



The Hilltop Institute

analysis to advance the health of vulnerable populations

Brief Overview: School Health Services Standards: COMAR 13A.05.05.05-.15

October 2, 2018

Laura Spicer

Presentation Goal

- To provide brief, high-level background on school health services (SHS) regulations as context for today's Workgroup discussion
- Corresponding guidance and policy are not included in this presentation

Overview of SHS Standards

- Background
- Standards for all students
- Standards for students with special health needs
- Implementation

Background

- Education Article §7-401 requires the Maryland Department of Education (MSDE) and the Department of Health (MDH) to jointly develop public standards and guidelines for school health programs
 - MSDE initially enacted COMAR 13A.05.05 in 1985, several amendments through 2010
 - MDSE and MDH must offer assistance to the local boards of education and health departments in the implementation of these standards

COMAR 13A.05.05.05

Key Definitions

- A “designated SHS professional” is defined as a physician, certified nurse practitioner, or registered nurse, or all of these, with experience or special training in working with children and families in community or school health programs
- A “SHS aide” is defined as an unlicensed person who functions under the supervision of a designated SHS professional
 - The aide, at a minimum, should be certified in cardiopulmonary resuscitation annually and a basic first aid course every 3 years

COMAR 13A.05.05.06

SHS Standards for All Students

- Physical exam
 - A physical exam is required for each child entering the Maryland public school system for the first time
- Review of students' health records
 - Identifies students with health problems or concerns who are then referred for a health appraisal

COMAR 13A.05.05.07

SHS Standards for All Students (cont.)

- Health appraisal
 - Process by which a designated SHS professional identifies health problems that may interfere with learning
 - When a health problem is identified, the designated SHS professional must notify and assist students or parents/guardians in selecting recommended services

COMAR 13A.05.05.07

SHS Standards for All Students (cont.)

- Health counseling
 - A service that provides opportunities for students and parents/guardians to explore options, make decisions, and receive support for understanding and adjusting to or coping with their health problems

COMAR 13A.05.05.07

SHS Standards for All Students (cont.)

- Emergency services
 - At least one adult in each school, other than the designated SHS professional and the SHS aide, should be first aid and CPR certified
 - An emergency card should be maintained for each student
 - An emergency evacuation plan should be developed
 - Local school districts should have a guide for emergency care management
 - The state developed a guide for emergency care to aid the school systems

SHS Standards for Students with Special Health Needs

- A student with special health needs that may require particular attention during the school day must have a statement of those health needs and a nursing care plan
- School staff should be made aware of students who have special health needs that may require intervention during the day

COMAR 13A.05.05.08

SHS Standards for Students with Special Health Needs (cont.)

- A designated SHS professional may serve on all levels of the pupil services team and the admissions, review, and dismissal committees and participate, when appropriate, in the health services component of the Individualized Education Plan (IEP)
 - The pupil services team is responsible for developing and implementing school-wide and individual strategies to assist students with achieving academic, health, career, personal, and interpersonal competencies

COMAR 13A.05.05.08

Dissemination of SHS Information

- At the beginning of each school year, all parents/guardians and students must be informed of the SHS program
- The information must include (but is not be limited to) staffing, emergency care, medications, and communicable diseases, and be specific to that school's health services program

COMAR 13A.05.05.12

Implementation and Coordination of SHS

- The local school superintendent and the local health officer are jointly responsible for implementing the SHS requirements
- When medical direction is necessary, the designated SHS professional should work in collaboration with the local health officer

COMAR 13A.05.05.13

Implementation and Coordination of SHS

- The designated SHS professional, other than a physician, and the SHS aide should receive nursing direction from a registered nurse or the health officer's designee employed by either the local health department or the local board of education
- Health services provided in school should be coordinated with other health services in the community

SHS Monitoring and Evaluation

- MSDE and MDH must jointly develop, in collaboration with local boards of education and health departments, a monitoring and evaluation component for school health programs that may include on-site reviews
- MSDE and MDH have quarterly meetings with the SHS coordinators, collect annual certification statements, and have a tool for site visits that mirror these standards

COMAR 13A.05.05.14

Contact Information

Laura Spicer

Director of Health Reform Studies

The Hilltop Institute

University of Maryland, Baltimore County
(UMBC)

410.455.6536

lspicer@hilltop.umbc.edu

www.hilltopinstitute.org