



Oregon Department of Education  
Colt Gill, Director

# 2020 Nursing Services in Oregon Public Schools

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## Executive Summary

This annual report is in response to the requirements of ORS 336.201 and details statewide and district data regarding: (1) the availability of Licensed Practical Nurses and Registered Nurses and, (2) the number of students who are medically complex, medically fragile, nursing dependent, as well as the remaining student population (students who do not require dedicated nurse staffing) in Oregon Public Schools. The statewide nurse-to-student ratio is also included. According to federal and state law, all students must have access to a Free Appropriate Public Education, regardless of ability and health status. School nursing services are essential in fulfilling this duty. Oregon schools currently rank near the bottom of national averages in access to school nurse services, with fewer than 7% of schools reporting full-time access to a school nurse.<sup>1,2</sup> To underscore the equity imperative of school nursing, this report describes nurse roles and responsibilities and explains the significance of nursing services to educational access.

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<sup>1</sup> 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

<sup>2</sup> Institute for Educational Services, National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). *Public High School Graduation Rates*. Updated May 2019. [https://nces.ed.gov/programs/coe/indicator\\_coi.asp](https://nces.ed.gov/programs/coe/indicator_coi.asp)

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## Nursing and Educational Equity

Learning and achievement depend upon student health and safety – including physical, mental, social, emotional, and environmental health. Research shows that students with higher needs often face barriers in their education if their needs are not met<sup>3</sup>. Physical and mental health conditions present barriers to children accessing their education, including asthma, diabetes, oral health, violence and bullying, depression and anxiety, seizure disorders, and vision problems.<sup>4</sup> The COVID-19 pandemic has also created new challenges and exacerbated many existing problems.

School nurses improve access to education. Schools with smaller nurse-to-student ratios report lower absenteeism rates and higher graduation rates.<sup>5</sup> The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends there be one school nurse in every school, with medical oversight from a school physician in every district.<sup>6</sup>

Whether from school nurses, supportive educators, school counselors, school psychologists, nutrition staff, or other community health groups who provide services in schools, students rely on school districts for many health supports. Schools are a source of critical support for students who have health conditions and social or economic needs.<sup>7,8 9,10</sup> As a critical health professional in the education setting, a school nurse supports students' access to education via individualized

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<sup>3</sup> American Academy of Pediatrics, Council on School Health. *Role of the school nurse in providing school health services*. Pediatrics; 2015; 137 (6)

<sup>4</sup> Henderson T, Hill C, Norton K. *The Connections Between Missing School and Health*. Upstream Public Health. 2014.

<sup>5</sup> Maughan E. *The Impact of School Nursing on School Performance: a Research Synthesis*. Journal of School Nursing, 2003; 19(3): 163-171

<sup>6</sup> American Academy of Pediatrics, Council on School Health. *Role of the school nurse in providing school health services*. Pediatrics; 2015; 137 (6)

<sup>7</sup> Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). *Whole school, whole community, whole child: A collaborative approach to learning and health*. Alexandria VA: ASCD; 2014.

<sup>8</sup> Rasberry CN, Lee SM, Robin L, Laris BA, Russell LA, Coyle KK, et al. *The association between school-based physical activity, including physical education, and academic performance: a systematic review of the literature*. Preventive medicine. 2011;52 Suppl 1:S10-20.

<sup>9</sup> Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). *Whole school, whole community, whole child: A collaborative approach to learning and health*. Alexandria VA: ASCD; 2014.

<sup>10</sup> Rasberry CN, Lee SM, Robin L, Laris BA, Russell LA, Coyle KK, et al. *The association between school-based physical activity, including physical education, and academic performance: a systematic review of the literature*. Preventive medicine. 2011;52 Suppl 1:S10-20.

care as well as through the provision of medical guidance to address broader school health issues.

In the 2019-2020 school year, schools, students, families, and communities faced the unprecedented challenge of the COVID-19 pandemic. COVID-19 has affected all students in deep and long-lasting ways— whether by illness, family unemployment, and/or stress, anxiety, and depression. COVID-19 has had a disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on Black, American Indian/Alaska Native, and Latino/a/x, Pacific Islander communities; students experiencing disabilities; and students and families navigating poverty. Now, more than ever, supporting student and community health and well-being is a cornerstone of educational equity.

