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EDITION



Children'sSM
Healthcare of Atlanta

**GEORGIA SCHOOL HEALTH
RESOURCES MANUAL**



The Georgia School Health Resource Manual is available to schools in Georgia by Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta in collaboration with the Georgia Association of School Nurses. This manual contains basic pediatric health information, guidelines and recommendations for developing and enhancing your school health program. It emphasizes the role of school health in preventing disease and promoting wellness for students and staff.

This manual is a resource for the school nurse who has responsibility for one or more components of a school health program. Administrators, teachers, health educators, school health aides, physicians and others may also find this book useful.

A school health program includes the following components:

- Involvement from the community and parents/guardians
- Healthy school environment
- Health services
- Health education and health promotion for school staff
- Physical education
- Nutrition services
- Counseling, psychological and social services

In a school health program, the school nurse may provide leadership or play a supporting role in any of these components. Good health is essential to academic success, and healthy habits formed early build the foundation for lifelong well-being and productivity. Health and education literature links risky health behaviors, such as tobacco, alcohol and drug use, with poor school performance.

Many students are medically underinsured and have limited access to proper preventive health care. Students with special health care needs and chronic illnesses are well enough to participate in the learning process but may need accommodations and supportive health services during the school day. The school nurse can have a positive influence on the health status and health behaviors of students by identifying and minimizing the health-related barriers to learning. Healthy students are more prepared to learn, more likely to attend school and class, and better able to manage their health-related needs.

Note: The Georgia School Health Resource Manual’s guidelines reflect evidence-informed practices in school health at the time of publication. Users of this manual are advised to consult federal, state, and local laws, regulations and policies when using this manual to plan, implement and evaluate school health programs.

Disclaimer

This manual is meant to provide you, the school health caregiver, with general information on meeting basic healthcare needs of students in the school setting. All forms included in this manual are samples of what you can utilize for school health purposes. These are only guidelines and are not intended to replace your judgment as a caregiver, or to substitute for school policies or advice of a physician. Always consult your school administrator, the student’s parent(s)/guardian(s) or a healthcare provider if you have questions or concerns regarding the care of a student at your school. If a situation appears serious or life-threatening, always follow school policies regarding notifying the principal. Call 911 immediately to seek emergency assistance.

GA Code § 20-2-771.2 (2022): law.justia.com/codes/georgia/2022/title-20/chapter-2/article-16/part-3/section-20-2-771-2/

Each local board of education shall establish policies and procedures regarding a school health nurse program. Such school health nurse programs shall be staffed by licensed health care professionals. Each local board of education may contract or consult with health professionals knowledgeable in children’s health issues to establish the standards, policies and procedures of a school health nurse program. Such standards, policies and procedures shall be in accordance with the restrictions set forth in Code Section 20-2-773.

The 2024 revision of the Georgia School Health Resource Manual has been developed under the direction of:

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