

## Description of the School Health Screening Rules and Regulations Steering Committee

The function of the steering committee is to support a successful process for the development and implementation of school health screening rules and regulations in Nebraska, pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. 79-249. The emphasis of the steering committee is on building a process that allows stakeholder participation.

Building a process that allows stakeholder participation means that individual steering committee members are committed to bringing to the table not only professional expertise, but also knowledge of constituencies, resources, and communication strategies important to engaging a diverse array of stakeholders. The regulatory process that ensues is planned and conducted in such a way to maximize information available to, and allow participation to, as many stakeholders as possible.

Other operating principles of the steering committee, derived through consensus are:

- The steering committee's recommendations should be evidence-based (where such evidence exists), medically-sound, and consistent with contemporary public health and pediatric standards of practice.
- The rules and regulations should encompass screening for health issues which are significant to child health and learning. And, the data derived from screening should be meaningful and useful.
- Screening regulations should be achievable for schools and not present an unreasonable burden. Required screenings should be at the minimum appropriate level given limited resources and the scope of the role of schools. The timeframe for completing screening should be consistent with the local school's student health needs and community resources.
- Rules and regulations, in process and outcome, should reflect where possible culturally and linguistically appropriate standards and practices.

The steering committee is comprised of: the DHHS School and Child Health Program Manager, serving as facilitator for the committee; a representative from DHHS Regulatory Analysis and Integration; a DHHS administrator; 2 school nurses – at least one of whom is from a rural area of the state, representing the two state school nursing organizations; a pediatrician in active practice representing NE American Academy of Pediatrics; a Dept. of Education appointee; a member from the Nebraska Association of School Boards, and a member from the Educational Service Units; a school administrator and a local public health representative – at least one of whom is from a rural area of the state; a parent/cultural representative.

By prior agreement, the reports of the steering committee meetings are intended as working notes representing the developmental work of the committee. Written reports are intended for the convenience of the members, not for distribution.

The steering committee meetings are not subject to open meeting requirements. However in the course of rule making there will be open and public meeting requirements.