



State of Vermont
Vermont Department of Education
120 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05620-2501

State of Vermont
Vermont Department of Health

**VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
AND
VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
REGARDING SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES**

School health services play a vital role in the health outcomes of children. A well trained, supervised and supported school nurse is a vital partner in our efforts to optimize health outcomes for children. Continuously updated, research-based standards of practice for school nurses are a foundation for school health services. The current scope of practice for school nurses is outlined in the Vermont Standards of Practice: School Health Services Manual (the Manual), a publication which has been, in recent years, prepared and revised by the Vermont Department of Education (DOE). At the present time, the DOE has no medical staff. The Vermont Health Department (VDH), on the other hand, does have medical staff.

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) seeks to link, and to optimize the efficiency of, the efforts of the VDH and DOE in providing school health services. With these shared goals in mind, the VDH and DOE agree as follows:

Effective June 1, 2009, the Manual shall be prepared and revised by VDH. As appropriate, and in a manner which is consistent with then-current state and federal law, and in consultation with each other, VDH and DOE (the latter through the State Board of Education and/or the Standards Board for Professional Educators, as their respective authorities are defined in law) shall promulgate administrative regulations in areas which include, but are not limited to, school quality standards, school nurse licensing and school health services. The DOE shall have continuing responsibility for the administration of school nurse licensing requirements and any training which is a condition of school nurse licensure. VDH will advise DOE regarding appropriate training requirements for school nurses, and regarding appropriate ongoing professional development for school nurses.

The process of continuously updating the Manual shall be a coordinated effort between DOE and VDH with the guidance of a Joint School Health Committee (the Committee). The Committee shall consist of professional staff of the DOE and VDH, as well as a representative from such groups as: an institution of higher education; the Vermont State Board of Nursing; the Vermont Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics; the Vermont Chapter of the American Academy of Family Physicians; the Vermont State School Nurses Association; the Vermont Principals Association, the Vermont Superintendents Association, the Vermont School Boards Association; the Vermont Child Health Improvement Program. Committee meetings will address school health issues, and will foster accurate and up-to-date nursing practices in the school setting.

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The Committee will review topics including, but not limited to, the following: (1) school nurse to student ratio; (2) supervision of school nurses by non-medical personnel; (3) educational opportunities for both new and current school nurses; (4) support of these highly skilled professionals; (5) technology, such as telemedicine, which can be used to assist in school nursing; and (6) standards for Medicaid administration.

Recommendations for changes or additions to the Manual will be made by the Committee, and responsibility for the ultimate approval of those recommendations shall rest with the Commissioners of VDH and DOE.

This MOU will be implemented with the goal of advancing the best interests of Vermont students, based on research on best practices. Professional staff at the DOE and VDH shall cooperate on the implementation of this MOU

This MOU is not intended to replace or supersede any other existing interagency agreements or MOUs between DOE and VDH. In the event of any actual or perceived inconsistency between this MOU and any other existing interagency agreement or MOU between DOE and VDH, the earlier interagency agreement or MOU shall control, absent an express written agreement to the contrary.

In the event of any actual or perceived inconsistency between this MOU and state or federal statutes or regulations, the state or federal statutes or regulations shall supersede this MOU.

Nothing within this MOU shall be construed as requiring either party to provide funding for any purpose which is not otherwise required by law.

This MOU shall be reviewed every two years.

Wendy Davis, M.D.

Armando Vilaseca





Commissioner
Vermont Department of Health

Commissioner
Vermont Department of Education

Date: 8/28/09

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