## Defining School Nursing

*"School nursing is a specialized practice of nursing that advances the well-being, academic success, and lifelong achievement and health of students."*<sup>13</sup>

Oregon law (ORS 336.201) states that "a registered nurse or school nurse is responsible for coordinating the school nursing services provided to an individual student." Two types of professional nurses, Registered Nurses (or "RNs") and Licensed Practical Nurses (or "LPNs"), may practice in the school setting. The scope of practice for each is distinct. In Oregon schools, a Registered Nurse may provide direct care, clinical direction, and supervision of others, including Licensed Practical Nurses and unlicensed personnel. The Registered Nurse in the school setting may be a Certified School Nurse, as defined below.

The following Oregon licensed professionals provide school nursing services:

1. Certified School Nurses. As defined by ORS 342.455, a "School Nurse" means a Registered Nurse who is certified by the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission as qualified to conduct and coordinate the health service programs of a school. The Teacher Standards and Practices Commission issues a Professional School Nurse certificate to Registered Nurses who meet the additional requirements set forth in state law. (ORS 342.475)
2. Registered Nurses. Oregon law allows school districts to hire registered nurses, who do not hold a TSPC Professional School Nurse certificate, to provide school nursing services.
3. Licensed Practical Nurses. Under Oregon law, Licensed Practical Nurses must practice at the clinical direction and under the clinical supervision of a Registered Nurse or Licensed Independent Practitioner.

A Registered Nurse or Certified School Nurse in the school setting is licensed to provide:

- **Individualized care and care delegation** for students with identified health needs.
- **Care coordination** including clinical consultation to address the needs of students on individualized education plans (IEPs) and Section 504 educational plans, and inter-professional collaboration regarding health issues identified in the school setting.

- **Mental and behavioral health support** using the nursing process – assessment, nursing diagnosis, and nursing intervention – to address psycho-social needs as well as medical issues.<sup>11</sup> A Registered Nurse is trained to select evidence-based interventions to address physical and mental health needs.
- **Communicable disease prevention** including referrals to health care providers, education for students and staff, and reporting to local health departments.
  - **immunization programs** may be overseen by the school Registered Nurse, including evidence-based education to the school community, pursuant to ORS 433.267 through ORS 433.269 and OAR 333-050-0010 through OAR 333-050-1110.
- **Health education** with individual students and families per Nurse Practice Act regulations, and with groups such as staff or classroom education per state law and ODE guidelines. School nurses may provide trainings to prepare school staff to provide care to the general student population in all circumstances, including in extracurricular activities, summer school, and field trips.
  - **Staff trainings** may include:
    - medication administration training, required by Oregon law for any staff who administer student medication (ORS 339.874-966).
    - teaching for anticipated medical emergency, such as interventions for anaphylaxis, severe hypoglycemia, and adrenal crisis (ORS 433.800-830).
    - disease prevention trainings, including blood-borne pathogen trainings as required by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.
    - specific considerations for chronic and acute health conditions in the school community.
- **Community health promotion** including education about disease prevention and health promotion, coordinated efforts with school staff, and collaboration with community partners to implement evidence-based wellness measures appropriate to the school.
  - School nurses may oversee a school district’s health screening program. State law dictates that public schools provide vision and hearing screenings, and some districts include scoliosis, dental, and other screenings as part of their health services program (ORS 336.211-213; OAR 581-022-2220).

Responsibilities for the Registered Nurse in the school setting include direct care, consultations, staff training, mental health support, communicable disease prevention, community health promotion, and additional services described below. In discussing school nursing services in Oregon, it is important to note that there are different types of nursing licenses, each with specific scopes of practice.

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<sup>11</sup> North American Nursing Diagnosis Association (NANDA). *Glossary of Terms: Nursing Diagnosis*. 2013.

In addition, school nurses are essential partners in reducing COVID-19 risk in school settings. As licensed health professionals, they provide critical expertise in district planning and infection control management. They also continue to provide students and families with support, resources, connection, and care. School nurses' training in population-based health helps to ensure the health and safety of students, staff, and visitors in school building. During the 2019-2020 school year, nurses have advised the implementation of ODE's Ready Schools Safe Learners guidance, school Operational Blueprints, and provided their expertise to updated protocols, including symptom screening, cohorting, physical distancing, appropriate use of PPE, and the isolation of individuals with symptoms of illness to protect the well population from exposure.

