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## **Guidance for the ODE Medically Fragile/School Nurse Data Collection**

This document provides guidance for completing the annual Oregon Department of Education Medically Fragile/School Nurse Data collection.

Data are collected in accordance with ORS 336.201. Reported data describe the level of nursing services needed by districts. These needs are determined by evaluating student acuity, as described below.

### **Instructions:**

- Please review all referenced laws, administrative rules, and guidance documents before completing the data collection.
- Please note that the examples provided do not represent an exhaustive list of student health conditions for each category.
- In order to accurately collect this data, please consult a registered nurse (RN) practicing in the school setting to assess student health counts<sup>1</sup>.
- The RN's nursing assessment is not limited to the below physical and mental health conditions. They should consider health condition, comorbidities, social need<sup>2</sup>, self-care abilities, and more.

### **I. Student Health Assessment Counts**

- **General Student Population**

#### **1 FTE RN for up to 750 students (per ORS 336.201)**

**Description:** Students with normal growth & development or intermittent acute illness/injury events; if a condition exists, it is uncomplicated and predictable.

**Registered Nurse Assessment:** No identified/ongoing nursing need at school; with no individual health plan necessary.

#### ***Examples:***

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<sup>1</sup> *Mitts vs. Hillsboro Union High School*, 1987, asserted that school nurses are required to perform health assessments for students.

<sup>2</sup> Social needs\* identified in nursing assessment frequently warrant a higher acuity score than physical needs alone. Examples of social needs known to impact health: poverty; disability (child or family); needs related to housing and homelessness; transportation and/or geographic barriers; discrimination based on race, ethnicity, LGBTQ+ identification; cultural, and/or linguistic barriers; food insecurity; family level of education; abuse; neglect; substance use (child or family). See [OHA](#) Oregon's State Health Assessment on Social Determinants of Health for more information.

- **Asthma:** Student identified on registration forms as having asthma. No known events at school, no contact from parents/staff/student. Student may or may not have rescue inhaler at school. Asthma is well managed, no exacerbations or hospitalizations in past year.
- **Seizure:** Student with past history of seizure(s) with no further seizure activity and no seizure medication. A student with a well-controlled seizure disorder with medication and rare breakthrough seizures outside of the school setting, not requiring emergency medication or vagal nerve stimulator (VNS).
- **Severe Allergic Reaction (SAR):** Student has a medication allergy or other allergy that is unlikely to impact the school day (seasonal allergies, grass allergies).
- **Mental/Emotional/Behavioral Health:** Student who is on long term, consistent treatment related to depression, anxiety, attention deficit disorder or other mental health diagnoses that does not require monitoring or pose safety concerns.
- **Medication:** Student with over the counter (OTC), non-prescription medications available at school (acetaminophen, ibuprofen, cough drops, etc.); self-administration of medications.
- **Miscellaneous:** Student with cerebral palsy but no ongoing health needs at school. RN chooses to monitor student annually.

## 2. Medically Complex Students

### 1 FTE RN for up to 225 students (per ORS 336.201)

**Definition:** Medically complex students means students who may have an unstable health condition and who may require daily professional nursing services. (ORS 336.201)

**Registered Nurse Assessment:** Needs more than a first aid response; a health plan may or may not be in place.

#### **Examples:**

- **Asthma:** A student that uses their rescue inhaler multiple times per week. Frequent health room visits that require intervention by school staff. Student on multiple maintenance medications for asthma and rescue medications at school that may experience complications related to asthma exacerbations. Student may/may not have nebulizer.
- **Seizure:** Student is on seizure medication and has occasional breakthrough seizures at school. Student with seizure disorder that may or may not require emergency medications or VNS.
- **Severe Allergic Reaction (SAR):** Student with a potentially life-threatening allergy that may require emergency medication administration.
- **Diabetes:** Student with Type 1 diabetes that has blood glucose monitoring supplies and glucagon at school. Student may/may not be an independent self-manager.
- **Mental/Emotional/Behavioral Health:** Student on medication for depression or other mental/emotional/behavioral health issues with frequent medication dosage changes or complications that may require symptom monitoring. Student who has or is receiving crisis treatment for a mental/emotional/behavioral health issue, such as anxiety, depression, and/or eating disorders.
- **Medication:** Student has a daily medication given at school by school staff, may require student/family education and/or side effects monitoring.
- **Concussion:** Student with a recent concussion that needs monitoring and interventions to help with their recovery and academic success
- **Miscellaneous examples:** Student requires clean intermittent catheterization daily at school; student has a long-term G-tube feeding at school.

