

Nursing Services in Oregon Public Schools

2021-22 Legislative Report

October 2022



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Executive Summary

People may think of school nursing as a simple job, requiring little more than a quick fix like a bandage or ice pack. However, delivering care in the school setting can be one of the most challenging work environments for nurses. Some students require complex nursing care to access their education safely, including management of seizures and diabetes, tracheostomy care, catheterization, tube feeding, and cardiac specialty care. School nurses provide nursing services directly to students. They also train other school staff to provide services via a formal nurse delegation process as required by the Oregon Nurse Practice Act.¹ School nurses provide school staff with a variety of training, from medication administration to coordinating life-saving treatment protocols. A school nurse is the only qualified school staff member able to provide care, train, and oversee the provision of nursing services needed by students.² In addition, school nurses oversee services and supports for general student populations, including health promotion and disease prevention.

Unlike practice settings where the primary service is healthcare, the school nurse position is largely autonomous and frequently practices without clinical supervision or support of other medical personnel nearby. This isolation often results in limited professional oversight or guidance; inconsistent processes and tools for providing, tracking, and documenting services; and limited support for emergency crisis response planning. These limitations can reduce the nurse's capacity to provide services such as support for students with less severe conditions, health education, and prevention programming.

This annual report to the legislature is a requirement of Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 336.201 and details statewide and district data regarding: (1) the availability of Registered Nurses (RNs) and Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs) and, (2) the number of students who are medically complex, medically fragile, and/or nursing dependent, as well as the remaining general student population in Oregon public schools. This report provides the state school nurse ratio as well as analysis on school nurse staffing for medically fragile, medically complex, and nursing dependent students.

¹ OAR 851-047-00300

² ORS 336.201

School Nursing Definition and Role

“School nursing is a specialized practice of nursing that advances the well-being, academic success, and lifelong achievement and health of students.”³

Two types of professional nurses, Registered Nurses (RNs) and Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs), may practice in the school setting. However, the scope of practice for each is distinct. In this report, the term “school nurse” is used to describe a Registered Nurse (RN) practicing in the school setting. ORS 336.201 defines a “school nurse” as a Registered Nurse with a Professional School Nurse certification. It further states that “a Registered Nurse or school nurse is responsible for coordinating the school nursing services provided to an individual student.” In Oregon schools, RNs may provide nursing assessment, direct care, clinical direction, delegation of health services, and supervision of other staff, including LPNs and unlicensed personnel. The following licensed professionals may provide nursing services in Oregon schools, and are included in this report:

1. Registered Nurses (RNs). Oregon law allows school districts to hire RNs licensed in the state of Oregon to provide school nursing services (ORS 336.201). However, schools may not designate these individuals as “school nurse” unless they hold a Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (TSPC) Professional School Nurse certificate (ORS 342.455; ORS 342.475). Per the nurse practice act, the RN scope of practice includes providing direct care; delegation of health service, clinical direction, and supervision of others including (LPNs) and unlicensed personnel; and health education and health policy development within the RN’s areas of competence. (OAR 851, division 45).
2. Certified School Nurses. Oregon law defines “school nurse” as a Registered Nurse (RN) who is certified by the TSPC as qualified to conduct and coordinate the health service programs of a school (ORS 342.455; ORS 342.475).
3. Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs). Oregon law permits schools to hire LPNs to provide certain nursing care to students (ORS 336.201). Per Oregon licensure laws, LPNs must practice under the clinical supervision of a Registered Nurse or Licensed Independent Practitioner (ORS 336.201 and OAR 851, Division 45).

Nursing Services Provided in Oregon Schools

School nurses help to ensure the health and safety of students, staff, and visitors. Services provided by Oregon school nurses include:

- **Individualized care and care delegation.** School nurses support students with identified health needs and may delegate certain health services.

³ The National Association of School Nurses, The Role of the 21st Century School Nurse, <https://www.nasn.org/advocacy/professional-practice-documents/position-statements/ps-role>

- **Mental and behavioral health support.** School nurses, utilizing the nursing process, select evidence-based interventions to address physical, mental, and psycho-social health needs.
- **Care coordination.** School nurses collaborate with students, families, multi-disciplinary school teams, and community providers regarding health issues that impact student education.
- **Staff training and health education.** School nurses educate students, staff, and families. School nurses may provide condition-specific education, school-wide messaging or guidance, and classroom education in collaboration with licensed educators. School nurses provide training that supports routine health care and emergency response during school hours, extracurricular activities, summer school, and field trips.
- **Community health promotion.** School nurses coordinate with school staff and community partners to implement evidence-based wellness measures. School nurses may oversee immunization programs, including guidance about childhood vaccination required by state law (ORS 433, division 267-269, and OAR 333-050, section 0010-1110). They may also oversee a school district’s health screening program, such as vision and hearing screenings required by state law (ORS 336.211-213; OAR 581-022-2220).
- **Communicable disease prevention.** School nurses reduce the spread of disease through health education, assessment, and referrals to health care providers and reporting to local health departments. School nurses are uniquely qualified to serve as liaison between the school and local public health authorities. Since the onset of the pandemic, school nurses have been essential partners in reducing COVID-19 risk in school settings.
- **School health program management and quality improvement.** School nurses have unique knowledge of student health needs. School nurses can inform efforts to better serve individual students and support the well-being of school communities.

