



Related Services: School Health and School Nursing Services

Registered nursing means performance of services, which includes but is not limited to:

- **Executing regiments delegated by a licensed healthcare provider**
- **Delegating tasks which assist in implementing the nursing, medical, or dental regiment**

IC 25-23-1-1.1(b)

Related services help children with disabilities benefit from their special education by providing extra help and support in needed areas. For some students, school health services and/or school nursing services may be a required related service for the student to receive a free appropriate public education (FAPE). More general information about related services can be found in the [Spread the Word: Related Services](#) document.

Defining School Health and School Nurse Services Pursuant to Special Education

[Article 4](#) contains Indiana's student services rules. It requires that each school corporation shall employ at least one registered nurse who holds a bachelor of science in nursing and who shall coordinate health services. The school nurse may delegate to other qualified personnel when health services are required for students.

511 IAC 4-1.5-6(c)

[Article 7](#) contains Indiana's special education rules. It defines "school health services" and "school nurse services."

- **School health services** include health services that are designed to enable a student with a disability to receive a FAPE as described in the student's IEP and must be provided by either a licensed school nurse or other qualified personnel.
- **School nurse services** are health services designed to enable a student with a disability to receive a FAPE as described in the student's IEP, and must be provided by a licensed school nurse.

511 IAC 7-43-1(r) and (s)

Protecting Privacy

In providing care to students, school nurses (and all school personnel) must be mindful of legislation that protects the privacy of students. School nurses should:

- Educate students and parents about their right to privacy
- Train staff on policies and procedures for protecting student privacy
- Ensure that school nursing procedures are carried out in a way that protects students' privacy



Providing Health-Related Support

School nursing services may include the following:

- Clean intermittent catheterization
- Suctioning
- Ventilator care
- The management of a tracheostomy
- Administering and/or dispensing medications
- Managing, educating, and counseling for a child about medication or chronic health conditions
(e.g., side effects, reactions, the need for adherence of treatments/procedures)
- Planning for the safety of a child in school
- Helping students, such as those in wheelchairs, with toileting needs
- Ensuring that care is given while at school and at school functions to prevent injury
(e.g., changing a child's position frequently to prevent pressure sores)
- Caring for and monitoring students with intravenous medication, gastrostomy (feeding) tubes, and ventilators
- Chronic disease management
(e.g., observation and monitoring, collaborating, coordinating with health care providers and parent regarding questions, changes, or concerns)
- Conducting and/or promoting education and skills training for all (including the child) who serve as caregivers in the school setting.

To what extent are schools required to provide health services?

Many children with disabilities, especially those who are medically fragile, could not attend school without the supportive services of school nurses and their designees.

In *Cedar Rapids Community School District v. Garret F.*, it was determined that schools are only responsible for providing services, "to the extent that the services allow a child to benefit from special education and enable a child with a disability to receive FAPE." (71 Fed. Reg. at 46574-5).

If it is determined that school health services and/or school nurse services are required related services for a student with a disability, those services must be provided at no cost to the parent.