



SCHOOL HEALTH PROGRAM
DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH – LIFESPAN HEALTH SERVICES
www.dhhs.ne.gov/SchoolHealth

School Health Screening Rules and Regulations: Project Update for Stakeholders # 6
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Proposed language for school health screening rules and regulations has undergone extensive review within the Department of Health and Human Services. Not surprisingly, the Department review encompassed a range of issues: the regulated scope of practice of the health care professions; the appropriate role of the school in the regulations; definitions, definitions, and definitions; and a rigorous comparison of regulations to the originating statutes.

Defining the Qualified Screener

The statutes state that the Department of Health and Human Services will define the qualifications of the individual who screens in accordance with the requirements. Our proposed language follows:

The qualified screener is an individual who is familiar with and screens in accordance with provided competencies AND who meets one of the following criteria:

- a) has been deemed competent in the screening methods by a licensed health care professional; OR
- b) is under the direct supervision of a licensed health care professional while screening; OR
- c) is a licensed health care professional.

Screening Competencies

Expert committees have been working on revisions to Nebraska’s School Health Guidelines, updating the materials related to screening methods and related considerations for school health professionals. The expert committees have developed “Competencies: Essential Steps for Accurate Measurement,” to accompany each required screening. Each of the competencies for screening are written to correspond to objective measurement that can be reasonably performed by an unlicensed person.

Definitions

Stakeholders may be interested in the definition of “screening” that has been incorporated into the proposed rules and regulations:

Next Steps:

The School Health Screening Rules and Regulations Steering Committee has reviewed and discussed the revisions, large and small, made in the process of internal review. The Steering Committee has agreed to support the continued advancement of the proposed rules and regulations.

The steering committee made the recommendation that the screening competency statements should be attached to the rules and regulations. Additional partners in the DHHS Credentialing Section will assist in reviewing these. We believe we are closing in on the next steps on our journey to public hearings: approval at the Department head level to proceed to policy review level in the Governor’s office, and on into the public domain.

Stay tuned for further Stakeholder Updates as we proceed!

For more information:

Please contact Kathy Karsting, RN, MPH, Perinatal, Child and Adolescent Health Program Manager, DHHS
kathy.karsting@nebraska.gov; 402-471-0160