DRAFT POLICY

Private Duty Nurses

In some instances children with significant medical conditions present with a previously chosen private duty nurse hired by the family. The Board of Education recognizes the right of a child to have a private duty nurse when the private physician has documented medical need and the Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) has so stipulated.

While a private duty nurse is working within the home setting, the private duty nurse falls under the authority of the parent. However, when a private duty nurse is in the district, the district has the ultimate responsibility for a child’s safety and, therefore, the nursing/medical oversight of the private duty nurse falls under the authority of the district, regardless of who hired the private duty nurse. Additionally, the principal has the authority to monitor and control the conduct of the private duty nurse as with any other staff member while the private duty nurse is working within the district.

Specifically, inside the school the private duty nurse is subject to the nursing oversight and supervision of the school nurse and/or district physician for all nursing/medical matters, and the principal for all other matters. The school nurse’s responsibility is to ensure that the private duty nurse is conducting nursing tasks safely, properly, and in conjunction with medical orders of a licensed physician or physician extender and within the laws that govern the private duty nurse’s scope of practice. The principal’s responsibility is to ensure the private duty nurse limits her interactions to medically necessary nursing duties as documented by the private health care provider, and that the private duty nurse; does not interfere with instruction of the child, conduct him/herself in an inappropriate manner, or create a disruption to the general school community.

If a child needs constant nursing care, the child’s health insurance normally covers whatever expenses are incurred by the family’s hiring of the private duty nurse. It is not the district’s responsibility to pay for private duty nursing services in instances where constant nursing care is required. When there are questions concerning payment, the district administration will be involved immediately.

All private duty nursing services shall be listed on the IEP and shall designate only those specific nursing services that have been authorized by the child’s private health care provider.

Administrative regulations/procedures will be developed to govern this policy.