Rubric for Evaluating Colorado's Special Services Providers: School Nurses

Definition of an Effective School Nurse

Effective school nurses are vital members of the education team. They are properly credentialed and have knowledge, skills and commitments necessary to advance the well-being, academic success, life-long achievement and health of students. Effective school nurses strive to support growth and development in the least restrictive environment, close achievement gaps and prepare diverse student populations for postsecondary and workforce success. Effective school nurses employ evidence-based strategies to promote health and safety; intervene with actual or potential health problems; provide case management services to nurture student and family capacity for adaptation, self-management, self-advocacy and learning. Effective school nurses communicate high expectations to students, staff and administrators and promote diverse strategies to engage them in a supportive learning environment. They have a deep understanding of the interconnectedness of the home, school and community and collaborate with all members of the education team to strengthen those connections. Through reflection, advocacy and leadership, school nurses enhance the academic achievement and personal/social development of their students.

QUALITY STANDARD I

School nurses demonstrate mastery of and expertise in the domain for which they are responsible.

Basic	Partially Proficient	Proficient (Meets State Standard)	Accomplished	Exemplary		
ELEMENT A: School nurses demonstrate knowledge of current developmental science, the ways in which learning takes place and the appropriate levels of intellectual, social and emotional development of their students.						
THE SCHOOL NURSE: Has knowledge of developmental science and how it relates to student outcomes.	 and THE SCHOOL NURSE: Verbalizes awareness of developmental science in working with students. 	 and THE SCHOOL NURSE: Applies understanding of growth and development and the relationship of student health to learning. Creates methods of assessment that reflect the age and developmental level of the student. 	 and STUDENTS AND SIGNIFICANT ADULTS: Communicate with the nurse in ways that are appropriate for their intellectual and emotional status. 	 and STUDENTS: Demonstrate age appropriate understanding of health concepts relative to their health needs. 		

QUALITY STANDARD I School nurses demonstrate mastery of and expertise in the domain for which they are responsible.							
Basic	Partially Proficient	Proficient (Meets State Standard)	Accomplished	Exemplary			
ELEMENT B: School nurses demonstrate knowledge of effective services and/or specially designed instruction that reduce barriers to and support learning in literacy, math and other content areas.							
THE SCHOOL NURSE: Identifies medical and emotional factors that interfere with learning. 	 and THE SCHOOL NURSE: Identifies and prioritizes student health needs as they relate to learning. 	 and THE SCHOOL NURSE: Creates plans or strategies to optimize student health outcomes and maximize instructional effectiveness. Evaluates the effectiveness of plans and strategies and adjusts plan of action to improve readiness to learn. 	 and STUDENTS: Are able to better access instructional time. 	 and STUDENTS: Demonstrate improved engagement in classroom learning. 			
ELEMENT C: School nurses integrate ev	idence-based practices and re	esearch findings into their ser	vices and/or specially design	ned instruction.			
THE SCHOOL NURSE: Recognizes the unique clinical standard of care in schools. 	 and THE SCHOOL NURSE: Participates in data collection such as pilot projects and formal studies. Seeks research and professional resources when faced with new clinical situations. 	 and THE SCHOOL NURSE: Utilizes clinical guidelines and evidence based practice in providing school health services. Shares clinical updates with colleagues and peers. 	 and STUDENTS AND SIGNIFICANT ADULTS: Understand the value of the school nurse's role and the services provided. 	 and STUDENTS: Experience improved health and learning outcomes. 			

Basic Partially Proficient Proficient Accomplished Exemplary							
Basic	Partially Proficient	ally Proficient (Meets State Standard)		Exemplary			
ELEMENT D: School nurses demonstrat	e knowledge of the interconr	ectedness of home, school ar	nd community influences on	student achievement.			
	and	and	and	and			
THE SCHOOL NURSE:	THE SCHOOL NURSE:	THE SCHOOL NURSE:	STUDENTS AND/OR	STUDENTS AND/O			
Is aware of the	Invites the contribution	Engages in teamwork in	SIGNIFICANT	SIGNIFICANT			
interconnectedness of	of students, significant	a collaborative,	ADULTS:	ADULTS:			
home, school and	adults, team members	respectful and	Provide information	Engage in activities			
community on student	and community to	professional manner.	about home and	suggested by the			
achievement.	achieve optimal outcomes.	Consults with	community influences	school nurse releva			
	outcomes.	community agencies to	on their health status.	to the student's			
	Functions as a liaison	heighten awareness of		health.			
	between family, school	the school's role in					
	and community.	supporting student					
		health and management					

of chronic conditions.

