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Proposed ISBE Rule Change to Part 226.840 Pertaining to Qualifications of Nurses Working With Special Education Students in Public Schools

LIST OF SUPPORTERS

**Illinois Association of
School Nurses**
www.iasn.org

**Illinois Nurses
Association**
www.illinoisnurses.com

**Illinois Education
Association**
www.ieanea.org

**Illinois Federation of
Teachers**
www.ift-aft.org

Chicago Teachers Union
www.ctunet.com

**ISELA - Illinois Special
Education Coalition**

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) eliminated the requirement for Type 73 certification in School Nursing to conduct medical review for educational case study evaluations.

The Illinois Association of School Nurses requests the qualifications to complete medical reviews as part of a case study evaluation be returned to its original language of a Type 73 Certified School Nurse or a Physician.

- Medical review is part of a special education case study and individualized educational plan (IEP) development. It involves obtaining and interpreting health information that may impact the child's educational performance, and developing appropriate educational accommodations/modifications to meet the student's needs as required under the Federal Individuals With Disabilities Education Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.
- Not all RN's have the necessary training to work with special needs children in the school setting. When hiring nurse practitioners, doctors, lawyers, and teachers one seeks individuals with training in the specific area needed. The same should be true of school nurses.
- The Illinois certification process for school nurses is a graduate level program that prepares nurses for this specialty practice. Type 73 Certified School Nurses are the only RN's trained in special education regulations/procedures, 504 Plans, conducting educational medical reviews and developing accommodations/interventions for the educational setting.
- Illinois requires certification of **all** other school service personnel (social workers, counselors, psychologists, speech/language pathologists). School nurses should not have lesser qualifications.
- Certified school nurses bring cost effective, creative strategies and knowledge of the most appropriate accommodations to support academic success, as well as helping ensure student's rights are protected.
- Illinois needs to guarantee that credentialed personnel, including the school nurse, perform all aspects of the case study to assure the rights of school children are protected.

We request that the protections set by regulations be reinstated to the original language that required Type 73 Certified RN or MD be the only individuals to conduct medical reviews on which recommendations for accommodations related to health needs of children are based. This will ensure that students receive the best care and most appropriate accommodations goals within a school setting.