

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #15 (98-99)

August 10, 1998

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: ADOPTION OF CONTENT AND PERFORMANCE
STANDARDS FOR SCHOOL NURSES

RECOMMENDATION:

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board adopt the attached content and performance standards for school nurses. They will form the basis for performance evaluations beginning this school year.

PERTINENT FACTS:

As was indicated during the work session on June 15, 1998, the content and performance standards for teachers adopted by the School Board as the foundation upon which the new evaluation system was built have been under continuous review. In several areas, notably nursing and Related Services, the standards have been revised for greater clarity and applicability to special positions. The attached document is the first of several which will be brought to the Board this school year from these areas of operation.

A committee of elementary and secondary nurses was convened during Fall, 1997 to develop an initial draft document for the "School Nurse Standards." The "Certification of Compliance with Standards" form and "Guide for Professional Support" were also developed. National Standards of School Nursing practice and the Alaska Statutes and regulations for nursing practice were considered during the writing process in order to comply with the regulatory matters in nursing practice. On February 11, 1998 all school nurses received a copy of the documents to review, and were requested to comment and make suggestions by February 27, 1998. The documents were accepted by the entire nursing staff without any revisions suggested. Furthermore, Judith Entwife, Administrator for Teacher Education and Certification, received the draft document and sent a letter on February 26, 1998. In it, she stated: "The information will be very

helpful as the State Board of Education continues to consider possible changes in teacher, administrator, and special services certification/licensure."

The "School Nurse Standards" incorporate the statutes and regulations for nursing practice. The Alaska State Legislature passed a licensure law for nursing to protect the health, safety and welfare of their citizens. The function of regulating the practice of nursing is delegated to the State Board of Nursing. The Board of Nursing is given the power and authority within the State of Alaska to regulate nursing practice, monitor nursing activities, determine the scope of practice of the professional registered nurse, and set disciplinary standards. The scope of nursing practice in Alaska is the same no matter where a nurse works; e.g., hospital, school, or clinic, unless specific state laws specify otherwise. The legal standards set forth in the nurse practice act take priority over school district policies which therefore, mandates the inclusion of the nurse practice act in the development of the "School Nurse Standards."

National standards and guidelines were also reviewed in the development of the "School Nurse Standards." Documents created by the American Nurses Association, the National Association of School Nurses, Inc., and the National Association of State School Nurse Consultants were reviewed. These national standards provided guidelines for high-quality practice and services to encourage excellence in school nursing practice. These guidelines will be used as a standard against which the School District might be measured in a due process hearing or court of law.

The policy and procedures of the Anchorage School District were also included in the development of the "School Nurse Standards," including, job descriptions and personnel qualifications which influenced the standards and the quality of services available to students. Additionally, the standards included school health services as a related service under IDEA, the ADA, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The Anchorage School District, "School Nurse Standards" address health services for students with special health care needs, including such issues as infection control, universal precautions, medication administration, and requirements for individualized health care plans.

BC/LCW

Attachment

Prepared and Approved by: Lee Wilson, Executive Director, Labor Relations