Basic	Partially Proficient	Profic (Meets State		Accomplished	Exemplary
ELEMENT E: School nurses demonstrat	e knowledge of and expertise	in their professi	on.		
THE SCHOOL NURSE: Has knowledge and understanding of professional content and service delivery.	 and THE SCHOOL NURSE: Aligns practice with the Colorado Nurse Practice Act including the rules for nursing delegation and Colorado School Nurse Guidelines. 	 and THE SCHOOL NURSE: Applies the National Association of School Nursing Scope and Standards of Practice in the work. Serves as a resource to staff and peers on principles of nursing practice and health related student issues in educational settings. 		 and STUDENTS AND/OR SIGNIFICANT ADULTS: Use the expertise of the nurse related to family and/or student health needs. 	 and STUDENTS AND/OR SIGNIFICANT ADULTS: Take advantage of the knowledge and skills of the school nurse in improving their health status.
Evaluator Comments: (Required for Ratings of "Basic" or "Partially Proficient" and recommended for all rating levels.)		(Please indic	Ferson Being Evaluated: ate the element for which th lard as a whole.)	ne comment applies if not	

School nurses support and/or establish safe, inclusive and respectful learning environments for a diverse population of students.

Basic	Partially Proficient	Proficient (Meets State Standard)	Accomplished	Exemplary		
ELEMENT A: School nurses foster safe and accessible learning environments in which each student has a positive, nurturing relationship with caring adults and peers.						
THE SCHOOL NURSE: Fosters a safe physical, emotional and intellectual environment.	 and THE SCHOOL NURSE: Models polite, respectful interactions. Expresses empathy for all students. 	 and THE SCHOOL NURSE: Creates an environment which values diverse perspectives. Ensures equitable access to support services. 	 and STUDENTS AND/OR SIGNIFICANT ADULTS: Experience a nurturing and caring relationship with the school nurse. 	 and STUDENTS: Show active engagement during interactions with health services staff. 		

School nurses support and/or establish safe, inclusive and respectful learning environments for a diverse population of students.

Basic	Partially Proficient	Proficient (Meets State Standard)	Accomplished	Exemplary
ELEMENT B: School nurses demonstrate	e respect for diversity within t	he home, school and local an	d global communities.	
THE SCHOOL NURSE: Shows sensitivity to diverse values and beliefs when interacting with students and significant adults.	 and THE SCHOOL NURSE: Seeks to understand and respect cultural differences. Demonstrates respect for students and the significant adults in their lives. 	 and THE SCHOOL NURSE: Applies knowledge of diversity to nursing practice including differences in physical, social, emotional, spiritual, cultural and sexual orientation needs. Serves as a resource to staff in addressing the unique diverse needs of students or family. 	and STUDENTS AND SIGNIFICANT ADULTS: Feel respected by the school nurse.	 and STUDENTS AND SIGNIFICANT ADULTS: Seek appropriate services from health staff.
ELEMENT C: School nurses engage stud	lents as unique individuals wit	h diverse backgrounds, intere	ests, strengths and needs.	
THE SCHOOL NURSE: Involves students in the planning of their health care.	 and THE SCHOOL NURSE: Encourages students to share their personal interests in order to better understand strengths and needs. Treats students and the significant adults in their lives as unique individuals with diverse backgrounds. 	 and THE SCHOOL NURSE: Actively engages students when developing activities related to their health needs. Serves as a resource in responding to questions that require understanding of the uniqueness of individual students. 	 and STUDENTS AND SIGNIFICANT ADULTS: Feel treated as unique individuals whose backgrounds, interests, strengths and needs are understood. 	 and STUDENTS AND SIGNIFICANT ADULTS: Take advantage of culturally sensitive health care provided by school health staff members.

School nurses support and/or establish safe, inclusive and respectful learning environments for a diverse population of students.

