.