

## Policy Code: 6121 Health Care for Students With Special Needs

The Board of Education recognizes its responsibility to educate all students, including those children who require the continuing health care management of a registered nurse. Registered nurses must supervise, teach and evaluate nursing personnel, including accounting for nursing care given by all personnel to whom that care is delegated.

The board may delegate some health care to teaching staff pursuant to [G.S. 115C-307](#). However, some children may require health care procedures, the performance of which constitutes the practice of nursing and, therefore, must be performed or supervised by a registered nurse. Health care procedures constituting the practice of nursing:

- A. are invasive;
- B. carry "reasonable" risk for harm if not performed correctly;
- C. may not have a predictable outcome; or
- D. may require additional action based on results of testing or monitoring.

Examples of specific health care procedures that are invasive, may not have a predictable outcome, and/or carry potential risk for harm to the student if not done correctly include, but are not restricted to: Bowel and bladder training (involving hands-on and invasive activities), catheterizations (urinary), chest physiotherapy/postural drainage, collecting/testing blood samples, collecting/testing urine samples, colostomy care, irrigations (wound, catheter, access devices), inhalation medication by machine, maintaining vascular access devices, medication administration via feeding tube, medications by injection or vascular access, oxygen administration and monitoring, peritoneal dialysis, sterile dressing changes, suctioning (oral, pharyngeal, tracheal, gastric), tracheostomy care, tube feedings: administering and monitoring, and vital signs (TPR and blood pressure-taking action based on findings).

A license to practice nursing is not required for the repetitive performance of a common task or procedure that does not require the professional judgment of a registered nurse or licensed practical nurse and that:

- is delegated by a licensed health care provider, licensed dentist, or licensed nurse;
- frequently recurs in the daily care of persons in need of nursing care;
- is performed according to an established sequence of steps;
- involves little or no modification from one nursing care situation to another;
- may be performed with a predictable outcome; and,
- does not inherently involve ongoing assessments, interpretations, or decision-making which cannot be logically separated from the procedure itself.

Health care procedures which do not meet all of these criteria must be performed by a duly licensed nurse.

Identified students with special health care needs that interfere with achievement of optimal health and/or academic success may participate in case management conducted by school nurses. Case management includes a thorough assessment by the school nurse, with systematic input from parents/guardians and teachers, followed by development of interventions that prevent and reduce the occurrence of problems related to the health condition. Interventions include direct nursing care for the child as well as coordination and communication with parents, teachers and other care providers. Case management is goal-oriented, with specific measurable outcomes for each student.

Students with special needs will be afforded all rights provided by federal and state law as enumerated in the *Procedures Governing Programs and Services for Children with Special Needs*. Students with disabilities also will be accorded all rights provided by anti-discrimination laws, including section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Legal References: Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, [20 U.S.C. 1400](#) *et seq.* ; Americans with Disabilities Act, [42 U.S.C. 12101](#) ; Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, [20 U.S.C. 1232g](#) ; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, [29 U.S.C. 794](#) ; [G.S. 115C-36](#) , [-307](#) [c] ; North Carolina Board of Nursing Administrative Code [.0224](#) and [.0221](#); [G.S. 115C-47](#) (42); N.C. Senate Bill 911.

Cross References: First Aid Procedures 4252/6152, Do Not Resuscitate Orders 4253/6153, Administering Medicines to Students, 6125 .

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**Chapel Hill-Carrboro Schools**

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