

Information on In State Field Trips

Kentucky law requires a public school to provide students “health services ... in a school setting.” KRS 156.502 <http://www.lrc.ky.gov/KRS/156-00/502.PDF>. This statute allows for the provision of these “health services” which are defined as “administration of medication; the operation, maintenance, or health care through the use of medical equipment; or the administration of clinical procedures. ‘Health services’ does not include first aid or emergency procedures.” This statute allows for these services to be provided by a physician or a nurse and allows a physician or a nurse to train and delegate these duties, as necessary, to school employees who have no other medical training. The Kentucky Board of Nursing has issued an advisory opinion in which it stated that this is not a wholesale ability for nurses to delegate any health services that they would personally perform and the restriction of what can be delegated is quite narrow and excludes any task which includes the use of clinical judgment. See KBN Advisory Opinion Statement (AOS) 15 and AOS 30 and 201 KAR 20:400 at <http://www.lrc.ky.gov/kar/201/020/400.htm>. The Kentucky Board of Medical Licensure has issued an opinion regarding the delegation by a physician of “health services” in a school setting.

Please Note: This information is not new. School nurses are aware of this information and should continue to do what they have done for in state field trips.