The California School Nurses Organization supports the inclusion of a credentialed school nurse as a member of the multidisciplinary team that identifies, assesses, and places students in special education.

The credentialed school nurse serves students with many health issues, many of which impact on the student’s individual education plan (IEP) and present a barrier to equal access to the educational program and services.

As a member of the school multi-disciplinary team, the credentialed school nurse will:

- Identify pupils who may have health needs requiring accommodations.
- Determine the need for IEP health assessments, focusing on the areas of suspected health disability and current levels of performance.
- Document the health assessment to enable the Individualized Education Plan (IEP) team to ensure the least restrictive environment for the student.
- Develop an Individualized School Health Plan (ISHP) and/or Emergency Care Plan (ECP) to serve students with special health care needs.
- Provide case management and facilitate collaboration with health care providers and other professionals in the coordination of health services to ensure the safe care of students.
- Provide training and supervision of Designated Instructional Services (DIS) or Specialized Physical Health Care Services (SPHCS) and monitor licensed and unlicensed assistive personnel providing such services.

**RATIONALE**

The most recent Reauthorization of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act recognizes school nursing services as a related IEP service. The education and nursing background of credentialed school nurses ensures the expertise required to assess and provide for the optimal health service needs of special education students in collaboration with the multi-disciplinary IEP team.

**References:**

A Composite of Laws- California Special Education Programs (updated annually).

California Education Code, Section 49423.5.
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*Adopted: 2/82, Revised 11/99, 11/02, 10/05, Revised and name changed from Role of the School Nurse in Special Education, Board of Directors, California School Nurses Organization.*