## **School Services Provided By Nurses**

### **Types of Care Provided**

#### **Care Delivery**

Nursing care tasks provided in Oregon public schools must be performed or overseen by a Registered Nurse. When the nurse is not directly providing services, the Nurse Practice Act provides Registered Nurses the authority to delegate tasks to non-health professionals. The Registered Nurse may only delegate care in this manner after determining that the person taking on the delegation is both willing and competent to perform the task. By law, the decision whether or not to delegate nursing care lies specifically with the Registered Nurse.

#### **Care Plans**

Registered Nurses are licensed to develop individualized care plans, including the written Health Management Plan created for a student with identified health needs. A Health Management Plan is often an attachment to the Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or 504 plan. A Health Management Plan provides guidance regarding how a specific student's condition is to be managed.

#### **Care Delegation**

Most districts in Oregon currently report student health needs which exceed capacity of direct service by available Registered Nurses and Licensed Practical Nurses. This necessitates use of unlicensed assistive personnel to provide nursing care under delegation orders. The Oregon Department of Education does not currently collect data on the number of Registered Nurse delegations performed in schools.



## **Student Populations Served**

### **Medically Complex Students**

Oregon law defines “medically complex students” as those students who may have an unstable health condition and who may require daily professional nursing services. Students in this category have health conditions which require a licensed nurse to do an assessment, write a health care plan, and teach and oversee tasks of care to non-nurse school staff who are working directly with the student. The nurse has intermittent direct contact with the student (e.g., to write a health care plan, provide nursing services, address emergent problems, monitor school staff performance of tasks, access new medical orders, and similar tasks).

An example of a student in this category would be one who has a stable seizure disorder. The school nurse will access medical orders, assess the student, write a care plan for the student, and teach appropriate school staff how to recognize and assist the student during seizure activity. The nurse will also periodically monitor the student during the school year and intervene if a change is needed in health services provided by the school.

### **Medically Fragile Students**

“Medically fragile students” are those students who may have a life-threatening health condition and who may require immediate professional nursing services. Students in this category have a health condition which requires frequent, one-on-one intervention by a Registered Nurse.

An example in this category would be a six-year-old student who is newly diagnosed with type 1 diabetes. A nursing intervention is required daily to check blood sugars, calculate correct insulin doses, and administer insulin. As this student’s medical condition becomes more stable and the student matures, the student’s category may change to one which requires less intense school health services.

### **Nursing-Dependent Students**

“Nursing-dependent students” are those students who have an unstable or life-threatening health condition and who require daily, direct, and continuous professional nursing services. Nursing-dependent students require one-on-one services by a licensed nurse so that they are medically safe in the school setting.

An example of a student in this category could be a student who has a tracheostomy which requires frequent suctioning. Since professional nursing assessment is required with each instance of suctioning, a licensed nurse must be present with the student during school hours.

## **Students Who Do Not Require Dedicated Nurse Staffing**

In addition to students with chronic health needs, all students can have health needs that can require school health services. These are frequently acute illnesses or injuries such as fractures, bloody noses, bee stings, and mental health issues, such as anxiety and depression.

The entire student population may participate in various health screenings per district policy, which may include vision, hearing, dental, and scoliosis screenings. The rest of the students (students who do not require dedicated nurse staffing) may also have well-controlled chronic diseases that may only need nursing interventions and/or consultation on an occasional basis. As discussed above, school nurses can provide support for prevention, education, and early intervention in physical and mental health needs.

## **Relevant Laws, Statutes, and Regulations Governing Nursing**

School nurse 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 (or "FAPE").<sup>12</sup>

Two overarching federal laws ensure a Free Appropriate Public Education:

- Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 states 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 . . ." [29 U.S.C. §794(a), 34 C.F.R. §104.4(a)].
- The Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act (IDEA): A federal law governing special education services for eligible infants, children, and youth with disabilities. IDEA ensures all children with disabilities have available to them a Free Appropriate Public Education that emphasizes special education and related services designed to meet their unique needs and prepare them for further education, employment, and independent living [34 CFR §300.1].

