

Comparison of school setting health services provider qualifications and scopes of practice for Alaska:

| Scope of Practice | Registered Nurse (RN) | Licensed Practical Nurse or Licensed Vocational Nurse (LPN, LVN) | Unlicensed Assistive Personnel (UAP) |
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| Definition | <p>AS 08.68.850(9) the “practice of registered nursing” means the performance for compensation or personal profit of acts of professional service that requires substantial specialized knowledge, judgment, and skill based on the principles of biological, physiological, behavioral, and sociological sciences in assessing and responding to the health needs of individuals, families, or communities through services that include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A) assessment of problems, counseling, and teaching <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) clients to maintain health or prevent illness; and (ii) in the care of the ill, injured, or infirm B) administration, supervision, delegation, and evaluation of nursing practice; C) teaching others the skills of nursing D) execution of a medical regimen as prescribed by a person authorized by the state to practice medicine; E) performance of other acts that require education and training that are recognized by | <p>AS 08.68.850(8) the “practice of practical nursing” means the performance for compensation or personal profit of nursing functions that do not require the substantial specialized skill, judgment, and knowledge of a registered nurse.</p> | <p>AS 08.68.850(10) “unlicensed assistive personnel” means persons, such as orderlies, assistants, attendants, technicians, members of a nursing client’s immediate family, or the guardian of a nursing client, who are not licensed to practice practical nursing, registered nursing, medicine , or any other health occupation that requires a license in this state. In 12 AAC 44.965 (b) (3), a “school setting provider” is defined as “a person who is employed at a school that provides educational services to students age 21 or younger.” School setting providers are unlicensed assistive personnel.</p> |

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| | <p>the nursing profession as properly performed by registered nurses;</p> <p>F) performance of acts of medical diagnosis and the prescription of medical therapeutic or corrective measures under regulations adopted by the board.</p> | | |
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| Function independently in a school setting | May work independently in the school setting. An RN may practice nursing under his/her own license as defined 08.68.850(9). | AS 08.68.265 Supervision of practical nurses: A practical nurse shall work under the supervision of a licensed registered nurse, a licensed physician, or a licensed dentist. March 2001 Alaska Board of Nursing Advisory Opinion: A licensed practical nurse may not work independently as a school nurse. http://www.dced.state.ak.us/occ/pub_nursing_opinions/Practice_Opinions_LP_N.pdf . | Are unlicensed and thus must be delegated nursing tasks as defined in 12 AAC.990(26). |
| Assessment | Can provide a “comprehensive assessment” for a student which is defined in 12 AAC 44.990(25) as the initial and ongoing collection of information about the student to anticipate and recognize changes in the student’s medical condition or health status, synthesize the biological, psychological, and social aspects of the student’s medical condition, evaluate the impact of health care, make decisions regarding changes in care, plan nursing interventions, | Can provide a “focused assessment” defined in 12 AAC 44.990(27) as an appraisal of the patient’s medical status and condition, contributing to ongoing data collection, and deciding who needs to be informed of the information and when to inform. A comprehensive assessment is not delegable by an RN as per 12 AAC 44.970(1). June 2002 Board of Nursing Advisory Opinion – “triage patient assessments are outside the scope of | Can collect information such as the health interview form, medication authorization or other communication from parent/guardian and/or health care provider under direction of the RN. Assessment, comprehensive or focused, may not be delegated by an RN or LPN to a UAP as per 12 AAC.44.970(1)(2). |

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| | evaluate the need for different interventions, and communicate and consult with the other health care providers regarding the patient's medical treatment. | practice for the LPN." http://www.dced.state.ak.us/occ/pub_nursing_opinions/Practice_Opinions_LP_N.pdf | |
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| Formulation of the plan of nursing care and evaluation of the student's response to the care | The RN develops and implements the Individualized Healthcare Plan (IHP) and Emergency Care Plan (ECP) for students with complex healthcare needs and evaluates the student's response to the plan of care. | Not delegable to an LPN as per 12 AAC 44.970(3). The LPN may contribute information to the development and evaluation of the IHP and ECP but cannot formulate the plan or evaluate student responses to the care. | Not delegable to a UAP as per 12 AAC 44.970(3). The UAP may contribute information to the development and evaluation of the IHP and ECP but cannot formulate the plan or evaluate student responses to the care. |
| Health education and health counseling | Within the RN scope of practice | Not within the LPN/LVN scope of practice or delegable by an RN as per 12 AAC 44.970(4). | Not delegable to a UAP by an RN as per 12 AAC.44.970(4). |
| Medication management | Within the RN scope of practice | May administer under the supervision of a RN; may not provide medication management for unstable medical conditions requiring ongoing assessment and adjustment of dosage or timing of administration as per 12 AAC 44.970(10). | May administer under the delegation and supervision of an RN; may not provide medication management for unstable medical conditions requiring ongoing assessment and adjustment of dosage or timing of administration as per 12 AAC 44.970(10). If not a delegable medication by an RN (i.e., injectable medication, as needed controlled substance, medication via gastrostomy), may administer by delegation and authorization from the parent with training from the RN. See Medication Administration Delegation Decision Tree http://dhss.alaska.gov/dp/h/wcfh/Documents/school/assets/MedAdmin_Deleg |

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| Training & Education | Minimum of two years of study (Associate of Science in Nursing prepares the RN to work in a <u>health care</u> institutional setting). The Bachelor of Science in Nursing is a four year degree that prepares the nurse to practice in health care institutional settings as well as community based settings including schools. | Usually a one year program of study that does not include community based nursing knowledge and skill preparation. | Unlicensed, minimal training, if any. |

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