Relevant Laws and Regulations Governing School Nursing

School nursing services can improve both health and academic outcomes and are required in schools to ensure that every student has access to a free appropriate public education (FAPE). Two federal laws ensure this right:

- Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973: A federal law stating that “no otherwise qualified individual with a disability in the United States . . . shall, solely by reason of her or his disability, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance . . .”⁴
- The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA): A federal law governing special education services for eligible infants, children, youth, and transition-aged students with disabilities. IDEA ensures all children with disabilities have available to them a FAPE that emphasizes special

⁴ 29 U.S.C. §794(a), 34 C.F.R. §104.4(a)

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education and related services designed to meet their unique needs and prepare them for further education, employment, and independent living.⁵

Multiple Oregon Administrative Rules (OARs) reference school nursing services:

- Chapter 581, Division 15, Special Education, requires school nursing as part of “related services” as needed for a student to access their education (OAR 581-015-2000; OAR 581-015-2700).
- Chapter 581, Division 21, Standard Education for Oregon Students, lists “providing health services” as a requirement of support services necessary to provide a standard education for Oregon students. Includes sections on medication administration and vision and dental screenings. Division 21, Section 37, Medication Administration, requires that staff who provide medication to students complete state-approved training provided by a licensed provider (OAR 581-021-0200; OAR 581-021-0037).
- Chapter 581, Division 22, Health Services, requires every school district to maintain a “prevention-oriented health services program” including health care for the sick and injured that is “appropriately supervised and adequately equipped” as well as “services for students who are medically fragile or have special health care needs.” (OAR 581-022-2220)

ORS 336.201 mandates the following school nurse ratios for students with specific levels of medical need:

- One RN or School Nurse for every 225 medically complex students.
- One RN or School Nurse for every 125 medically fragile students.
- One RN, School Nurse, or LPN for each nursing-dependent student.

ORS 336.201 recommends the presence of a nurse in schools at a ratio of at least 1 RN to every 750 students who do not require dedicated nurse staffing by 2020, following the phase-in process below:

- One RN or School Nurse for every 3,500 students by July 1, 2014
- One RN or School Nurse for every 2,500 students by July 1, 2016
- One RN or School Nurse for every 1,500 students by July 1, 2018
- One RN or School Nurse for every 750 students by July 1, 2020

Ensuring Equitable Access to Education with School Nursing Services

Health Services and Equitable Access to Education

For many students, health services are required to access their public education. The IDEA and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 require that school districts provide health services if needed by a student to access their public education. School districts are required to enable every student to access FAPE,

⁵ 34 C.F.R. §300.1

guaranteeing that every student can learn regardless of ability or health need. For many students, the school setting is the primary access point for general health services and referrals. In addition, access to health services is linked to positive academic outcomes. Schools with smaller school nurse-to-student ratios report lower absenteeism rates and higher graduation rates.⁶ Oregon's schools currently rank near the bottom of national averages in access to school nurse services. Fewer than 8% of Oregon schools report full-time access to a school nurse. The provision of health services in the school setting is not only a requirement but is also necessary to support positive outcomes for all students.

Care Planning

School nurses are licensed to develop individualized care plans, called Health Management Plans, that are important for students with identified health needs. A Health Management Plan provides guidance regarding how a specific student's condition will be managed during the school day and at school-sponsored events. A Health Management Plan is often referenced in the Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Section 504 plan as a supporting document.

Care Delivery: Direct Care, Care Delegation, Anticipated Emergencies

Nursing care tasks must be performed or overseen by a school nurse. When the school nurse is not directly providing services, the Nurse Practice Act provides school nurses the authority to delegate tasks to non-licensed professionals. The school nurse can only delegate care in this manner after determining that the student's condition is stable and predictable, and the person taking on the delegation is both willing and competent to perform the task. By law, the decision to delegate nursing care lies specifically with the school nurse.⁷

Most school districts in Oregon report student health needs that exceed the capacity of available school nurses and LPNs. This situation can often necessitate the use of unlicensed assistive personnel to provide nursing care under delegation orders. An Oregon Health Authority (OHA) survey of school nurses indicates that 81% of Oregon school nurses use care delegation to meet student needs.³ In addition to care delegation for conditions which are stable and predictable, school nurses may, per their scope of practice, teach unlicensed assistive personnel to respond to anticipated emergencies and provide life-saving treatments.

