



**North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Public Health • Women's & Children's Health Section**

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Michael F. Easley, Governor

Carmen Hooker Odom, Secretary

MEMORANDUM

TO: Local Health Directors
Superintendents of Schools

FROM: Carol Tant, Head, Children and Youth Branch
Jessica Gerdes, State School Nurse Consultant

SUBJECT: LHD/LEA Memorandum of Agreement

The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction and the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services/Division of Public Health share a commitment to provide school aged children and youth a free, appropriate, public education in the least restrictive environment in an atmosphere that promotes good mental and physical health.

In light of this, a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between each local health department and each local school system is an important part of the requirements of the Child Health Agreement Addenda for all local health departments. The purpose of this MOA is to clarify the roles and responsibilities of each agency and to promote a dialogue regarding school health between agencies.

Attached is a list of suggested services and activities that will help you to develop a meaningful Memorandum of Agreement, tailored to your community's needs. A well-designed MOA can help communities establish priorities and avoid confusion during situations such as communicable disease outbreaks, disasters and emergencies. By making joint decisions in advance about the role of school health staff in these potential situations, the loss of time can be avoided when time becomes critical.

The importance of school health has never been higher. Increasingly, communities are recognizing the role that good health plays in the academic success of students. Local health departments and local school systems are the primary agencies entrusted with the health and education of our children and youth, and it is imperative that they work together.

The Memorandum of Agreement must be updated annually, and a copy sent to this office (address above) by September 1 of *each* year.

If you have questions regarding your Memorandum of Agreement, please contact your Regional School Nurse Consultant, or Jessica Gerdes, the State School Nurse Consultant, at 919-707-5667, or Jessica.Gerdes@ncmail.net.

CC: Carol Tyson, Manager, School Health Unit
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Regional School Nurse Consultants