

Students with Special Health Care Needs

The Board recognizes that some students require special health services during the school day to participate in their educational program. These students will receive special health services in conjunction with their education program

Licensed health care personnel will determine the special health services to be provided and the qualifications of the individuals performing the health services. An Individual Health Plan (IHP) will be developed by the school nurse and will be updated as needed, at least annually.

School nurses will participate as part of the educational team and are responsible for duties outlined in the Iowa Administrative Code, including the Nurse Practice Act, and Iowa Board of Nursing regulations.

Special health services do not include provision of first aid and routine medication administration.

The superintendent or designee, in conjunction with licensed health personnel, will establish administrative guidelines for the implementation of this policy.

Adopted: May 8, 2000
Revised: December 13, 2010
Revised: December 14, 2015
Revised: February 8, 2021

Students with Special Health Care Needs

The Dubuque Community School District is committed to providing the supports needed by students to remain safe and healthy while at school. Due to advancements in health care, students are now attending school with significant and complex health care needs. Through the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA), school districts are responsible to provide a free, appropriate, public education to all students, including those with special health care needs.

I. Determining the level of specialized care needed for students with special health care needs

- A school nurse is a valuable member of the student's school, individual education program (IEP), or Section 504 team that provides the nursing assessment of health care needs and determines the type of personnel necessary to provide nursing interventions.
- Information regarding a student's special health care needs may be gathered from many sources, including parents, medical providers, and nursing services outlined in previous IEP plans.
- The decision to delegate nursing interventions is based upon the nurse's assessment of the complexity of the task, predictability of the outcome, demonstrated abilities, and the scope of practice of school personnel with and without a health care license.

II. Providing for the level of specialized care needed for students with special health care needs

- When a school nurse, in collaboration with the school, IEP, or Section 504 team, determines that the necessary care can be administered safely by school personnel, the nurse will provide the necessary training and related documentation.
 - A parent or guardian may request that a private duty nurse accompany their child to school. If the district honors the request, a contractual agreement between the two entities must be maintained. All costs associated with private nursing services are the responsibility of the parent or guardian.
- When a school nurse, in collaboration with the student's school, IEP, or Section 504 team, determines that a student requires intensive nursing services that cannot be administered safely by current school personnel, the district may contract with a third-party agency to provide the specialized health care services. When a student has an existing relationship with a third-party agency, the district may choose to contract with that agency when possible. All costs associated with contracted nursing services deemed necessary by the school nurse, in collaboration with the student's school, IEP, or Section 504 team, are the responsibility of the school district. A contractual agreement between the school district and the third-party agency must be maintained.

III. Documenting the Roles and Responsibilities of Contracted Nursing Services

- The responsibilities of the third-party nursing services should be documented in a contractual agreement between the district and the third party.
- The district may utilize legal services to review contractual and liability items.