Oregon regulations require school districts to "maintain a prevention-oriented health services program for all students" (OAR 581-022-2220). As a licensed health professional operating under the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) regulations, the school nurse is uniquely positioned to collaborate directly with school staff to address health-related issues in

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<sup>12</sup> Those laws include the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504 (2000) and Public Law 94-142, the Education for all Handicapped Children Act (1975), reauthorized in 2003 as the individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA) (2004).

the school community. In addition, state-recommended and mandated ratios require the presence of nurses in schools to serve students with significant health needs.

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

- One Registered Nurse or School Nurse for every 225 medically complex students.
- One Registered Nurse or School Nurse for every 125 medically fragile students.
- One Registered Nurse, School Nurse, or Licensed Practical Nurse for each nursing-dependent student.

Oregon law (ORS 336.201) recommends the presence of a nurse in schools at a ratio of at least 1 Registered Nurse to every 750 students who do not require dedicated nurse staffing by 2020 following the phase-in process below.

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

## **Data Collection**

School districts are required to submit data on nursing services every year through ODE's district page. ODE staff communicates this requirement to all districts in a variety of formats including by phone, email, and through appropriate listserv messages. The data collection was open for submission from May 7, 2020 through July 31, 2020. This year, the Data Collection Committee extended the submission deadline an extra month. There was a subsequent review window where school districts could edit their submission, which closed on August 28, 2020. ODE staff then emailed or called districts that had errors or data that was flagged for being inconsistent with prior years.

For the 2019-2020 school year, ODE received data from all 197 districts in Oregon with reported student enrollment.

It is important to note, however, that the 2019-2020 school year presented unforeseen challenges to school districts. On March 12, 2020, Governor Kate Brown issued an executive order closing school buildings that was extended on April 28, 2020 for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. As a result, school districts may have faced obstacles in submitting accurate data.

## Nurse Staffing Data

### Availability of Licensed Practical Nurses, Registered Nurses and School Nurses in Oregon

Table 1 below shows the total nursing support (Registered Nurses and Licensed Practical Nurses) in public schools for the 2019-2020 school year. Districts reported a combined total of 376.49 full-time equivalent (FTE) Registered Nurses and Licensed Practical Nurses.

It is important to note that the nurses included in these data represent all nurse FTE in Oregon public schools. They included nurses employed directly by districts as well as those who are contracted by Education Service Districts (ESDs), public health departments, or other agencies.

**Table 1. FTE of Nurses Reported Statewide, 2019-2020**

<b>Registered Nurse/School Nurse</b>	311.92
<b>Licensed Practical Nurse</b>	64.57
<b>Total Nurse Support in Schools</b>	376.49

### Availability of Licensed Practical Nurses, Registered Nurses and School Nurses in Each Oregon School District

Oregon school districts report a total of 311.92 Registered Nurse FTE, and another 64.47 Licensed Practical Nurse FTE. 61 school districts reported no Registered Nurses. Out of the 136 districts who did report Registered Nurses FTE, 43 of those report less than .5 FTE.

**Table 2. Nurses Reported in Oregon Districts, 2019-2020**

District Name	LPN Count	LPN Assigned to Single Student Count	RN Count	RN Assigned to Single Student Count
Adel SD 21	0	0	0	0
Adrian SD 61	0	0	0	0
Alsea SD 7J	0	0	0	0
Amity SD 4J	0	0	0.4	0
Annex SD 29	0	0	0	0
Arlington SD 3	0	0	1	0
Arock SD 81	0	0	0	0
Ashland SD 5	0.8	0	1.3	0
Ashwood SD 8	0	0	0	0
Astoria SD 1	0	0	2	0
Athena-Weston SD 29RJ	0	0	0.2	0
Baker SD 5J	0	0	0.4	0
Bandon SD 54	0	0	0	0
Banks SD 13	0	0	0.3	0
Beaverton SD 48J	3	3	19.75	3
Bend-LaPine Administrative SD 1	0	0	15.8	0
Bethel SD 52	3	3	2.5	0
Blachly SD 90	0	0	0	0
Black Butte SD 41	0	0	0	0
Brookings-Harbor SD 17C	0	0	1	0
Burnt River SD 30J	0	0	0	0
Butte Falls SD 91	0	0	0.01	0
Camas Valley SD 21J	0	0	0.1	0
Canby SD 86	0	0	2	0