Basic	Partially Proficient	Proficient (Meets State Standard)	Accomplished	Exemplary
EMENT D: hool nurses engage in p gnificant adults and/or p		ve communication and work c	ollaboratively with student	s, families and other
HE SCHOOL NURSE: Actively communicates with significant adults and staff.	 and THE SCHOOL NURSE: Assesses communication preferences when working with others. Adheres to regulations to maintain privacy and confidentiality for students and significant adults. 	 and THE SCHOOL NURSE: Conveys information to students, significant adults and staff using means that promote understanding. Creates partnerships with students, significant adults and others to support student health. 	and STUDENTS AND SIGNIFICANT ADULTS: Experience clear and constructive communication from the school nurse.	and STUDENTS: Communicate their own health needs to school health staff.
EMENT E: hool nurses select, creat e of time and appropria		ssible learning environments o	characterized by acceptable	student behavior, effici
HE SCHOOL NURSE: Communicates health interventions necessary during school day to student and staff.	 te behavioral strategies. and THE SCHOOL NURSE: Identifies potential threats to safety in the school setting. Implements strategies to promote a healthy school environment. 	 and THE SCHOOL NURSE: Holds students accountable for adherence to school rules and their health care plans. Promotes sustainable environmental health policies, including access to healthy foods and physical activity. 	 and STUDENTS: Are able to make efficient use of instructional time. 	and STUDENTS AND SIGNIFICANT ADULTS: Make informed decisions when face with personal healt choices.

School nurses plan, deliver and/or monitor services and/or specially designed instruction and/or create environments that facilitate learning for their students.

Basic	Partially Proficient	Proficient (Meets State Standard)	Accomplished	Exemplary			
ELEMENT A: School nurses provide services and/or specially designed instruction aligned with state and federal laws, regulations and procedures, academic standards, their districts' organized plans of instruction and the individual needs of their students.							
 THE SCHOOL NURSE: Maintains Registered Nurse licensure as required by the Colorado Division of Professions and Occupations. Maintains a Special Services Provider license for School Nursing from the Colorado Department of Education. 	 and THE SCHOOL NURSE: Understands that national and state laws and district policies and/or procedures govern students with disabilities, specialized education programs and the rights of the disabled. 	 and THE SCHOOL NURSE: Develops plans that support students with medical disability, health conditions, or challenges to their educational goals. Collaborates with colleagues to develop plans aligned with federal law that support students with special needs. 	 and STUDENTS AND SIGNIFICANT ADULTS: Understand that the services of the school nurse are guided by federal and state laws and district plans. 	 and STUDENTS: Participate successfully in the least restrictive environment. 			

ELEMENT B:

School nurses utilize multiple sources of data, which include valid informal and/or formal assessments, to inform services and/or specially designed instruction.

THE SCHOOL NURSE: Uses sufficient sources of health data to assess student health needs.	 and THE SCHOOL NURSE: Interprets formal and informal medical history to inform care. Conducts valid informal and formal assessments of student health needs to plan services. 	 and THE SCHOOL NURSE: Designs strategies/programs to meet the multifaceted needs of students with complex healthcare needs. Considers associated risks, benefits, costs and expected outcomes in planning care. Contributes to school/district/ state/ national data collection. 	and STUDENTS AND SIGNIFICANT ADULTS: Benefit from data collection that informs services to meet their needs.	 and STUDENTS: Contribute to ongoing monitoring and data collection as it relates to their health care.
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School nurses plan, deliver and/or monitor services and/or specially designed instruction and/or create environments that facilitate learning for their students.

