

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.

State of Arkansas
91st General Assembly
Regular Session, 2017

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1517

By: Representatives A. Mayberry, Bentley

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT CONCERNING SCHOOL NURSING; TO MODIFY THE
REQUIREMENTS FOR A SCHOOL NURSE; AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES.

Subtitle

CONCERNING SCHOOL NURSING AND TO MODIFY
THE REQUIREMENTS FOR A SCHOOL NURSE.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 17, Subchapter 1, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

6-17-121. Evaluation of school nurses.

(a)(1) The nursing components of the annual evaluation of a nurse employed by or contracting with a public school district shall be based on a school nursing performance evaluation rubric developed and provided by the Department of Education in consultation with the Department of Health.

(2) The school nursing performance evaluation rubric developed under subdivision (a)(1) of this section shall be incorporated into a public school district's standard evaluation form.

(b)(1) The nursing components of the annual evaluation required under subsection (a) of this section shall be conducted by a school nurse supervisor if a school nurse supervisor is employed by or contracting with the public school district.

(2)(A) A school nurse supervisor who is hired by or enters into a contract with a public school district on or after July 1, 2019, shall hold an active professional license issued by the Arkansas State Board of Nursing



as a registered nurse, an advanced practice registered nurse, or a registered nurse practitioner.

(B) It is recommended that a school nurse supervisor who is hired by or enters into a contract with a public school district on or after July 1, 2019:

(i) Hold a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree or its equivalent;

(ii) Have at least five (5) years' experience as a licensed nurse with at least two (2) years' experience as a licensed registered nurse;

(iii) Have at least three (3) years' experience as a school nurse;

(iv) Have at least one (1) year's experience as a supervisor of nurses; and

(v) Hold current certification in:

(a) Cardiopulmonary resuscitation;

(b) The use of an automated external defibrillator;

(c) First aid; and

(d) Screening for scoliosis, hearing, vision, and body mass index.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-18-706(b), concerning school nurse qualifications, is amended to read as follows:

(b)(1) For purposes of this section, "school nurse" means a licensed nurse engaging in school nursing activities.

(2)(A) A school nurse supervisor who is hired by or enters into a contract with a public school district on or after July 1, 2019, shall hold an active professional license issued by the Arkansas State Board of Nursing as a registered nurse, an advanced practice registered nurse, or a registered nurse practitioner.

(B) It is recommended that a school nurse supervisor who is hired by or enters into a contract with a public school district on or after July 1, 2019:

(i) Hold a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree or its equivalent;

(ii) Have at least five (5) years' experience as a licensed nurse with at least two (2) years' experience as a licensed registered nurse;

(iii) Have at least three (3) years' experience as a school nurse;

(iv) Have at least one (1) year's experience as a supervisor of nurses; and

(v) Hold current certification in:

(a) Cardiopulmonary resuscitation;

(b) The use of an automated external defibrillator;

(c) First aid; and

(d) Screening for scoliosis, hearing, vision, and body mass index.