



California School Nurses Organization

Position Statement

INDIVIDUALIZED SCHOOL HEALTH PLAN (ISHP)

STATEMENT

The California School Nurse Organization recommends development of Individualized School Health Plans (ISHP) for students with complex health conditions and/or those students who require modifications in the school environment due to ongoing health conditions as a professional responsibility of the credentialed school nurse. The credentialed school nurse is responsible for the development, implementation and management of the ISHP in collaboration with the student, family, health care providers, site administrator(s) and other appropriate school personnel.

RATIONALE

The ISHP is recognized as a standard of nursing practice. It is a written document that outlines student healthcare services intended to achieve specific outcomes; it may include an Emergency Care Plan (ECP) and a field trip plan. The need for the ISHP is based on required nursing care, not necessarily an educational entitlement such as special education or section 504. The number of students with special health care needs and chronic health conditions in the school setting is increasing and their care has become more complex. State and federal laws protect the rights of such students to a free and appropriate public education with their peers. The credentialed school nurse has the expertise to make a complete assessment of the student to determine need and desired outcome. An ISHP ensures that all assessment data, health needs and procedures are considered to maximize the student's participation and performance. The ISHP also benefits in the following areas:

- Incorporates current standards of care to assist in the development of an appropriate accommodation plan.
- Communicates nursing care needs to administrators, staff, students and parents.
- Creates a safe process for assignment and delivery of school health services for students.
- Provides input for the multidisciplinary school site and/or district team.
- Provides for the incorporation of an Emergency Care Plan, as needed.
- Documents that proper plans and safeguards are in place.
- Stands alone or serves as the health care supplement to a Section 504 Plan or Individual Education Plan.
- The credentialed school nurse is responsible for the training and supervision of licensed and unlicensed personnel as directed by the California State Nurse Practice Act.

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