Basic	Partially Proficient	Proficient (Meets State Standard)	Accomplished	Exemplary
•	nsistently deliver services and It needs, learning and progres		•	
THE SCHOOL NURSE: Recognizes the multiple sources of information needed to develop a plan of care in the school setting.	 and THE SCHOOL NURSE: Integrates multiple data sources in a coherent fashion for others' understanding. 	 and THE SCHOOL NURSE: Executes an integrated plan of care and engages district and school personnel in its implementation. Provides ongoing evaluation regarding the effectiveness of care plan and modifies the plan accordingly. 	 and STUDENTS AND SIGNIFICANT ADULTS: Understand the use of multiple health care sources as relevant to their care. 	 and STUDENTS AND SIGNIFICANT ADULTS: Participate in the development and implementation of the plan of care and its evaluation.
ELEMENT D: School nurses support and student outcomes.	integrate appropriate availat	ble technology in their service	s and/or specially designed	instruction to maximize
THE SCHOOL NURSE: Understands the various technologies available for delivery of health services in schools.	 and THE SCHOOL NURSE: Competently uses appropriate available technologies to research and document the delivery of health services. 	 and THE SCHOOL NURSE: Collaborates with colleagues in the use of current technologies to improve service delivery. 	 and STUDENTS AND SIGNIFICANT ADULTS: Are aware of supportive technology relevant to their care. 	 and STUDENTS: Use technology effectively to manage their health issues.

School nurses plan, deliver and/or monitor services and/or specially designed instruction and/or create environments that facilitate learning for their students.

Basic	Partially Proficient	Proficient (Meets State Standard)	Accomplished	Exemplary			
ELEMENT E: School nurses establish and communicate high expectations for their students that support the development of critical-thinking, self- advocacy, leadership and problem solving skills.							
THE SCHOOL NURSE: Expects students to promote their own health and wellness.	 and THE SCHOOL NURSE: Verbalizes the importance of students' critical thinking, self- advocacy and healthy choices to maintain optimal health and wellness. 	 and THE SCHOOL NURSE: Works with students and staff to increase expectations of students making healthy choices to maintain optimal health and wellness. Advocates for a school nursing model that promotes optimal health and wellness. 	 and STUDENTS AND SIGNIFICANT ADULTS: Apply critical thinking skills to support healthy choices. 	 and STUDENTS AND SIGNIFICANT ADULTS: Advocate for self in working with the school nurse to set individual goals. 			
ELEMENT F: School nurses communication	te effectively with students.						
THE SCHOOL NURSE: Understands the importance of applying effective communication skills with students.	 and THE SCHOOL NURSE: Conveys information to students which is medically accurate. Uses language appropriate to students' age, developmental level, gender, race and ethnic background. 	 and THE SCHOOL NURSE: Invites interaction and feedback to validate student understanding. Develops educational resources/tools appropriate to the student's developmental level, gender, race and ethnic background. 	and STUDENTS AND SIGNIFICANT ADULTS: Communicate openly and freely with the school nurse.	and STUDENTS AND/OR SIGNIFICANT ADULTS: Articulate individual needs in developing goals.			

School nurses plan, deliver and/or monitor services and/or specially designed instruction and/or create environments that facilitate learning for their students.

Basic	Partially Proficient		roficient State Standard)	Accomplished	Exemplary
ELEMENT G: School nurses develop an	d/or implement services and,	or specially	designed instruct	tion unique to their profession	ons.
THE SCHOOL NURSE: Identifies the key role of the nurse in supporting student's need for health- related accommodations.	 and THE SCHOOL NURSE: Trains, delegates and supervises ancillary staff to provide health services to students. Develops effective, understandable healthcare plans. 	 and THE SCHOOL NURSE: Serves as a resource for others in the development of effective evidence based health plans. Contributes to the development of 504 plans and IEPs relative to health outcomes to enable students to access learning. 		and STUDENTS AND SIGNIFICANT ADULTS: Understand the importance of the health care plans developed by the school nurse.	 and STUDENTS AND/OR SIGNIFICANT ADULTS: Take responsibility for their role in carrying out their health care plans relevant to the student's health needs.
Evaluator Comments: (Required for Ratings of "Basic" or "Partially Proficient" and recommended for all rating levels.)		" and		erson Being Evaluated: the element for which the c a whole.)	comment applies if not for