## 3. Medically Fragile Students<sup>3</sup>

### 1 FTE RN for up to 125 students (per ORS 336.201)

**Definition:** Medically Fragile students means students who may have a life-threatening health condition and who may require immediate professional nursing services. (ORS 336.201)

**Nursing Assessment:** Licensed nurse should be readily available for assessment and/or intervention.

#### **Examples:**

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<sup>3</sup> ORS 336.201 allows school districts to satisfy the nurse ratio requirements for medically complex students by providing personnel trained and supervised by registered nurse or school nurse (ORS 336.201 (4)(b)).

- **Asthma:** Student has episodic events that require use of a rescue inhaler or nebulizer multiple times a day. Student hospitalizations and/or emergency department visit(s) have occurred in past year related to asthma.
- **Seizure:** Severe seizure disorder requiring immediate intervention with VNS, rectal Diastat, or intranasal Versed; student has frequent cluster seizures making it difficult for unlicensed staff to identify beginning and/or end of seizure activity. Student has frequent or prolonged seizures. Student often has prolonged postictal phase.
- **Severe Allergic Reaction (SAR):** Severe and/or multiple life-threatening allergies necessitating wide-ranging accommodations in the school setting, including administration of emergency epinephrine.
- **Diabetes:** Student with highly variable blood glucose levels, student requiring insulin administration at school by school staff, non-compliant student, student with cognitive impairment, and/or a newly diagnosed student.
- **Mental/Emotional/Behavioral Health:** Suicidal ideation or attempts, or volatile behavior, requiring frequent monitoring and interventions. Student who has recently been hospitalized for a mental/emotional/behavioral health issue, such as anxiety, depression, and/or eating disorders.
- **Miscellaneous examples:** Multiple 'complex' conditions that combined put the student at risk of a life-threatening event. A student at risk of adrenal crisis with an emergency plan.

#### 4. Nursing Dependent Students

##### **1 RN or LPN for every 1 nursing dependent student (per ORS 336.201)**

**Definition:** Nursing-dependent students means students who may have an unstable or life-threatening health condition and who may require daily, direct, and continuous professional nursing services. (ORS 336.201)

**Registered Nurse Assessment:** Student requires direct and continuous care by a licensed nurse (1:1)

##### **Examples:**

- Student with tracheostomy that requires nursing assessment & care to maintain airway.
- Student with multiple health conditions e.g. compromised airway, severe seizure disorder, GT feedings, etc. that requires skilled nursing assessment and intervention.

## **II. School Nursing Staffing Definitions**

Please include nurses employed or contracted by the school district to provide health services.

### **1. Total Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) Count**

Full-time equivalent (FTE) count of all nurses licensed as LPNs in Oregon as defined in ORS 678.010 to 678.410. Number should represent all nurses licensed as LPNs that work in your district, including those assigned to a single student. Do not include registered nurses (RNs).

*Example:* 10 hours per week = 0.25 FTE

### **2. Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs) Assigned to a Single Student Count**

Full-time equivalent (FTE) count of licensed practical nurses (LPNs) assigned exclusively to a single student. This is a subset of the “total Licensed Practical Nurse Count” above. Do not include registered nurses (RNs).

*Example:* 20 hours per week = 0.5 FTE

### **3. Total Registered Nurse (RN) Count**

Full-time equivalent (FTE) count of all nurses licensed as RNs in Oregon as defined in ORS 678.010 to 678.410. Number should represent all nurses licensed as RNs that work in your district, including those assigned to a single student.

*Example:* 25 hours per week = 0.625 FTE

### **4. Registered Nurses (RNs) Assigned to a Single Student Count**

Full-time equivalent (FTE) count of registered nurses (RNs) assigned exclusively to a single student. This is a subset of the “total Registered Nurse” count above.

*Example:* 12 hours per week = 0.3 FTE

**For questions please contact:**

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