

POSITION DESCRIPTION: *Consulting Physician/Community Healthcare Provider*

What are the responsibilities of consulting physicians, or school-contracted doctors, to improve school health services?

1. Assist in the development of school or district health programs.
2. Develop health and safety policies.
3. Provide health education to school staff.
4. Consult on health education programs and curricula.
5. Form linkages between schools and physicians/clinics in their neighborhoods.
6. Assist with health-oriented grant applications.
7. Advocate on behalf of schools and districts.
8. Communicate with students' own physicians when there are medical issues that the school must address.
9. Act as on-call consultants to school nurses.
10. Help to inform physicians/community health providers in the community about:
 - school health policies
 - school health needs
 - the school health environment
11. Help to evaluate and assess school health programs.

Notes:

- a. Consulting physicians do not take on students as their own patients!
- b. For asthma, some physicians in the community are more likely to modify their diagnosis or management after having discussed the case with a fellow physician (a school physician/community healthcare provider who is knowledgeable about asthma) than they are after having spoken to a non-health professional or even a school nurse. It is not the school physician's role to diagnose, assess the clinical status or treat students directly (unless there is a school-based clinic). The school physician can update school nurses and other school staff on asthma management issues. The school physician can assist the nurses with identifying regular protocols and forms as well as emergency procedures related to asthma.