QUALITY STANDARD IV School nurses reflect on their practice.				
Basic	Partially Proficient	Proficient (Meets State Standard)	Accomplished	Exemplary
ELEMENT A: School nurses demonstrate t	hat they analyze student learning	g, development and growth and a	apply what they learn to improv	ve their practice.
THE SCHOOL NURSE: Uses student data to inform school nursing practice.	 and THE SCHOOL NURSE: Understands how health impacts student learning. Develops student health plans based on analyses of student data. 	 and THE SCHOOL NURSE: Compiles and disseminates interpretive findings to colleagues and stakeholders. 	 and THE SCHOOL NURSE: Reviews student/school health data to systematically adjust nursing practice to promote and improve student outcomes. 	 and THE SCHOOL NURSE: Proposes the use of measurable student data to achieve state and national health and wellness goals.
ELEMENT B: School nurses link professi	ional growth to their profession	onal goals.		
THE SCHOOL NURSE: Has a professional growth plan to accomplish own professional goals.	 and THE SCHOOL NURSE: Maintains professional records that provide evidence of competence and learning. Completes health related trainings as required by the school district. 	 and THE SCHOOL NURSE: Maintains clinical and professional skills through formal and informal learning experiences. 	 and THE SCHOOL NURSE: Develops and follows a long-term professional development plan. Provides guidance to colleagues on specialized nursing knowledge and skills. Serves as a member of a professional association. 	 and THE SCHOOL NURSE: Attains NCSN certification. Develops and conducts professional development programs for use on local, state and/or national levels.

Basic	Partially Proficient	Proficient (Meets State Standard)		Accomplished	Exemplary	
ELEMENT C: School nurses respond to complex, dynamic environments.						
THE SCHOOL NURSE: Realizes the environment may impact student learning.	 and THE SCHOOL NURSE: Understands the complexity of factors influencing school health. Demonstrates clinical skills necessary to address emergency situations. 	 and THE SCHOOL NURSE: Participates in development and regular updating of nursing procedures to support school health and safety practices. 		 and THE SCHOOL NURSE: Serves as a consultant for colleagues, providing and receiving feedback on professional performance in the complexity of the school context. 	 and THE SCHOOL NURSE Anticipates needed changes to the school health program based on awareness of internal or external influences. 	
Evaluator Comments: (Required for Ratings of "Basic" or "Partially Proficient" and recommended for all rating levels.)		Comments of Person Being Evaluated: (Please indicate the element for which the comment applies if not for the standard as a whole.)				

QUALITY STANDARD V School nurses demonstrate collaboration, advocacy and leadership.						
Basic	Partially Proficient	Proficient (Meets State Standard)	Accomplished	Exemplary		
ELEMENT A: School nurses collaborate with internal and external stakeholders to meet the needs of students.						
THE SCHOOL NURSE: Understands the need to work with staff, providers and community stakeholders to meet the health needs of students.	 and THE SCHOOL NURSE: Participates in staff meetings and special committees when asked. Demonstrates awareness of community resources such as specialty care providers, medical care clinics and community health agencies. 	 and THE SCHOOL NURSE: Collaborates with administrative and educational staff in student study teams, crisis teams and/or wellness committees. Collaborates with the external health care community to meet the needs of students. 	 and THE SCHOOL NURSE: Actively participates in and/or leads the crisis team, student study team, wellness committee or 504 team. Participates in activities of community organizations related to health and education. 	 and THE SCHOOL NURSE: Initiates and leads special committees when a need is identified related to the health and wellness of the school community. 		
ELEMENT B: School nurses advocate for students, families and schools.						
THE SCHOOL NURSE: Reaches out to students, significant adults and the community in order to understand their needs and represent them.	 and THE SCHOOL NURSE: Discusses potential revisions to policies and/or procedures with administrators in order to better address student and school needs. 	 and THE SCHOOL NURSE: Contributes to and/or participates in school and district task forces and committees to advocate for students. 	 and THE SCHOOL NURSE: Suggests changes to school and /or district policies and/or procedures to improve student outcomes and safety. 	 and THE SCHOOL NURSE: Advocates for curricular, school climate and instructional improvements related to safety, health and wellness. 		