According to OHA, the most common school nursing procedure delegated during the 2021-22 school year was diabetes management. Other nursing procedures delegated included insulin injection, tube feeding or medications via feeding tube, urinary catheterization, ostomy or ileostomy care, tracheostomy suctioning and care, asthma-related special care tasks, other respiratory special care tasks, cardiac pacemaker monitoring, and other cardiac monitoring.

⁶ Willgerodt, M.A., Brock, D. M., & Maughan, E.M. Public School Nursing Practice in the United States. *The Journal of School Nursing*, 2018; 34(3):232-244

⁷ OAR 851-047-0030

Student Populations Served

Students attend school with a variety of medical conditions and health needs. A school nurse is the only qualified school staff member able to provide care, train, and oversee the provision of nursing services needed by students.⁸ A student's designation in the following categories is based on the nursing assessment of the student that only can be done by a school nurse:

- **Medically Complex Students:** students who may have an unstable health condition and who may require daily professional nursing services.⁹ Students in this category have health conditions that require a school nurse to do an assessment, write a Health Management Plan, and teach and oversee tasks of care to non-nurse school staff who are working directly with the student. The school nurse has intermittent direct contact with the student.
- **Medically Fragile Students:** students who may have a life-threatening health condition and who may require immediate professional nursing services.¹⁰ Students in this category have a health condition which requires frequent, one-on-one intervention by a school nurse.
- **Nursing Dependent Students:** students who have an unstable or life-threatening health condition and who require daily, direct, and continuous professional nursing services.¹¹ Nursing-dependent students require one-on-one services by a school nurse so that they are medically safe in the school setting.
- **General Population Students:** students who do not require dedicated nurse staffing but may benefit from the services of a school nurse. This group includes students who have well-controlled chronic conditions that may only need nursing interventions or consultation on an occasional basis. In addition, general population students can have acute health needs that require school nursing services and can benefit from preventative health screenings, such as vision, hearing, and dental screenings supported by the school nurse. School nurses can support prevention, early intervention, and the lifelong management of physical and mental health needs for every student in the school community.

Data Collection

According to ORS 336.201, school districts are required to submit annual data on nursing services and the number of students with medical needs through the Oregon Department of Education's (ODE) district web page. ODE staff communicates this requirement to all districts in a variety of formats including by phone, email, and mailing list messages. The current data collection was open for submission from May through June 2022. Data from this collection was validated and finalized in

⁸ ORS 336.201

⁹ ORS 336.201

¹⁰ ORS 336.201

¹¹ ORS 336.201

Nursing Services in Oregon Public Schools

August 2022. For the 2021-22 school year, ODE received data from all 197 school districts. ODE staff analyzed this data and have included the results of that analysis in this report.

School Nurse Staffing Data

Table 1 below shows the total nursing support (RNs and LPNs) in Oregon public schools for the 2021-22 school year. Districts reported a combined total of 379.65 full-time equivalent (FTE) RNs and LPNs.

The nurses included in this data represent all nurse FTE reported in Oregon public schools. They include nurses employed directly by districts as well as those who are contracted from Education Service Districts (ESDs), public health departments, and other agencies. Table 2 provides the list of districts and the number of nurse FTE reported.

Table 1. Nurse FTE in the 2020-21 School Year Statewide

Type	2020-21	2021-22
Registered Nurse/School Nurse FTE	329.67	363.59
Licensed Practical Nurse FTE	49.98	63.33
Total Nurse FTE in Schools	379.65	426.92

Table 2. Nurse FTE in the 2020-21 School Year per District

District Name	LPN Count	LPN Assigned to Single Student Count	RN Count	RN Assigned to Single Student Count	Total Student Enrollment
Adel SD 21	0	0	0	0	5
Adrian SD 61	0	0	0.01	0	263
Alsea SD 7J	0	0	0	0	941
Amity SD 4J	0	0	0.04	0	790
Annex SD 29	0	0	0	0	99
Arlington SD 3	0	0	0	0	160
Arock SD 81	0	0	0	0	16
Ashland SD 5	0.8	0	1.5	0	2434
Ashwood SD 8	0	0	0	0	9
Astoria SD 1	0	0	2	0	1746
Athena-Weston SD 29RJ	0	0	0.2	0	585
Baker SD 5J	0	0	0.4	0	4527
Bandon SD 54	0	0	1	0	616
Banks SD 13	0	0	0.7	0	1036
Beaverton SD 48J	4	1	24	1	39180
Bend-LaPine Administrative SD 1	0	0	16.62	0.5	17419
Bethel SD 52	3	2	3	0	5269
Blachly SD 90	0	0	1	0	302
Black Butte SD 41	0	0	0	0	20
Brookings-Harbor SD 17C	0	0	1	0	1418
Burnt River SD 30J	0	0	0.05	0	23
Butte Falls SD 91	0	0	0.01	0	187
Camas Valley SD 21J	0	0	0	0	225
Canby SD 86	0	0	3.5	0	4138
Cascade SD 5	2	0	1	0	2560
Centennial SD 28J	0.14	0	6.18	0	5520

