



# School District Medical Advisors

## **Wisconsin physicians, do you want to improve the health of children and make an impact in your community?**

Become a school district medical advisor. Your knowledge of children's health can make a positive impact on the students in your community. By volunteering less than a few hours a month, you can help school faculty and staff improve the health and safety of students and help eliminate barriers to learning.

School health has changed dramatically in the last decade. Schools need your expertise as they work with children returning to school with more complex health and medication concerns. Students and parents depend on school staff to monitor medical conditions and, in some cases, administer treatment that would not have been possible only a few years ago.

A medical advisor serves primarily as a consultant to the school district on a variety of health issues. By law, each school district in Wisconsin must have a medical advisor (MD or DO). However, every year as many as 40 school districts out of the 421 cannot find a physician to act as their medical advisor. Therefore, the State Medical Society of Wisconsin, the American Academy of Pediatrics-Wisconsin Chapter and the Wisconsin Academy of Family Physicians have teamed up with the Department of Public Instruction and the Wisconsin Association of School Nurses to encourage all member physicians to consider becoming a school district medical advisor.

## **Role of a Medical Advisor**

- Collaborate with school nursing staff on a variety of health concerns.
- Consult in the development of emergency medical response protocols.
- Interpret medical directives for students with special health care needs.
- Serve on the school's health advisory committee or school board.
- Advise the school board or district superintendent on medical issues.



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# School District Medical Advisors (cont'd)

## Duties of a Medical Advisor

### Examples of Advisory Duties:

Consult and advise on policies and procedures; develop policies and procedures for emergency first aid and illness and medication administration; consult in the prevention, identification, and control of communicable disease; consult on issues related to the school environment and physical plant; assist in development of sports medicine policies and procedures; participate in the development of health education programs.

### Examples of Advocacy and Mediation Duties:

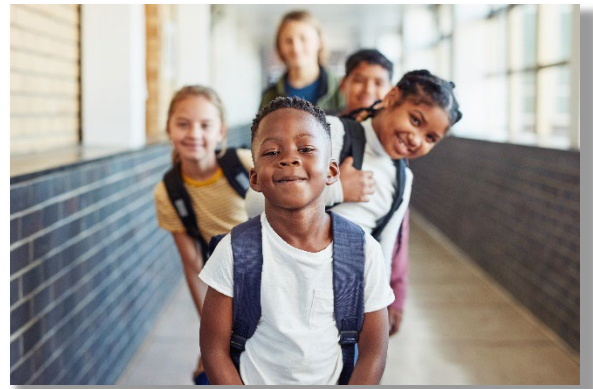
Work to assure and improve communication between the school district and local primary care physicians/clinics in the general operation of school health services advocate for students with special health care needs by providing an unbiased medical opinion regarding appropriate school health services.

### Time Commitment:

The time required of a district medical advisor would depend greatly on the needs and desires of the school district. In most cases, a memorandum of understanding (MOU) will be created to define and clarify the duties, responsibilities and expectations of the medical advisor.

### Legal Issues:

In most cases, a physician's medical malpractice insurance will cover his or her duties as a school district medical advisor. The physician and the district should establish a clear understanding of other legal concerns (medical records, communication about individual patients, etc.).



*The health of  
students in your  
community  
depends on you.*

### Compensation:

Some larger districts compensate medical advisors for their time, while in other cases, this is strictly a volunteer position. Again, the physician and school district should discuss and clarify the issue of compensation.

### Endorsed by:

- State Medical Society of Wisconsin
- American Academy of Pediatrics, WI Chapter
- Wisconsin Academy of Family Physicians
- Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction
- Wisconsin Association of School Nurses



## For More Information

Visit the DPI webpage: [School Nursing and Health Services Resources and Publications](#)

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