

## FACT SHEET/TALKING POINTS ON NONPUBLIC SCHOOL NURSING SERVICES

- Nursing is a health and safety consideration which should be available with state funding for all students in both public and nonpublic schools. The health of nonpublic schools students is no less important that the health of public school students.
- The Legislature placed sufficient money in nursing services in the 2013-2014 school year to bring the amount to \$94.00 which would permit the increases in the CPI since the 1991-1992 school year. The Governor's Budget eliminated those increases last year and this year and placed the per-pupil amount for nonpublic school nursing services at \$85.00.
- This amount is not enough to cover the cost of living increases which were included as a requirement in the original legislation. The money needs to be restored in order for the schools that were able to cover additional hours of nursing as a result of the increases last year will be able to retain those hours for their nurses.
- Nonpublic school students and their parents are **held hostage** with respect to the extent and nature of nursing services as a result of the cost stated by nursing services providers (e.g. districts or third party contractors including special services school districts, education services commissions, or other private providers).
- These increases are also necessary to permit the required additional duties of school nurses as a result of legislation passed since the inception of the program. Such duties include the training of emergency personnel for such contingencies as the administration of epinephrine for anaphylactic shock, validation of medical records for a variety of potential medical conditions not anticipated in the 1991 legislation, as well as dealing with requirements for planning for students with diabetes, asthma, and other serious illnesses. **THE LEGISLATURE CONTINUES TO PASS REQUIREMENTS FOR SCHOOL NURSING SERVICES WITHOUT FUNDING POTENTIAL COSTS OF THESE SERVICES.**
- The cost of supplies needed by school nurses by schools continues to rise without any consideration of state funding for these increases.
- The cost of restoring these services would be minimal in the overall scheme of the State Budget.

***The effort to increase nonpublic school nursing services to its level of support in FY '15 can be made in various ways including class projects for letter writing and visits to appropriate legislators. Any trips to Trenton made between now and June by individual classes should include an opportunity to speak to legislators about the concerns of nursing services.***