



**New York State Association  
of School Nurses**  
www.nysasn.org

**POSITION STATEMENT #11  
THE ROLE OF LPNS AND EMTS IN THE SCHOOL SETTING**

It is the position of the NYSASN that the role of the Licensed Practical Nurse and the Emergency Medical Technician in the school setting must reflect their scope of practice. NYSASN agrees that there is a place for the LPN and possibly the EMT in school. However, due to the laws and regulations that define their scope of practice, neither can take on the role of the school nurse nor function independently of the school nurse. When a school system hires a nurse for a health services program, a Registered Professional Nurse must be employed according to New York state education laws.

The NYSASN believes that the appropriate role for the LPN in the school setting is as an assistant to the school nurse. In this capacity (as defined by the Nurse Practice Act), the LPN may perform initial vision and hearing screenings, work in the classroom or health office with a student who has specialized health care needs, document physical examinations and screenings on the cumulative health record and assist the school nurse in doing assessments.

The NYSASN believes that the only appropriate role for the EMT in the school setting is as an unlicensed person under the strict direction of the school nurse. The EMT may perform only certain NON-NURSING tasks delegated by the Registered Professional School Nurse.

Based upon NY state laws and regulations, NYSASN supports the fact that the school nurse must be responsible for all decision making regarding the nursing care provided in the school setting and which activities may be delegated to the LPN. The school nurse must provide written protocols for the LPN to follow in everyday situations that would arise (i.e. head injuries, abdominal pain, musculo-skeletal injuries, etc.) in addition to the written care plans for students with specialized health care needs. The school nurse must receive and review all medication orders and write medication administrative plans for the LPN to follow. The school nurse must be available to provide direction in all situations requiring Registered Professional Nursing assessment and intervention.