

RHODE ISLAND SCHOOL HEALTH MANUAL

Model Guidelines

I. INTRODUCTION

The Rhode Island School Health Manual Model Guidelines document was developed for the purpose of providing recommendations, resources, and guidelines to school nurses and other school health personnel for coordinated school health practice and programs throughout the state. This manual is aligned with the *Rules and Regulations for School Health Programs* and with school health-related statutes, regulations and protocols that ensure the health and safety of students at all Rhode Island schools. This manual is meant to help guide the development of a school health manual and/or to supplement existing school health manuals.

According to the RI Rules and Regulations for School Health Programs (Section 2.2), each community, school district and appropriate non-public school authority (e.g. the superintendent, the headmaster, or the principal) shall be responsible for a comprehensive school health program (health education, health services, healthful school environment) and shall develop a manual of procedures (protocols) governing health education, health services and a healthful school environment. This manual shall be available at the Superintendent's office and at each school, both public and non-public, within the district.

a. Role of the School Nurse

According to the RI Rules and Regulations for School Health Programs, a certified school nurse-teacher shall provide population-based health services (Section 7.1 of the [Rules and Regulations](#)) to school children in public and non-public schools in the community. The certified school nurse-teacher shall provide individualized health services (Section 7.2 of the [Rules and Regulations](#)) to all public school children in the community.

- National Association of School Nurses Position Statement: [Role of the School Nurse](#)

b. Role of the School Administrator

According to the RI *Rules and Regulations for School Health Programs*, each community, school district and appropriate non-public school authority (e.g. the superintendent, the headmaster, or the principal) shall be responsible for a comprehensive school health program (health education, health services, healthful school environment) and shall develop a manual of procedures (protocols) governing health education, health services and a healthful school environment.

RHODE ISLAND COORDINATED SCHOOL HEALTH PROGRAM - [THRIVE](#)

School success and academic achievement are built on a strong foundation of healthy students learning in safe and caring school environments. **Coordinated school health programs** make the connection between health and student achievement.

thrive, Rhode Island's Coordinated School Health Program (CSHP) was developed in 1994 with funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and designed to prevent serious health problems and to improve educational outcomes.

As partners, the Rhode Island Departments of Education (**RIDE**) and Health (**HEALTH**) work to build infrastructure supports with state, school, and community partners to help create safe, healthy, and nurturing schools that reduce barriers to learning. Aligned with the Rhode Island Department of Education Strategic Plan, Basic Education Program, and Health and Physical Education Frameworks, **thrive** has also been successful in:

- Effecting legislative and regulatory changes,
- Developing and implementing policy as well as standards-based curriculum, instruction, and assessment, and
- Designing and providing professional development opportunities for school administrators, policy-makers, teachers, parents, students, and community organizations.