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District Name	LPN Count	LPN Assigned to Single Student Count	RN Count	RN Assigned to Single Student Count	Total Student Enrollment
Central Curry SD 1	0	0	1	0	420
Central Linn SD 552	0	0	0.2	0	551
Central Point SD 6	0	0	2.22	0	4710
Central SD 13J	0	0	4	0	3147
Clatskanie SD 6J	0	0	1	0	658
Colton SD 53	0	0	0.31	0	473
Condon SD 25J	0	0	0	0	129
Coos Bay SD 9	0	0	3	0	3024
Coquille SD 8	0	0	2	0	1246
Corbett SD 39	0.03	0	0.92	0	1037
Corvallis SD 509J	1	1	5.8	1.6	6377
Cove SD 15	0	0	0.2	0	289
Creswell SD 40	4	3	1	0	1094
Crook County SD	0	0	2	0	3216
Crow-Applegate-Lorane SD 66	0	0	0	0	251
Culver SD 4	0	0	0.5	0	674
Dallas SD 2	1	0	1	0	3051
David Douglas SD 40	0.21	0	7.13	0	8720
Dayton SD 8	0	0	1	0	908
Dayville SD 16J	0	0	0	0	58
Diamond SD 7	0	0	0	0	8
Double O SD 28	0	0	0	0	2
Douglas County SD 15	0	0	0.17	0	218
Douglas County SD 4	0	0	0	0	5678
Drewsey SD 13	0	0	0	0	15
Dufur SD 29	0	0	1	0	356
Eagle Point SD 9	0	0	1.02	0	4204
Echo SD 5	0	0	0.2	0	302
Elgin SD 23	0	0	0.2	0	412
Elkton SD 34	0	0	0.25	0	224
Enterprise SD 21	0	0	0	0	403
Estacada SD 108	0	0	0.5	0	3021
Eugene SD 4J	5.6	0	11.2	0	16482
Falls City SD 57	0	0	0	0	173
Fern Ridge SD 28J	0	0	0.8	0	1386
Forest Grove SD 15	1	0	1	0	5795
Fossil SD 21J	0	0	0	0	1436

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District Name	LPN Count	LPN Assigned to Single Student Count	RN Count	RN Assigned to Single Student Count	Total Student Enrollment
Frenchglen SD 16	0	0	0	0	7
Gaston SD 511J	0.13	0	0.13	0	487
Gervais SD 1	0	0	1.25	0	1329
Gladstone SD 115	1	0	0	0	1729
Glendale SD 77	0	0	0.45	0	279
Glide SD 12	0	0	0.5	0	675
Grants Pass SD 7	0	0	2	0	5603
Greater Albany Public SD 8J	4.66	4.66	5.28	0.03	9046
Gresham-Barlow SD 10J	1.25	1	6.5	0	11471
Harney County SD 3	0	0	1	0	768
Harney County SD 4	0	0	0	0	959
Harney County Union High SD 1J	0	0	0	0	1065
Harper SD 66	0	0	0	0	220
Harrisburg SD 7J	1	1	0.2	0	736
Helix SD 1	0	0	0.2	0	162
Hermiston SD 8	0	0	4	1	5446
Hillsboro SD 1J	10.5	2.63	10.2	0	19013
Hood River County SD	0	0	2	0	3895
Huntington SD 16J	0	0	0	0	93
Imbler SD 11	0	0	0.2	0	282
Ione SD R2	0	0	0.2	0	129
Jefferson County SD 509J	1	0	0.2	0	2772
Jefferson SD 14J	0	0	0.6	0	792
Jewell SD 8	0	0	0	0	148
John Day SD 3	0	0	0	0	509
Jordan Valley SD 3	0	0	0	0	61
Joseph SD 6	0	0	0	0	276
Junction City SD 69	0	0	1	0	1605
Juntura SD 12	0	0	0	0	4
Klamath County SD	0	0	4	0	6967
Klamath Falls City Schools	0	0	2	0	2706
Knappa SD 4	0	0	1	0	468
La Grande SD 1	0	0	2	0	2049
Lake County SD 7	0	0	0.2	0	762
Lake Oswego SD 7J	1	1	0	0	6838
Lebanon Community SD 9	0	0	2	0	4063
Lincoln County SD	0	0	4	0	5206