Cascade SD 5	2	1	1	0
Centennial SD 28J	0	0	5.47	1
Central Curry SD 1	0	0	0	0
Central Linn SD 552	0	0	0.2	0
Central Point SD 6	0	0	1.17	0
Central SD 13J	0.5	0.5	2	0.5
Clatskanie SD 6J	1	1	1	0
Colton SD 53	0	0	0.16	0
Condon SD 25J	0	0	0	0
Coos Bay SD 9	0	0	3.8	1
Coquille SD 8	0	0	1	0
Corbett SD 39	0	0	0.51	0
Corvallis SD 509J	3	3	4.4	1
Cove SD 15	0	0	0	0
Creswell SD 40	4	4	1	0
Crook County SD	0	0	2	0
Crow-Applegate Lorane SD 66	0	0	1	1
Culver SD 4	0	0	0.25	0
Dallas SD 2	0	0	1	0
David Douglas SD 40	0	0	4.62	0
Dayton SD 8	0	0	1	0
Dayville SD 16J	0	0	0	0
Diamond SD 7	0	0	0	0
Double O SD 28	0	0	0	0
Douglas County SD 15	0	0	0.06	0
Douglas County SD 4	0	0	1	0
Drewsey SD 13	0	0	0	0
Dufur SD 29	0	0	0.5	0

Eagle Point SD 9	0	0	3.01	0
Echo SD 5	0	0	0.25	0
Elgin SD 23	0	0	0.22	0
Elkton SD 34	0	0	0	0
Enterprise SD 21	0	0	0	0
Estacada SD 108	0	0	1	0
Eugene SD 4J	5	3	13	0
Falls City SD 57	0	0	0	0
Fern Ridge SD 28J	0	0	0	0
Forest Grove SD 15	1	0	2	0
Fossil SD 21J	0	0	0	0
Frenchglen SD 16	0	0	0	0
Gaston SD 511J	0	0	0.08	0
Gervais SD 1	0	0	0.2	0
Gladstone SD 115	0	0	1	0
Glendale SD 77	0	0	0.13	0
Glide SD 12	0	0	0	0
Grants Pass SD 7	0	0	1	0
Greater Albany Public SD 8J	3.88	3.88	2.07	0.07
Gresham-Barlow SD 10J	0	0	5.05	0
Harney County SD 3	0	0	0.1	0
Harney County SD 4	0	0	0	0
Harney County Union High SD 1J	0	0	0	0
Harper SD 66	0	0	0	0
Harrisburg SD 7J	1	1	0.25	0
Helix SD 1	0	0	0.2	0
Hermiston SD 8	1	1	2	0
Hillsboro SD 1J	12.25	6.13	8.9	0

Hood River County SD	0	0	1.8	0
Huntington SD 16J	0	0	0	0
Imbler SD 11	0	0	0.22	0
Ione SD R2	0	0	0.2	0
Jefferson County SD 509J	0	0	1.25	0
Jefferson SD 14J	0	0	0.6	0
Jewell SD 8	0	0	0	0
John Day SD 3	0	0	0	0
Jordan Valley SD 3	0	0	0	0
Joseph SD 6	0	0	0	0
Junction City SD 69	0	0	1	1
Juntura SD 12	0	0	0	0
Klamath County SD	0	0	4.1	0
Klamath Falls City Schools	0	0	2.5	0
Knappa SD 4	0	0	0.5	0
La Grande SD 1	1	0	1	0
Lake County SD 7	0	0	0.25	0
Lake Oswego SD 7J	1	0	3.3	0.3
Lebanon Community SD 9	0	0	1	0
Lincoln County SD	0	0	3	0
Long Creek SD 17	0	0	0	0
Lowell SD 71	0	0	0	0
Malheur County SD 51	X	X	X	X
Mapleton SD 32	0	0	0.02	0
Marcola SD 79J	0	0	0	0
McKenzie SD 68	0	0	0	0
McMinnville SD 40	0	0	2.6	0
Medford SD 549C	2	0	5.19	0



