

Public School Volunteer Health Care Practitioners

This SSL draft is compiled from Section 9 of Florida Chapter 230 of 2002. The draft provides incentives to health care practitioners to provide their services in the public schools without receiving compensation. The practitioner must be a licensed physician, physician assistant, nurse, pharmacist, optometrist, dentist, dental hygienist, midwife, speech pathologist or physical therapist who has submitted fingerprints, passed a background check and completed all forms procedures in order to participate in the program. A participating practitioner will receive a waiver for his or her biennial license renewal fee and 25 hours of continuing education credits. Active practitioners must volunteer at least 80 hours per school year and retired practitioners must volunteer 400 hours per school year to receive the waiver and education credits. School districts may schedule the practitioners at their discretion.

Submitted as:

Florida

Chapter 230 of 2002, Section 9

Status: Enacted into law in 2002.

Suggested State Legislation

(Title, enacting clause, etc.)

1 Section 1. [*Short Title.*] This Act may be cited as “An Act to Create a Public School
2 Volunteer Health Care Practitioner Program.”

3

4

Section 2. [*Public School Volunteer Health Care Practitioner Program.*]

5

(A) There is established a Public School Volunteer Health Care Practitioner Program to
6 provide incentives to encourage health care practitioners to provide their services, without
7 compensation, in the public schools; and such program is intended to complement other
8 programs designed to provide health services or increase the level of health care in the public
9 schools. School districts may establish a schedule for health care practitioners who participate in
10 the program.

11

(B) For purposes of this section, the term “health care practitioner” means a physician
12 licensed under [insert citation]; an osteopathic physician licensed under [insert citation], a
13 chiropractic physician licensed under [insert citation] a podiatric physician licensed under
14 [insert citation]; an optometrist licensed under [insert citation]; an advanced registered nurse
15 practitioner, registered nurse, or licensed practical nurse licensed under [insert citation]; a
16 pharmacist licensed under [insert citation]; a dentist or dental hygienist licensed under [insert
17 citation]; a midwife licensed under [insert citation]; a speech language pathologist or audiologist
18 licensed under [insert citation]; or a physical therapist licensed under [insert citation].

19

(C) (1) Notwithstanding [insert citation], any health care practitioner who
20 participates in the program established in this section and thereby agrees to provide services
21 without compensation, in a public school for at least [80 hours] a year for each school year
22 during the [biennial licensure period], or, if the health care practitioner is retired, for at least
23 [400 hours] a year for each school year during the licensure period, upon providing sufficient
24 proof from the applicable school district that the health care practitioner has completed such
25 hours at the time of license renewal under procedures specified by the [Department of Health],
26 shall be eligible for the following:

27 (i) Waiver of the biennial license renewal fee for an active license; and
28 (ii) Fulfillment of a maximum of [25 percent] of the continuing education
29 hours required for license renewal, pursuant to [insert citation].
30 (2) A health care practitioner must complete all forms and procedures for
31 participation in the program prior to the applicable license renewal date.
32 (D) To participate in the program, a health care practitioner must:
33 (1) Have a valid, active license to practice their profession in this state.
34 (2) Submit fingerprints and have a background screening in accordance with the
35 requirements of [insert citation], unless already provided and completed for practitioner
36 licensing, profiling, or credentialing purposes.
37 (E) The school district, through its self-insurance program, shall bear the cost of any
38 increase in premiums for liability protection for health care practitioners participating in the
39 program other than those employed by the school or school district.
40 (F) (1) The [Department of Health] shall have the responsibility to supervise the
41 program and perform periodic program reviews as provided in [insert citation].
42 (2) The [Department of Health], in cooperation with the [Department of
43 Education], shall publicize the availability of the program and its benefits.
44 (G) The [Department of Health], in cooperation with the [Department of Education],
45 may adopt rules necessary to implement this section. The rules shall include the forms to be
46 completed and procedures to be followed by applicants and school personnel under the program.
47 (H) The provisions of this section shall be implemented to the extent of specific
48 appropriations contained in the annual [General Appropriations Act] for such purpose.
49 (I) (1) The forms and procedures required by this section must be completed and
50 distributed to the school districts by [insert date].
51 (2) Each school district must make the application forms and any other materials
52 required by subsection (G) of this section available to all public schools in the district within [1
53 month] after the forms and procedures are completed and distributed to the school district.
54 (3) Publication of the program, as required by subsection (F)(2) of this section
55 must begin within [1 month] after the forms and procedures are completed and distributed to the
56 school district.

57
58 Section 3. [*Severability.*] [Insert severability clause.]

59
60 Section 4. [*Repealer.*] [Insert repealer clause.]

61
62 Section 5. [*Effective Date.*] [Insert effective date.]