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District Name	LPN Count	LPN Assigned to Single Student Count	RN Count	RN Assigned to Single Student Count	Total Student Enrollment
Long Creek SD 17	0	0	0	0	23
Lowell SD 71	0	0	0	0	1159
Malheur County SD 51	0	0	0	0	1
Mapleton SD 32	0	0	0.05	0	135
Marcola SD 79J	0	0	0.2	0	771
McKenzie SD 68	0	0	0	0	167
McMinnville SD 40	0	0	4	1	6429
Medford SD 549C	1	0	7	0	14135
Milton-Freewater Unified SD 7	0	0	1	0	1609
Mitchell SD 55	0	0	0	0	1130
Molalla River SD 35	0	0	2.4	0	2520
Monroe SD 1J	0	0	0	0	360
Monument SD 8	0	0	0	0	55
Morrow SD 1	0	0	2	0	2254
Mt Angel SD 91	0	0	1	0	628
Myrtle Point SD 41	0	0	1	0	449
Neah-Kah-Nie SD 56	0	0	0.75	0	691
Nestucca Valley SD 101J	0	0	1	0	469
Newberg SD 29J	0	0	1	0	4331
North Bend SD 13	0	0	2	2	4092
North Clackamas SD 12	0	0	12.42	1	16589
North Douglas SD 22	0	0	0.4	0	330
North Lake SD 14	0	0	0	0	243
North Marion SD 15	0	0	2	0	1675
North Powder SD 8J	0	0	0.4	0	261
North Santiam SD 29J	0	0	1.7	0	2075
North Wasco County SD 21	0	0	2.4	0	2775
Nyssa SD 26	1	0	0	0	1186
Oakland SD 1	0	0	0.4	0	595
Oakridge SD 76	0	0	0	0	502
Ontario SD 8C	0	0	1	0	2268
Oregon City SD 62	0	0	6.8	4	7206
Oregon Trail SD 46	2	2	1	1	4292
Paisley SD 11	0	0	0	0	210
Parkrose SD 3	0.07	0	1.97	0	2772
Pendleton SD 16	0	0	1.6	1	2956
Perrydale SD 21	0	0	0.2	0	301

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District Name	LPN Count	LPN Assigned to Single Student Count	RN Count	RN Assigned to Single Student Count	Total Student Enrollment
Philomath SD 17J	0	0	2	0	1554
Phoenix-Talent SD 4	0	0	1.07	0	2240
Pilot Rock SD 2	0	0	0.2	0	283
Pine Creek SD 5	0	0	0	0	3
Pine Eagle SD 61	0	0	0.2	0	196
Pinehurst SD 94	0	0	0	0	12
Pleasant Hill SD 1	0	0	1	0	929
Plush SD 18	0	0	0	0	9
Port Orford-Langlois SD 2CJ	0	0	0.25	0	222
Portland SD 1J	2.06	1	38.46	2	45123
Powers SD 31	0	0	0	0	123
Prairie City SD 4	0	0	0	0	877
Prospect SD 59	0	0	0	0	220
Rainier SD 13	0	0	0.75	0	850
Redmond SD 2J	1	0	11.25	1	7066
Reedsport SD 105	0	0	1.5	0.5	593
Reynolds SD 7	1.22	1	10.56	1	9940
Riddle SD 70	0	0	0.3	0	352
Riverdale SD 51J	0	0	1	0	563
Rogue River SD 35	0	0	0.01	0	1045
Salem-Keizer SD 24J	9.16	3.16	21.1	1	39488
Santiam Canyon SD 129J	0	0	0.29	0	3222
Scappoose SD 1J	0	0	2	0	2171
Scio SD 95	0	0	0.53	0	1893
Seaside SD 10	0	0	1	0	1495
Sheridan SD 48J	0	0	1	0	882
Sherman County SD	0	0	1	0	248
Sherwood SD 88J	0	0	2.88	0.88	4908
Silver Falls SD 4J	0	0	3.1	0	3531
Sisters SD 6	0	0	1.8	0	1091
Siuslaw SD 97J	0	0	1	0	1196
South Harney SD 33	0	0	0	0	10
South Lane SD 45J3	1	0	1	0	2797
South Umpqua SD 19	0	0	0	0	1428
South Wasco County SD 1	0	0	0.05	0	225
Spray SD 1	0	0	0	0	67
Springfield SD 19	1	0	5	0	9833
St Helens SD 502	0	0	2	1.31	2799

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District Name	LPN Count	LPN Assigned to Single Student Count	RN Count	RN Assigned to Single Student Count	Total Student Enrollment
St Paul SD 45	0	0	0	0	297
Stanfield SD 61	0	0	1	0	514
Suntex SD 10	0	0	0	0	4
Sutherlin SD 130	0	0	0.4	0	1323
Sweet Home SD 55	0	0	1	0	2245
Three Rivers/Josephine County SD	0	0	2	0	4468
Tigard-Tualatin SD 23J	0	0	8	3	11767
Tillamook SD 9	0	0	2.5	0	2114
Troy SD 54	0	0	0	0	2
Ukiah SD 80R	0	0	0.05	0	23
Umatilla SD 6R	0	0	2	0	1347
Union SD 5	0	0	0.2	0	354
Vale SD 84	0	0	1	0	872
Vernonia SD 47J	0	0	0.35	0	562
Wallowa SD 12	0	0	0	0	200
Warrenton-Hammond SD 30	0	0	1	0	978
West Linn-Wilsonville SD 3J	0	0	8.2	2	9121
Willamina SD 30J	0	0	0.01	0.01	856
Winston-Dillard SD 116	0	0	0.5	0	1400
Woodburn SD 103	0	0	2.5	0	5245
Yamhill Carlton SD 1	0.5	0.5	1.5	0.5	1021
Yoncalla SD 32	0	0	0.45	0	227
Total	63.33	24.95	363.59	27.33	550,324

Student Population Data

During the 2021-22 school year, Oregon school districts reported 30,386 students with health conditions that required nursing services to attend school and learn alongside their peers. Table 3 provides a breakdown according to classification of student medical need. Table 4 further disaggregates that data to a school district level.

