American Association for Health Education

School Health Services

A Position Statement of the American Association of Health Education (AAHE)

Statement

School Health Services, which include all activities conducted by school staff and auxiliary personnel to improve, protect, and maintain the health of students, should be based on the integration of law, state and local regulation, accepted professional standards and adapted to student and community needs. In order for school health services to function effectively as a unit, it should incorporate professional personnel and necessary human and material resources; it should be based on written policies consistent with specific responsibilities of each member of the health team; and it should be the shared responsibility of both the school and the community.

The school health services program should include the following services:

1. Health Appraisal: Information concerning the physical, social, intellectual, emotional and spiritual health of students should be obtained from students, school personnel, and professional personnel.

2. Emergency Care in the Case of Illness and Injury: The school must accept the responsibility for providing emergency care for accidents and sudden illness. Personnel should be trained to this end.

3. Communicable Disease Prevention and Control: There has always been a need to provide management of persons in the school who have or could have communicable disease; this has become especially important with the advent of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS).

4. In-School Management: School Health Services Programs have the responsibility to provide medical management for some conditions as spelled out in IEPs (Individualized Educational Programs) and/or for students needing regular therapeutic/medical attention or medication.

5. Health of School Personnel: The school should strive to present an environment conducive to the creation and maintenance of a healthy school staff which will positively influence the total education program.

Rationale

Students, faculty and staff are part of the school community as well as the community-at-large. Basic support for health status is the responsibility of the school and the community in order to protect against both communicable and chronic diseases.

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The mission of American Association of Health Education is to advance the profession by serving health educators and others who strive to promote the health of all people through education and other systematic strategies.

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