

OKLAHOMA BOARD OF NURSING
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School Nurse Position Statement

The Oklahoma Board of Nursing (OBN) believes that the Certified School Nurse is a Registered Nurse (RN) specialty. Certified school nurses are Registered Nurses licensed by the Oklahoma Board of Nursing, and who are certified by the Oklahoma Department of Education to provide care in the school setting. The Certified School Nurse has the educational preparation, critical thinking skills and clinical expertise essential to nursing in the school setting. Clinical expertise includes the ability to assess the nursing/health care needs of the student, develop a plan of care, implement a plan of care, and evaluate the outcomes. The Certified School Nurse promotes the optimum health of students facilitating the students' abilities to achieve their individualized educational goals.

The Certified School Nurse facilitates positive student response to normal development; promotes health and safety; intervenes with actual and potential health problems; provides case management services; and actively collaborates with others to build student and family capacity for adaptation, self-management, self-advocacy, and learning. It is the responsibility of the Certified School Nurse to know and adhere to the *Oklahoma Nursing Practice Act (ONPA)*.

The OBN acknowledges that students come to school with complex and diverse health care needs and should be provided an education in the least restrictive environment. The OBN recognizes that the school children of Oklahoma have the right to receive safe, appropriate specialized health services which may be required to assure the child's inclusion in the school environment.

The OBN has the authority and responsibility to protect the public health and safety by regulating nursing practice. The current numbers and the future projections indicate increasing numbers of children entering the school system with complex nursing and health-related needs. The OBN believes that the Certified School Nurse establishes a plan of care for students with complex health-related needs. The Certified School Nurse may be assisted in the provision of nursing services to ensure the delivery of safe, effective health care to all school children in Oklahoma in accordance with the ONPA, the OBN's *Guidelines for Delegation of Nursing Functions to Unlicensed Persons*, and other applicable statutes and rules.