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**Recommended Certifications for the School Health Office**

**School Nurse Organization of Arizona**

**Position Statement**

The primary purpose of the school health office is to support the educational process and provide evidence based healthcare and safety to students during the school day. National Association of School Nurses (NASN) position is that every school-age child should have access to a registered professional school nurse. (NASN 2016) SNOA’s recommendation for the school health office includes:

 **Registered Nurse:**

* Current RN license which permits the practice of professional nursing in the State of Arizona; a baccalaureate degree, preferably in nursing, with a focus on public health nursing, theory and practice is strongly recommended.
* School Nurse Certification through the Arizona Board of Nursing or National School Nurse Certification
* Current CPR/AED certification.
* Experience in school nursing or public health nursing is recommended

The professional school nurse, as a specialized area of practice of public health nursing, carries out functions requiring nursing judgment and critical thinking. School Nurses take the initiative, based on nursing experience, and education to foster interdependent relationships with colleagues in health, education and related professional fields.

 **Unlicensed Assistive Personnel (UAP)**

* Individuals working in a school health office, teachers, instructional assistants, school secretaries, or other school personnel who have daily responsibilities who care for students (re: Delivery of Specialized Health Care in the School Setting)
* EMT or Medical Assistant
* First Aid Certification
* Current CPR certification from an accredited agency such as American Heart Association “for Healthcare Professionals”. Online CPR classes are not acceptable
* High School or General Education Development diploma
* Responsible person who has passed all background checks required for school staff

The UAP carries out functions of prioritization and delivers first aid and emergency care to students and staff. He/she understands that student health records must be maintained in a confidential manner in accordance to HIPAA and FERPA. The UAP is delegated by the school administrator in writing. It is the best practice that the UAP will work under the supervision of the school nurse when applicable. In the absence of the school nurse the UAP functions under the direction of the school administrator or other assigned school staff.

\*Please note: Health care professionals licensed through the Arizona State Board of Nursing must work within their scope of practice guidelines and regulations.

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