

**POLICY**  
**RI SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF**  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**Licensed One-to-One Nurses in the School Setting**

**Guiding Principle & Purpose**

The Continuity of Care for Medically Fragile Students Act identifies the necessity for medically-fragile students to have the same level of nursing care available at school that they receive at home. Some medically fragile students require individual nursing care throughout the school day to have access to their education. A physician determines the individual needs of the student and is required to write the medical orders to be followed in the school setting. In addition, a nursing plan of care is provided by the nursing agency and/or school district identifying specifics of care.

Medically-fragile students who suffer from a life- threatening medical condition require continuous *one nurse to one student* health care services, more than can be available from the school nurse educator. They are often diagnosed with potentially life-threatening illnesses that may require emergent nursing intervention. Nursing services are based on a medically-fragile student's individualized education plan and a physician's medical orders, as provided by a registered nurse or licensed practical nurse with specialized pediatric training who attends to the student's health care needs. This function cannot be performed by a family member at Rhode Island School for the Deaf.

**Policy**

Any individual providing 1:1 nursing care at the Rhode Island School for the Deaf is required to have a valid Rhode Island Nurse License from the Department of Health. The licensed nurse is generally employed by a nursing agency that is contracted under an agreement with the family and the LEA responsible for the district the student lives in. The licensed nurse providing individual care to one student is not employed by the Rhode Island School for the Deaf. A parent or family member who does not hold a nursing license cannot fulfill the role of a one to one nurse.

The School Nurse Educator at the Rhode Island School for the Deaf is required for employment to hold a current school nurse teacher certificate issued by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education with a current professional license as a registered nurse issued by the Rhode Island Department of Health. In addition to his or her school-wide responsibilities, the School Nurse Educator is responsible to oversee the care plan provided by the nursing agency or school district for individual care provided. The school nurse also creates a general plan of care for the student that is agreed upon by the school nurse and the parents in addition to the specific individual nurse's plan.

The contracted licensed nurse is responsible for the daily care of the student in his or her care, including field trips, and may travel to and from school with the student. The Rhode Island School for the Deaf School Nurse Educator is responsible to oversee the care provided by the contracted licensed nurse and to act responsibly if it is perceived the care is inadequate or questionable by informing the agency, the parent and the district. All injuries or incidents occurring on school grounds will be assessed by the School Nurse Educator, who will determine if emergency care is required and report to the parent.

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