Table 3. Medically Complex, Medically Fragile, Nursing Dependent, and General Population Students Statewide

School Year	Number of Medically Complex Students	Number of Medically Fragile Students	Number of Nursing Dependent Students	General Population Students
2021-22	25,047	5,257	82	550,324

Table 4. Medically Complex, Medically Fragile, Nursing Dependent, and General Population Students per District

District Name	Medically Fragile Student Count	Nursing Dependent Student Count	Medically Complex Student Count	Total Student Enrollment
Adel SD 21	0	0	0	5
Adrian SD 61	*	0	0	263
Alsea SD 7J	*	0	*	941
Amity SD 4J	*	0	30	790
Annex SD 29	0	0	0	99
Arlington SD 3	0	0	0	160
Arock SD 81	0	0	0	16
Ashland SD 5	47	0	326	2434
Ashwood SD 8	0	0	0	9
Astoria SD 1	10	0	35	1746
Athena-Weston SD 29RJ	*	0	7	585
Baker SD 5J	*	0	22	4527
Bandon SD 54	*	0	*	616
Banks SD 13	12	0	62	1036
Beaverton SD 48J	142	6	1943	39180
Bend-LaPine Administrative SD 1	286	*	1136	17419
Bethel SD 52	74	*	319	5269
Blachly SD 90	18	0	*	302
Black Butte SD 41	0	0	0	20
Brookings-Harbor SD 17C	54	0	163	1418
Burnt River SD 30J	0	0	0	23
Butte Falls SD 91	0	0	*	187
Camas Valley SD 21J	0	0	0	225
Canby SD 86	67	0	656	4138

Nursing Services in Oregon Public Schools

District Name	Medically Fragile Student Count	Nursing Dependent Student Count	Medically Complex Student Count	Total Student Enrollment
Cascade SD 5	22	0	77	2560
Centennial SD 28J	22	0	113	5520
Central Curry SD 1	0	0	0	420
Central Linn SD 552	0	0	*	551
Central Point SD 6	64	0	410	4710
Central SD 13J	62	0	95	3147
Clatskanie SD 6J	11	0	*	658
Colton SD 53	*	0	9	473
Condon SD 25J	0	0	0	129
Coos Bay SD 9	18	*	168	3024
Coquille SD 8	*	0	40	1246
Corbett SD 39	7	0	45	1037
Corvallis SD 509J	110	7	906	6377
Cove SD 15	*	0	*	289
Creswell SD 40	11	*	46	1094
Crook County SD	10	0	96	3216
Crow-Applegate-Lorane SD 66	0	0	0	251
Culver SD 4	6	0	16	674
Dallas SD 2	78	0	9	3051
David Douglas SD 40	52	0	171	8720
Dayton SD 8	20	0	41	908
Dayville SD 16J	0	0	0	58
Diamond SD 7	0	0	0	8
Double O SD 28	0	0	0	2
Douglas County SD 15	*	0	*	218
Douglas County SD 4	*	0	38	5678
Drewsey SD 13	0	0	0	15
Dufur SD 29	*	0	13	356
Eagle Point SD 9	*	0	32	4204
Echo SD 5	0	0	*	302
Elgin SD 23	*	0	33	412
Elkton SD 34	0	0	*	224
Enterprise SD 21	0	0	0	403
Estacada SD 108	13	0	42	3021
Eugene SD 4J	118	0	406	16482
Falls City SD 57	0	0	0	173
Fern Ridge SD 28J	*	0	18	1386
Forest Grove SD 15	116	0	215	5795
Fossil SD 21J	0	0	0	1436
Frenchglen SD 16	0	0	0	7

