

THE ARD PROCESS

When a student's needs are evaluated by the Admission/Review/Dismissal (ARD) Committee and health needs that impact his/her education are indicated, the diagnostician sends a request for health information to the nurse and attending physicians. (The nurse will complete a "Written Report of Eligibility for Health Services Related Services".)

A release of confidential information is completed by the parents. Subsequently, the nurse must have a conference with the diagnostician to discuss health needs and review the information returned from physicians.

Prior to or during the ARD meeting, the parents are given the following forms to sign, Health Care Action Plan, the Medical Exam Report (for Down's Syndrome, if appropriate), cover letter to the Physician, Physician's Orders or Medical Orders for Specialized Health Care, Medical Information Sheet, Medication Permit, and Consent to Request Confidential Information. These forms must be completed before the student receives health services or begins school.

When the forms are completed, a conference with the parent and/or physician to complete the health action plan and emergency plan is indicated. In addition, the parent must sign a release of confidential information to allow the nurse to conference with the doctor. These are then signed by the nurse and parent.

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES AS A RELATED SERVICE

School health services as a related service are those services provided by a school nurse or other qualified person to eligible students in addition to those routinely available to students. The U.S. Supreme Court ruled March 3, 1999 in Cedar Rapids Community School Dist v Garret F. (96-1793) that continuous, one on one services (any one or in combination) are necessary or "supportive" for a student to have access to public school, the district must furnish the care. The ruling was about "related services" within IDEA and a public school's obligation to provide certain nursing services to assure meaningful access to public school, not about the cost of staffing. The following dynamic list of medical conditions should require school health services as a related service and be dependent upon the individual needs of a child:

1. Severe and debilitating respiratory condition requiring excessive supervision and associated procedures by the nurse.
2. Multi handicapping conditions
3. Nutritional situations that require nursing care in excess of the usual.
4. Traumatic brain injury
5. Toileting assistance requiring the entrance into a sterile cavity.
6. Seizure disorders that are not well controlled.
7. Those returning after substance abuse treatment.
8. Life threatening conditions that require constant supervision or attention by the nurse.

School health services may also include the following:

1. Screening and referral for health needs;
2. Monitoring medication needed by students during school hours;
3. Consultation with physicians, parents, and staff regarding effects of medication, and emergency care training for staff and parents; and
4. Counseling with students and their families concerning health care practices and services.