

# State School Nurse Consultants

## School Nurse Organization of Arizona

### Position Statement



#### **POSITION**

The School Nurse Organization of Arizona (SNOA) and the National Association of State School Nurse Consultants recognizes the significance of state school nurse consultant(s) in providing leadership, consultation and direction for school nurses and endorses the establishment of such positions in every state. SNOA supports and recognizes that the State School Nurse Consultant is a specialist, and is experienced and an expert in the specialty of school nursing practice. It is anticipated that this specialist works with school districts and school nurses to promote quality school nursing services and school health programs that address the broad health needs of students. Minimum educational preparation should be a registered nurse (RN) who is preferably master's prepared and/or has worked in the field as a school nurse for a minimum of 2 years. A national certification in school nursing is also preferred in our state.

Candidates for the position should also have management experience and leadership and education administration training/skills. It is recommended by the National Association of School Nurse Consultants, that positions should be affirmed by state law or state policy, with adequate support staff and full funding. SNOA agrees, that the State School Nurse Consultant should be administratively housed in state departments of education and health and/or the state school nurse association, and work collaboratively.

#### **RATIONALE POSITION**

The National Association of State School Nurse Consultants recognizes the significance of state school health nurse consultant(s) in providing leadership, consultation and direction for school nurses and endorses the establishment of such positions in every state. The State School Nurse Consultant is a specialist in school nursing practice who works with school districts and school nurses to promote quality school nursing services and school health programs that address the broad health needs of students. Minimum educational preparation should be a registered nurse (RN) who is master's prepared. Candidates for the position should also have management experience and leadership and education administration training/skills. Positions should be affirmed by state law or state policy, with adequate support staff and full funding. State School Nurse Consultant should be administratively housed in state departments of education and health and work collaboratively to achieve mutual goals.

#### **RATIONALE**

School nursing services is a vital component of the support services required for the health and safety of students and staff while at school. School Nurses are qualified health professionals working in an educational setting, often with limited clinical supervision, and administrative supervision from a person who has a background in education administration or personnel management. The nurses come to their positions with varied educational backgrounds and professional work experience obtained in a variety of health care settings. Pursuant to state law, ancillary staff may be used in some settings to meet growing student health needs and to support the school nurse. The school nurse's role encompasses assessing, planning, training, supervising, and evaluating unlicensed assistive personnel. The State School Nurse Consultant is responsible for promoting statewide quality standards for school health policies, nursing scope of practice and clinical procedures, documentation, and for initiating and coordinating a quality assurance program for accountability. S/he works in collaboration with the state board of nursing, provides guidance in health program development and planning, establishes a continuum of staff development, and serves as a liaison and resource expert in school nursing practice and school health program(s)

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