

SAMPLE STATE SCHOOL NURSE CONSULTANT JOB DESCRIPTION

The State School Nurse Consultant (SSNC) provides leadership and technical assistance to the state and local education (LEAs) and health agencies to strengthen the educational process and improve health and academic outcomes. Services may be provided to private, parochial, and charter schools in addition to public schools. All students require access to quality health services, healthy educational practices and environments to be ready to learn. Support for school health services and programming should align with current national evidence-based practices, models, and frameworks. Effective statewide programming and positive student outcomes require strong continuous collaboration between state education, health, and community agencies. The SSNC serves as a liaison between national, state, and local health and education agencies.

RESPONSIBILITIES

SSNCs provide guidance to LEAs to ensure that all children, including individuals with disabilities, have equitable access to quality school health, and school-based programs and services. The goal is to provide services that are developmentally appropriate, community-driven, family-centered, and responsive to the cultural, ethnic, linguistic, and economic needs of diverse populations, e.g., interpretation of medical terminology and the application of nursing science.

Develop and/or facilitate the creation of school health and school nursing policies, procedures.

Develop and promote standardized methods of statewide health services data collection and analysis of quantitative and qualitative statistical data with recommendations for continuous service delivery improvement.

Develop and guide the support of evaluation, development, planning, and implementation of school-based health related services and programs which utilize school nursing services.

Develop or revise technical assistance manuals on school health topics to support compliance with state and federal statutes, in addition to accepted standards of nursing practice.

Support school nurses in the provision of high-quality school health services in accordance with nursing theory, standards of practice, best practice, and state and federal laws including regulations.

Oversee the professional development of school health services personnel, including registered professional school nurses, skilled nurses, and assistive personnel, to ensure a competent school health and school nurse workforce.

Promote school attendance by addressing barriers to learning such as emerging infectious diseases, e.g., pandemic influenza and pertussis, the management of students with chronic health conditions, and the impact of health and socioeconomic disparities.

Promote prevention, early intervention, achievement gaps, mitigation of social determinants of health, and self-care abilities of children, youth, and families.



Review and analyze the implications of proposed legislation and advise the agency/governmental affairs office on the possible impacts on school health and educational outcomes for students, school nursing practice, and fiscal responsibilities. Provide testimony where allowed.

Determine measures for student health outcomes based on state agency priorities, social determinants of health, and customer satisfaction to demonstrate the effectiveness of school health and school nurse services and their impact upon communities.

Develop and maintain collaborative links between education, health, welfare, nurse licensing board(s), and other critical public and private state-level stakeholders to assure coordination, seamless integration, and consideration of the educational aspects of health and related decisions.

Provide consultation and professional development to LEAs, school health personnel, school nurses, parents/guardians, and others regarding school health and school nursing issues and priorities. This support is based on existing and proposed legislation, policies, procedures, and guidelines. related to school health and school nursing.

Disseminate health, education, and evidence-based practices updates pertinent to school nursing practice. This includes development of materials and presentations to educate other agencies, disciplines, and LEA administration about the role and function of the school nurse and school-based health related services.

Maintain current knowledge and expertise in national health and education initiatives, practices, and trends.

Identify and provide technical assistance on school health related questions to proactively support risk management and cost savings to the agency and taxpayers.

Promote appropriate support for students with temporary or extended health related absences (e.g., homebound instruction, compliance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act [IDEA]).

Serve as spokesperson, liaison, or consultant to the agency regarding school health-related inquiries from community members, LEAs, the legislature and its constituents through correspondence, the media, bulletins, and testimony. Prepare timely responses to correspondence and inquiries from LEAs, community members, the media, the legislature, and other interested parties.

REQUIRED EDUCATION, EXPERIENCE, AND COMPETENCIES:

- Bachelor of Science degree in nursing, Master's preferred
- Current licensure as a registered nurse in the state
- State certification as a School Nurse (if available)
- Knowledge of common pediatric illnesses, syndromes, disabilities, treatments, and ability to analyze their impact on student health and learning
- Working knowledge of electronic health records and health information technology



- Knowledge of and ability to use current internet and electronic systems and software (e.g., MS Outlook, MS Word, MS Excel); internet meeting platforms; simple computational and algebraic calculations
- Valid driver's license recognized in the state

PREFERRED EDUCATION, EXPERIENCE, AND COMPETENCIES:

- Master's degree or doctorate in nursing, education with a focus on nursing, public health, public administration, or a related field
- National Certification as a School Nurse
- Knowledge of pediatric nursing information and trends to predict their impact on students; leadership on the development of appropriate health-related procedural guidelines and agency bulletins; and analyzing their effect on student health outcomes
- Five years of experience in school nursing
- Experience managing/supervising school nursing initiatives or programs

DESIRED EXPERIENCE, AND COMPETENCIES:

To be determined by respective state human resources or personnel department.