

Talking Points for Nursing Services

- After Governor Murphy's fully funding of the Public School Funding Formula, for the first time in history last year, we believe that this effort represents an important point that should be stressed when making the appropriate "ask" for nonpublic schools.
- The goal is to have a full-time state-funded nurse in every nonpublic school. Many small nonpublic schools do not have a full-time nurse (use figures from your own constituency).
- The cost of nursing services for nonpublic school students is controlled by Budget language on an annual basis.
- Public schools receive a combination of funding which permits the presence of a nurse in the public school building during the time that school is in session.
- When nursing services began during the 1991-1992 school year, the per-pupil amount was \$60.00 per pupil. The current per-pupil amount is \$130.00. Therefore, that amount has only risen by \$70.00 per pupil since the inception of the program, in spite of additional cost factors that would affect the amount of time a nurse can spend in a building.
- Such factors include the fact that most of the nonpublic school nursing services is provided what is known as a "third party provider." Those organizations would include special services school districts, educational services commissions, and private entities, such as Catapult.
- Our efforts to extend the amount available for nursing services is also hampered by the Department of Education's requirement that an RN be used when the duties for nonpublic nurses stated in statute (attached to these "Talking Points") clearly indicates that the presence of an LPN would be sufficient. There is a significant difference between the hourly rate charged by providers for an RN as opposed to an LPN.
- The scarcity of available individuals to serve as school nurses has caused the increase in the salary rate charged by service providers. We believe that the per-pupil amount should be raised to \$150.00 to cover the increased cost of nurses' salaries and the cost of other requirements imposed by the Legislature.
- The additional duties of school nurses imposed by the Legislature since the inception of program includes additional assistance for students involving asthma, and the need for Narcan, epinephrine and various other medications which require appropriate authorization to be dispensed. Each one requires the presence of a nurse for administration, except in cases of extreme emergency.
- Nurses are first responders in cases of emergencies. Such conditions include hazardous waste spills, fire, injuries cause by the presence of unauthorized individuals on school grounds, etc.