

Special Education Medical Review Training for Registered Nurses

[ISBE Rule 226.160, Special Education, Subpart B](#): Identification of Eligible Children, Medical Review, requires that medical review be performed by clinicians who hold either an RN license or MD license. Beginning July 1, 2016, the clinician completing medical review must be an RN who holds ISBE license (PEL endorsed in school nursing) or RN that has met one of two other options for authorization to complete medical review: RN who has completed a special education web course offered by ISBE, or RN that has passed the School Nurse Content Exam offered by Illinois Licensure Testing System. **The web course is free; the content exam is not free.**

Course option:

The spring (April-May) session of the course is underway.

Beginning August 1, 2015, enrollment will be taken for next school year, with sessions to run 6 weeks, from Oct. 7 – Nov. 17, 2015; Jan. 13 – Feb. 23, 2016, and April 13 – May 24, 2016. Applicants for any of those 3 sessions are to call Jessica Gerdes, 312-814-8252, **on or after August 1, 2015**, following their submission of the required documents (see items 1-4).

RNs who are required by their administration to take this course must meet the following requirements and send documents **via email only**, to jgerdes@isbe.net. No mailed or faxed documents will be accepted, due to the sensitive nature of some of the documents.

- 1) Letter from a public school district or special education co-op administrator, or if RN is employed for such school nursing services through a contractual arrangement with another public entity, a letter from both the district/co-op and the contractual agency. The letter should indicate that the RN's duties include providing educational evaluation and instructional judgment for students being evaluated or re-evaluated for special education services, and that the named nurse is required to take this course in order to provide educational evaluation or instructional judgment of students through medical review as required by Rule 226.160 subsection (a)(5) for students being evaluated or re-evaluated for special education services; and that the district currently has no or an insufficient number of PEL licensed/endorsed RNs (formerly known as Type 73 Certified School Nurses), that would bring the district into full compliance with [Rule 226.160](#).
- 2) Cover letter from the RN with name, contact information (email and phone), nursing degree held (diploma, associate, bachelor's, master's) and statement that the RN does not, nor has previously held an ISBE Professional Educator License endorsement in school nursing (formerly called certification);
- 3) Copy of current RN licensure (expiration date of May 2016);
- 4) Proof of current employment in an Illinois public school or co-op or agency or from an agency contracted to provide nursing services to the public school or co-op (pay stub with SSN redacted). Applicants with promises of future employment will not be taken.

Test option:

An RN meeting the same requirements as above may register for and pass the School Nurse Content Exam and thereafter be authorized to complete Medical Review. For more information on completing the RNs Special Education Medical Review authorization by test, go to: <http://www.il.nesinc.com/>.

NOTE: Neither the course nor the testing options confer certification nor Professional Educator License endorsed for school nursing or any rights and privileges of certified staff. RNs who successfully complete this course or test will be able to continue to provide such evaluation and services in special education through the course of their employment in any Illinois public school as long as RN licensure and professional development requirements are met.

Questions may be directed to Jessica Gerdes, 312-814-8252 or jgerdes@isbe.net