Nursing Services in Oregon Public Schools

District Name	Medically Fragile Student Count	Nursing Dependent Student Count	Medically Complex Student Count	Total Student Enrollment
Gaston SD 511J	*	0	14	487
Gervais SD 1	18	0	34	1329
Gladstone SD 115	27	*	*	1729
Glendale SD 77	0	0	*	279
Glide SD 12	8	0	25	675
Grants Pass SD 7	70	0	306	5603
Greater Albany Public SD 8J	106	*	637	9046
Gresham-Barlow SD 10J	55	*	200	11471
Harney County SD 3	*	0	25	768
Harney County SD 4	0	0	0	959
Harney County Union High SD 1J	0	0	0	1065
Harper SD 66	0	0	0	220
Harrisburg SD 7J	*	*	0	736
Helix SD 1	0	0	*	162
Hermiston SD 8	48	*	255	5446
Hillsboro SD 1J	142	*	979	19013
Hood River County SD	33	0	149	3895
Huntington SD 16J	0	0	0	93
Imbler SD 11	0	0	17	282
Ione SD R2	*	0	*	129
Jefferson County SD 509J	42	*	112	2772
Jefferson SD 14J	6	0	30	792
Jewell SD 8	*	0	14	148
John Day SD 3	0	0	0	509
Jordan Valley SD 3	0	0	0	61
Joseph SD 6	0	0	0	276
Junction City SD 69	9	0	40	1605
Juntura SD 12	0	0	0	4
Klamath County SD	44	0	273	6967
Klamath Falls City Schools	139	*	442	2706
Knappa SD 4	0	0	0	468
La Grande SD 1	6	0	70	2049
Lake County SD 7	0	0	8	762
Lake Oswego SD 7J	23	0	446	6838
Lebanon Community SD 9	58	0	376	4063
Lincoln County SD	28	0	154	5206
Long Creek SD 17	0	0	0	23
Lowell SD 71	0	0	0	1159
Malheur County SD 51	0	0	0	1
Mapleton SD 32	0	0	*	135

Nursing Services in Oregon Public Schools

District Name	Medically Fragile Student Count	Nursing Dependent Student Count	Medically Complex Student Count	Total Student Enrollment
Marcola SD 79J	0	0	0	771
McKenzie SD 68	0	0	0	167
McMinnville SD 40	127	*	167	6429
Medford SD 549C	40	0	348	14135
Milton-Freewater Unified SD 7	33	0	36	1609
Mitchell SD 55	0	0	0	1130
Molalla River SD 35	87	0	270	2520
Monroe SD 1J	0	0	0	360
Monument SD 8	0	0	0	55
Morrow SD 1	13	0	40	2254
Mt Angel SD 91	*	0	27	628
Myrtle Point SD 41	*	0	13	449
Neah-Kah-Nie SD 56	12	0	138	691
Nestucca Valley SD 101J	0	0	*	469
Newberg SD 29J	17	0	95	4331
North Bend SD 13	*	*	153	4092
North Clackamas SD 12	96	*	1448	16589
North Douglas SD 22	0	0	*	330
North Lake SD 14	0	0	*	243
North Marion SD 15	55	*	250	1675
North Powder SD 8J	*	0	12	261
North Santiam SD 29J	14	0	154	2075
North Wasco County SD 21	29	0	105	2775
Nyssa SD 26	14	0	20	1186
Oakland SD 1	0	0	*	595
Oakridge SD 76	13	0	17	502
Ontario SD 8C	18	0	103	2268
Oregon City SD 62	291	*	947	7206
Oregon Trail SD 46	23	*	90	4292
Paisley SD 11	0	0	0	210
Parkrose SD 3	17	0	55	2772
Pendleton SD 16	7	*	205	2956
Perrydale SD 21	0	0	0	301
Philomath SD 17J	*	0	72	1554
Phoenix-Talent SD 4	9	0	77	2240
Pilot Rock SD 2	0	0	8	283
Pine Creek SD 5	0	0	0	3
Pine Eagle SD 61	6	0	8	196
Pinehurst SD 94	0	0	0	12
Pleasant Hill SD 1	0	0	23	929

Nursing Services in Oregon Public Schools

District Name	Medically Fragile Student Count	Nursing Dependent Student Count	Medically Complex Student Count	Total Student Enrollment
Plush SD 18	0	0	0	9
Port Orford-Langlois SD 2CJ	0	0	0	222
Portland SD 1J	177	*	1171	45123
Powers SD 31	0	0	0	123
Prairie City SD 4	*	0	14	877
Prospect SD 59	0	0	0	220
Rainier SD 13	*	0	31	850
Redmond SD 2J	66	*	242	7066
Reedsport SD 105	*	*	32	593
Reynolds SD 7	49	*	158	9940
Riddle SD 70	*	0	*	352
Riverdale SD 51J	0	0	0	563
Rogue River SD 35	0	0	*	1045
Salem-Keizer SD 24J	574	7	3294	39488
Santiam Canyon SD 129J	13	0	68	3222
Scappoose SD 1J	12	0	120	2171
Scio SD 95	*	0	21	1893
Seaside SD 10	26	*	124	1495
Sheridan SD 48J	12	0	45	882
Sherman County SD	0	0	*	248
Sherwood SD 88J	115	*	240	4908
Silver Falls SD 4J	21	0	80	3531
Sisters SD 6	9	0	98	1091
Siuslaw SD 97J	11	0	112	1196
South Harney SD 33	0	0	0	10
South Lane SD 45J3	8	0	78	2797
South Umpqua SD 19	0	0	17	1428
South Wasco County SD 1	*	0	*	225
Spray SD 1	0	0	0	67
Springfield SD 19	448	*	149	9833
St Helens SD 502	31	*	122	2799
St Paul SD 45	*	0	8	297
Stanfield SD 61	6	0	22	514
Suntex SD 10	0	0	0	4
Sutherlin SD 130	0	0	6	1323
Sweet Home SD 55	16	0	65	2245
Three Rivers/Josephine County SD	18	0	61	4468
Tigard-Tualatin SD 23J	47	*	427	11767
Tillamook SD 9	9	0	40	2114
Troy SD 54	0	0	0	2

