

INTRODUCTION:
THE NEW MEXICO SCHOOL HEALTH MANUAL
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INTRODUCTION

The New Mexico School Health Manual was developed for the purpose of providing recommendations and guidelines to school nurses and other school health personnel for coordinated school health practice and programs throughout the state. NM state mandates that regulate school health practice are included in Section II.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The NM School Health Manual was created in 1995 through the collaborative efforts of two groups: one review committee of the NM School Nurse Association (NMSNA) plus a state review committee comprised of staff from the Department of Health, the Public Education Department and representation from the NMSNA committee. The precedent established by that process has been honored in all subsequent revisions of the manual.

As the health related demands on schools continue to increase, a diverse group of school health and educational professionals contribute to maintaining current information in this manual as guidelines for all New Mexico schools. Revised material represents input from school counselors/social workers, therapists, nutritionists, health educators, physicians as well as a core group of school nurses. Medical information in the manual revisions is reviewed by Department of Health staff to assure relevance and appropriateness of that information.

This manual is the result of the commitment of many individuals who are dedicated to one of the future's greatest resources---children. All who have contributed to this process are honored for their work and dedication.

The NM Office of School Health (OSH) in the Department of Health assumes responsibility for editing and maintaining the NM School Health Manual web site. OSH has a varied staff of nurses, physicians, mental health workers and administrative professionals and assistants to support and promote school health as well as assist with resolving issues around school health. In the Public Education Department the School Health Unit staff is available for consultation on school health issues.

NOTE ON CD VERSION

The New Mexico School Health Manual is now on electronic file and is available on the Internet @ www.nmschoolhealthmanual.org and in limited supplies on CD from the Office of School Health (OSH). One updated CD copy is available annually for distribution to each NM school district and can be replicated by the district as needed. The OSH continues to assist users of the Manual to transition from the historical hard copy to the Web-based version.

To maintain an up-to-date hard copy of the Manual the user should print a copy of the entire Manual from the Web site. All revisions are noted on the "Guide to Revisions" menu selection for a period of two years. To maintain a current hard copy, it is advisable to replace the entire Section noted with revisions so that pagination remains correct and tables of content page numbers are correct; page numbers may change when materials are revised and/or added.

Any CD version of the Manual will be current only up to the date of its printing. School nurses are encouraged to use the Web-based version of the Manual because it will always contain the most current information. For some school nurses this may require working with school administrators to obtain the appropriate computer equipment and accessibility to the Internet. It is important to have that capability so that current Manual information is always accessible.

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