

**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT FOR SCHOOL-BASED NURSES
BETWEEN THE SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
AND THE
SCHOOL DISTRICT (DISTRICT) FOR THE 2021–22 SCHOOL YEAR.**

I. BACKGROUND

The South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) allocates funding for school nurses. Historically, as required per S.C. Code Ann. § 59-10-210 Student Health and Fitness Act (SHFA), the General Assembly annually appropriates funds to the SCDE to provide licensed nurses for public elementary schools. For the 2021–22 school year, the General Assembly has appropriated additional funds to be used for the purpose of enabling every S.C. public school to have a full-time school nurse. The Office of Health and Nutrition administers these funds to school districts for the sole purpose of employing licensed nurses in public K–12 schools to improve the school health infrastructure.

II. DISTRICT REQUIREMENTS FOR FUNDING AND USE OF FUNDS

For the 2021–22 school year, the Office of Finance expects the final allocation to be \$21,097.27 per nurse. A district is eligible to receive up to this amount to employ full-time, appropriately qualified and licensed school nurses that serve in a K–12 school. In order to receive and/or maintain funding in accordance with this program, the district agrees to and assures the SCDE of the following:

Pursuant to S.C. Code § 59-10-210, School District Responsibilities:

Declaration of District and School Orientation: The school district will provide each school nurse with a district-level and school-level orientation that includes policies and procedures related to school health services.

Declaration of Clinical Supervision for Nurses: The school district will provide all nurses with appropriate clinical* supervision and licensed practical nurses will be supervised by a registered nurse as required by the SC Board of Nursing. *Clinical supervision differs from administrative supervision in that clinical supervision focuses on supporting and evaluating a nurse's knowledge, skills, and decision-making abilities related to safe and competent nursing practice.

Declaration of Responsibility for Individual Health Care Plans: The school district will provide all nurses with time during the workday to complete individual health care plans for students pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 59-63-80.

Additionally:

- Funds appropriated for school nurses must be used to provide nursing services for K–12 schools.
- The district accounts for the specific amounts and uses of all funds provided pursuant to this agreement and agrees not to use these funds for any purpose except in accordance with this agreement. If the SCDE finds the district is using these funds for any other purpose besides nursing services provided by a licensed nurse, the SCDE shall withhold the remaining balance of funds and seek recoupment of the funds spent in an unauthorized manner.
- The district provides information on the names, licensure level, and school assignment for nurses funded by the state appropriations to the SCDE.

- By accepting the funds, the district agrees the funds will not be used to supplant existing school district expenditures on school nurses.

III. JOB QUALIFICATIONS

A school nurse is defined as a Registered Nurse. Licensed practical nurses may be employed to supplement the recommended number of registered nurses to assure that each school has immediate access to nursing services.

Definitions of Terms Used:

Licensed Nurse - A person to whom the South Carolina Board of Nursing has issued an authorization to practice either as an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse, a Registered Nurse, or a Licensed Practical Nurse.

Registered Nurse (RN) - A person to whom the South Carolina Board of Nursing has issued an authorization to practice as a Registered Nurse.

Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) - A person to whom the South Carolina Board of Nursing has issued an authorization to practice as a Licensed Practical Nurse.

IV. TERMS AND TERMINATION

The SCDE reserves the right to withdraw funding issued pursuant to this agreement if the SCDE determines that the school or district is not utilizing such funding in a manner consistent with legislative requirements for funding, qualifications, and the roles and responsibilities as outlined herein.

V. SIGNATURES

District

Print Name of District Superintendent

Signature of District Superintendent

Date

Superintendent Email Address

South Carolina Department of Education

Signature of State Superintendent of Education

Date

*Scan the completed signature page of the Memorandum of Agreement and email to:
Victoria Ladd, State School Nurse Consultant, Office of Health and Nutrition at vladd@ed.sc.gov.*