

SRC and Dr. Hite:

I am Carol Heinsdorf.

In light of next year's budget and reading the PA School Code has me wondering whether SDP actions in issuing a recent RFP have been willful or ignorant of the Codes' provisions regarding school health services for those students who remain under your care.

Section 23.55 states that students' health records are to be kept in the school building, available to the nurse at all times. Reimbursement by the Commonwealth to districts for health services never identifies children individually by name, address, or social security number. According to the Code, reimbursement is made by aggregating and averaging daily attendance, maintaining student and family privacy. In the Code there is no mention of sending students' names, addresses and Social Security numbers OUT of the building, suggested by the SDP as a means by which a third party, private provider can be reimbursed.

Did you make clear in your RFP that the following school nurse services, required by the Commonwealth in the School Code, are NOT billable?

23.72 Maintaining records

23.71 Assisting in the health program and examining

23.73 Advising pupils, teachers, and parents

23.75 Providing information to the school community

23.78 Coordinating with community groups

Checking and following up on immunizations, 11 per child as stipulated by the PA Code, and segregating those not immunized during outbreak, is also a nurse's unbillable job. Immunization rates in Philadelphia now are among the highest in the nation.

It was interesting to read the nominal reimbursements for medical professionals made by the Commonwealth to a district, as stated in the Code. Physicians and dentists are reimbursed at not less than \$6 per pupil in average daily attendance; however, acknowledging the importance of school nurses, the Commonwealth reimburses for school nurses at a higher rate than either the \$6 doctors or dentists, the school nurse rate being not less than \$7. Are you setting up the SDP to lose money from the state?

Lastly, please take special note of Section 23.62, which directs that districts may contract with PUBLIC agencies for health services. Nowhere in the PA School Health Code does it state that districts may contract with PRIVATE agencies for children's school health services.

With the migration of "acceptable" students accepted into charter schools proliferating under the SRC, your duty of care is now for Philadelphia's most physically and emotionally fragile students.

In the time that remains of my three minutes, let us silently ponder in our hearts and minds the meaning of these Commonwealth statutes.

6/30/15 PA SCHOOL CODE