Nursing Services in Oregon Public Schools

District Name	Medically Fragile Student Count	Nursing Dependent Student Count	Medically Complex Student Count	Total Student Enrollment
Ukiah SD 80R	0	0	0	23
Umatilla SD 6R	*	0	74	1347
Union SD 5	6	0	23	354
Vale SD 84	0	0	*	872
Vernonia SD 47J	18	0	24	562
Wallowa SD 12	0	0	0	200
Warrenton-Hammond SD 30	31	0	31	978
West Linn-Wilsonville SD 3J	191	*	666	9121
Willamina SD 30J	*	*	0	856
Winston-Dillard SD 116	*	0	6	1400
Woodburn SD 103	6	0	64	5245
Yamhill Carlton SD 1	*	*	23	1021
Yoncalla SD 32	*	0	*	227
Total	5,257	82	25,047	550,324

* Suppressed student data value is equal to or less than 6

Nurse to Student Ratios

In the 2020-21 academic year, 550,324 students were enrolled in Oregon public schools. Those students were served by 363.59 FTE school nurses and 63.33 FTE LPNs working in schools. Table 5 provides an estimate of how many school nurses serve all students in Oregon.

Table 5. Calculation of Nurse Staffing Ratio for Students Who Do Not Require Dedicated Nurse Staffing

	Number of Students	Registered Nurse FTE	Registered Nurse assigned to a single student and LPN FTE
Total number of students and nurse FTE	550,324	336.26	90.66
<i>Medically fragile, medically complex or nursing dependent students and nurses who serve them**</i>	<i>(-30,386)</i>	<i>(-153.4)</i>	<i>(-90.66)</i>
Remaining general population students and school nurses after subtracting students with medical needs and nurses who serve them	519,938	182.88	0
Statewide Ratio of school nurses to General Population Students	1:2843*		

**This ratio represents the nurses' FTE (of those who are not already designated for students with medical needs) to remaining students after subtracting those with medical needs from the total population.*

***This calculation assumes that each district is using their reported FTE for meeting mandated ratios first. It further assumes that all LPNs are assigned to medically fragile, medically complex, or nursing dependent students. This analysis does not include individual district staffing decisions. For example, this table does not include whether an individual school district decides to use their nurse FTE for the remaining student needs rather than for students with medical needs at the mandated ratios.*

Analysis

ODE's yearly data collection on school nurses and students with medical needs continues to demonstrate a significant shortage of nursing services for all students in Oregon. During the 2021-22 school year, 364 school nurses served 550,324 students. This number includes the 30,386 medically fragile, medically complex, and nursing dependent students that require school nursing services. Only 47% (n=92) of districts in Oregon reported staffing one or more full-time school nurse. According to a survey from the OHA, most of these school nurses serve many schools within their districts. On average, full-time nurses split their service across 4 schools.¹²

Although Oregon schools did report an increase of 34 school nurse FTE statewide from the 2020-21 school year, **27% (n=54) of school districts did not report any school nurse FTE**. Out of the 143 districts who did report school nurse FTE, 45 districts report less than 0.5 school nurse FTE, meaning that a school nurse was available less than 20 hours per week for the entire district.

Students with health conditions such as type 1 diabetes, asthma, and seizure disorders require support from a school nurse to access their education, grow, and succeed in school alongside their peers. Despite 142 school districts (72%) reporting medically fragile, medically complex, and/or nursing dependent students enrolled in their district, 11 of those districts report no school nursing services.

In Oregon, the average staffing ratio is approximately one school nurse for every 1,514 students, including medically fragile, medically complex, and nursing dependent students who require nursing services. However, ORS 336.201 requires that school districts provide nursing services for medically fragile, medically complex, and nursing dependent students at different ratios, depending on the severity of student's health condition. After subtracting for school nurses who are designated to provide those required services to students with health conditions, **the statewide school nurse-to-student ratio is one school nurse for every 2,843 students for general population students**. This deficit is almost four times more than the recommended ratio of one school nurse for every 750 students established in statute¹³. **Only 17 school districts (8.6%) meet the recommended ratio of 1 school nurse for every 750 students.**

¹² Oregon Health Authority, 2021. School Nurse Survey.

¹³ ORS 336.201