QUALITY STANDARD V School nurses demonstrate collaboration, advocacy and leadership.					
Basic	Partially Proficient	Proficient (Meets State Standard)	Accomplished	Exemplary	
ELEMENT C: School nurses demonstrate leadership in their educational setting(s).					
 THE SCHOOL NURSE: Supports school, district and/or community goals and initiatives. Recognizes opportunities to develop leadership skills. 	 and THE SCHOOL NURSE: Contributes to school committees and teams. Maintains a positive, productive and respectful relationship with colleagues. 	 and THE SCHOOL NURSE: Takes advantage of opportunities to develop leadership skills. 	 and THE SCHOOL NURSE: Finds ways to exercise leadership working with administration and colleagues to make appropriate health and safety decisions for students and staff. 	 and THE SCHOOL NURSE: Leads activities to analyze student health data and interpret results and contribute to school health and wellness goals. 	
ELEMENT D: School nurses contribute knowledge and skills to educational practices and their profession.					
THE SCHOOL NURSE: Shares expertise with colleagues.	 and THE SCHOOL NURSE: Uses knowledge and skills to support student growth and development. 	 and THE SCHOOL NURSE: Applies knowledge of Essential School Health Services in nursing practice. 	 and THE SCHOOL NURSE: Contributes knowledge in district-wide decision-making processes that impact the health of students. Serves as a mentor/coach for school nurse peers. 	 and THE SCHOOL NURSE: Offers professional growth and development activities in school health and safety for district staff. 	

QUALITY STANDARD V

School nurses demonstrate collaboration, advocacy and leadership.

Basic	Partially Proficient	Proficient (Meets State Standard		Accomplished	Exemplary	
ELEMENT E: School nurses demonstrate high ethical standards.						
 THE SCHOOL NURSE: Maintains confidentiality of student health records as required by law. Understands the need to hold high ethical standards for themselves and others. 	 and THE SCHOOL NURSE: Demonstrates ethical behavior according to the Code of Ethics for School Nurses. Maintains confidentiality of student and staff health information (HIPAA, FERPA). 	 and THE SCHOOL NURSE: Demonstrates professional demeanor in words, actions and appearances. Maintains a therapeutic and professional relationship with appropriate role boundaries. 		 and THE SCHOOL NURSE: Challenges school practice when it violates ethical standards. Supports and encourages colleagues to demonstrate ethical behavior. 	 and THE SCHOOL NURSE: Acts as a teacher/leader to promote ethical standards. 	
Evaluator Comments: (Required for Ratings of "Basic" or "Partially Proficient" and recommended for all rating levels.)				Person Being Evaluated: The element for which the as a whole.)	comment applies if not for	

S.B. 10-191 REQUIRES MULTIPLE MEASURES OF EDUCATOR PERFORMANCE MEASURED ON MULTIPLE OCCASIONS

THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. For Special Services Providers this requirement is defined as required measures and optional additional measures (evidence/artifacts). While the rubric serves as the data collection tool for observations, districts and BOCES must determine the method for collecting data regarding required measures and additional evidence/artifacts. This chart serves as a reminder of the required measures that must be discussed annually and evidence/artifacts that may be discussed at the end of the evaluation cycle to confirm the accuracy of ratings.

SHALL BE BASED ON AT LEAST ONE OF THE FOLLOWING PERFORMANCE MEASURES, WHEN APPROPRIATE TO THE SSP'S **ASSIGNED DUTIES:**

- Student perception measures, where appropriate and feasible
- Peer feedback
- Parent or guardian feedback
- Student support documentation •

ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE/ARTIFACTS:

Evaluation of professional practice may include additional measures such as those listed below. These are provided as examples of evidence the evaluator and/or educator being evaluated may share with each other to provide evidence of performance in addition to observations and evaluator ratings collected on the rubric.

- Adherence to standard operating procedures that • • ensure confidentiality of records Meeting minutes from family meetings • CDE Special Services Provider License as a School • Membership in school teams • Nurse Mentoring logs • Committee/workgroup minutes • NCSN certification • Communications with families and students • Needs assessment findings • Data collection methods . • Nursing documentation records **Delegation** logs • Professional development certificates of attendance • Documentation of presentations to internal and • Relevant federal, state and district laws and policies • external groups Resource materials on cultural groups • Documented evidence of communication with staff, • • Return to class rate colleagues and healthcare providers School committee roster • • DORA license for registered nurse • Service evaluations Email or other documented evidence of • SPED Evaluations/504 Plans • communication with staff, colleagues and health Staff training logs care providers • Student academic data • Emergency health care plans • Student training materials Formal/informal leadership roles verification • • UAP training logs • Immunization compliance, screening • referrals/follow-up Individualized health care plans •
- Local and national conference agendas