California School Nurses Organization

Position Statement

HEARING SCREENING

STATEMENT

The California School Nurses Organization asserts that school districts should fulfill the mandates of CEC 49452 for hearing testing and that credentialed school nurses, as the duly qualified supervisors of health, are the most qualified persons to manage this mandate.

RATIONALE

Any degree of hearing loss can cause deficits in reading, speech and language skills, as well as behavior problems, low self-esteem and lower standardized test scores. California Education and Health and Safety Codes allow certificated employees of the district or the county superintendent of schools who possess specific qualifications prescribed by the Commission for Teacher Preparation and Licensing or a school audiometrist with a valid certificate issued by the State of California to perform hearing testing.

Credentialed school nurses have the skill and knowledge base to provide screening, referral, follow-up, and documentation to provide assistance for the remediation of conductive and sensorineural hearing loss. Credentialed school nurses are qualified to provide for and should advocate for the development and dissemination of hearing conservation programs in their school districts and their communities.

References:
California Education Code Section 44879. Qualifications of audiometrist.
California Education Code Section 49426. School Nurses: qualifications and services.
California Education Code Section 49452. Sight and hearing testing.
California Education Code Section 49454. Use of audiometer.


Adopted: 11/02, Revised 10/05, Revised and Name Changed from Hearing Testing, 11/08. Revised 11/11, Board of Directors, California School Nurses Organization