

Downey Unified School District

INSTRUCTION

HEALTH

AR 3142

Responsibility for the school health program is delegated to the Superintendent by the Board of Education. In accordance with the Education Code, the Board of Education "shall give diligent care to the health and physical development of pupils," and provision shall be made for the proper health supervision of the school buildings and pupils enrolled in the public schools under its jurisdiction.

The Superintendent, in turn, delegates certain responsibility for administering the health program to members of the school staff. Everyone on the school staff is responsible to some extent for the mental, physical, and emotional health of the student. The principal, teacher, and school nurse have a more defined and immediate area of responsibility. Each professional person should have his/her responsibilities clearly defined, and his/her contribution to the total program should be understood by all others working in the program.

The School Administrator

The principal, as the administrator on the school level, is the key person in the health program. His/her responsibilities include

1. Assuming leadership in directing and coordinating the school health program.
2. Planning policy formation and health services to the students with school health personnel.
3. Recognizing the school health personnel as an integral part of the faculty.
4. Giving leadership and guidance in correlating the health instruction and the health service program.
5. Facilitating conferences with teachers, parents, nurses, and other personnel concerned with school health.
6. Accepting responsibility for establishing and maintaining cooperative relationships with health agencies and community groups in integrating school health with the total health program for the community.
7. Interpreting the health needs of the students to the community.
8. Assuming responsibility for providing and maintaining a safe, pleasant, and healthful school plant.

Downey Unified School District

INSTRUCTION

HEALTH - continued

AR 3142

The School Administrator - continued

9. Assisting with classroom adjustment for the exceptional child.
10. Developing a safety program in the school.
11. Arranging transportation for students who need to be taken home.

The Teacher

The health of the school-age child is basically the responsibility of the parents. However, the teacher has the pupil under his/her jurisdiction for a number of hours a day. Therefore, he/she plays a vital role in the physical, mental, and emotional health of his/her pupils. With the teacher's professional knowledge of normal child growth and development, and through careful observation, he/she may detect deviations from the normal. When such signs or symptoms are noted, the pupil should be referred to the school nurse.

It should be the teacher's concern not only to safeguard the health of the pupils but to instill in them sound knowledge and commonsense attitudes toward health. It should be the teacher's responsibility to cover the following:

1. Serving, when delegated, as a representative on the school health council.
2. Participating in the development of school health policies, inservice health education, and curriculum planning.
3. Interpreting the school health program to school personnel, pupils, parents, and interested community groups.
4. Accepting health instruction as an indispensable part of the educational program and assuming responsibility for this instruction.
5. Utilizing school-wide health programs as a laboratory for motivating health education.
6. Sharing responsibility with the health personnel for the careful observation of the students in order to detect any deviation from the normal.
7. Recognizing that the nutritional status of the students affects their physical, mental, and emotional health and influences their academic progress.

Downey Unified School District

INSTRUCTION

HEALTH - continued

AR 3142

The Teacher - continued

8. Knowing the school policies and procedures regarding first aid and having a basic knowledge of first aid.
9. Enlisting student participation in the reduction of health and safety hazards.
10. Promoting the best possible classroom environment including physical, emotional, and social aspects.

The School Nurse

The school nurse applies the principles of public health nursing to work with school children in the total environment of home, school, and community. The emphasis is on health in the program of the school rather than upon a school nursing program.

He/she understands the health needs of children and serves on a team which includes the school administrator, teachers, parents, physicians, and a wide range of community agencies in getting these needs met. The nurse, thereby, becomes a member of two professions--nursing and education, with an understanding of social work interwoven into his/her educational background. The responsibilities of the school nurse include

1. Giving leadership and guidance in the development of a school health program in cooperation with the total health program of the community.
2. Serving as a consultant to the administrator and teacher in regard to the health needs of the students.
3. Serving as a member of the school health council.
4. Participating in teachers' and parents' meetings and assisting in planning and conducting inservice health education programs.
5. Working with all school personnel to make health education function in the daily life of the pupil and acting as a resource person in securing and presenting suitable teaching materials to the students.
6. Assisting the administrator in evaluating the health education program.

Downey Unified School District

INSTRUCTION

HEALTH - continued

AR 3142

The School Nurse - continued

7. Working with the administrator and others in defining the objectives for the health appraisal of the students.
8. Reporting and interpreting the findings and recommendations of the health appraisal to persons concerned with the student; organizing a careful follow-up on all case findings.
9. Utilizing community resources in counseling with parent, administrators, teachers, and others to meet health needs of the pupils.
10. Recognizing signs and symptoms of physical, mental, and emotional problems and making the necessary referrals.
11. Rendering first aid and giving leadership and guidance in accident prevention programs.
12. Participating in maintaining a safe and healthful school environment.
13. Completing vision and hearing screening in the schools.

Mandatory Examination of Visual Acuity

The procedure shall follow the recommendations of the California State Department of Public Health and California State Department of Education. A publication outlining the testing program entitled "A Guide for Vision Screening of Children in the Public Schools of California" can be obtained from the State Department of Education.

Upon first enrollment of a child in a California elementary school, and at least every third year thereafter until the child has completed the 8th grade, the child's vision shall be appraised by the school nurse or other authorized persons under the Education Code. This evaluation shall include tests for visual acuity and color vision; however, color vision shall be appraised once and only on male children, and the results of the appraisal shall be entered in the health record of the pupil. Color vision appraisal need not begin until the male pupil has reached the first grade. The evaluation may be waived according to the Education Code.

Downey Unified School District

INSTRUCTION

HEALTH - continued

AR 3142

Hearing Screening

The procedure for screening pupils for possible hearing loss shall follow the recommendations of the California State Department of Education and Public Health in the guide entitled "Hearing Testing of School Children and Guide for Hearing Conservation Programs" that is available to the schools.

Each pupil shall be given a screening test in kindergarten or first grade and in second, fifth, eighth, and tenth or eleventh grades.

Teachers shall be supplied with information as to signs and symptoms of visual and hearing problems to facilitate early referrals.

Follow-up on Vision and Hearing Screening Programs:

1. Report to parents the results of the screening. Better public relations are created if this is done through a conference or by telephone. If this is not possible, a written report on an approved form should be sent to the parents.
2. The school nurse shall compile a list of community resources and refer parents, as deemed necessary.
3. Prepare a written report for the principal and the teacher on the results of the screening and the recommendations.
4. Set up a system of careful follow-up on the students with defects.
5. Record screening results on health record.