Milton-Freewater Unified SD 7	0	0	1	0
Mitchell SD 55	0	0	0	0
Molalla River SD 35	0	0	3	1
Monroe SD 1J	0	0	0	0
Monument SD 8	0	0	0	0
Morrow SD 1	0	0	0.6	0
Mt Angel SD 91	0	0	0.05	0
Myrtle Point SD 41	0	0	1	0
Neah-Kah-Nie SD 56	0	0	0.4	0
Nestucca Valley SD 101J	0	0	0.33	0
Newberg SD 29J	0	0	1	0
North Bend SD 13	0	0	3.5	1
North Clackamas SD 12	0	0	8.1	1
North Douglas SD 22	0	0	0.25	0
North Lake SD 14	0	0	0	0
North Marion SD 15	0	0	1	0
North Powder SD 8J	0	0	0.35	0
North Santiam SD 29J	0	0	1.2	0
North Wasco County SD 21	0	0	0.8	0
Nyssa SD 26	0	0	0	0
Oakland SD 1	0	0	0	0
Oakridge SD 76	0	0	0	0
Ontario SD 8C	0	0	1	0
Oregon City SD 62	0	0	2.6	2
Oregon Trail SD 46	2	2	1.65	1
Paisley SD 11	0	0	0	0
Parkrose SD 3	0	0	1.21	0
Pendleton SD 16	0	0	1.4	1

Perrydale SD 21	0	0	0.25	0
Philomath SD 17J	0	0	1.44	0
Phoenix-Talent SD 4	0	0	1.08	0
Pilot Rock SD 2	0	0	0.2	0
Pine Creek SD 5	0	0	0	0
Pine Eagle SD 61	0	0	0.35	0
Pinehurst SD 94	0	0	0	0
Pleasant Hill SD 1	0.44	0	0.04	0
Plush SD 18	0	0	0	0
Orford-Langlois SD 2CJ	0	0	0	0
Portland SD 1J	1	1	38.5	8
Powers SD 31	0	0	0	0
Prairie City SD 4	0	0	0	0
Prospect SD 59	0	0	0	0
Rainier SD 13	0	0	0.5	0
Redmond SD 2J	1	0	10.5	2
Reedsport SD 105	0	0	1	1
Reynolds SD 7	2	2	12.48	4
Riddle SD 70	0	0	0.13	0
Riverdale SD 51J	0	0	0.44	0
Rogue River SD 35	0	0	0.02	0
Salem-Keizer SD 24J	6.7	6.7	20.8	0.7
Santiam Canyon SD 129J	0	0	1	0
Scappoose SD 1J	0	0	1	0
Scio SD 95	0	0	0.2	0
Seaside SD 10	0	0	1	0
Sheridan SD 48J	0	0	0.2	0
Sherman County SD	0	0	0.2	0

Sherwood SD 88J	0	0	3	1
Silver Falls SD 4J	0	0	3.15	0
Sisters SD 6	0	0	1.75	0
Siuslaw SD 97J	0	0	0	0
South Harney SD 33	0	0	0	0
South Lane SD 45J3	3	1	1	0
South Umpqua SD 19	0	0	0	0
South Wasco County SD 1	0	0	0.05	0
Spray SD 1	0	0	0	0
Springfield SD 19	0	0	5	0
St Helens SD 502	0	0	2	0
St Paul SD 45	0	0	0.1	0
Stanfield SD 61	0	0	0.25	0
Suntex SD 10	0	0	0	0
Sutherlin SD 130	0	0	0.33	0
Sweet Home SD 55	0	0	1.5	0
Three Rivers/Josephine County SD	1	0	1.5	0
Tigard-Tualatin SD 23J	0	0	8	4
Tillamook SD 9	0	0	1.43	1
Troy SD 54	0	0	0	0
Ukiah SD 80R	0	0	0.05	0
Umatilla SD 6R	0	0	0.6	0
Union SD 5	0	0	0.22	0
Vale SD 84	0	0	1	1
Vernonia SD 47J	0	0	0.28	0
Wallowa SD 12	0	0	0	0
Warrenton-Hammond SD 30	0	0	1	0
West Linn-Wilsonville SD 3J	0	0	7.2	1

Willamina SD 30J	0	0	0.15	0
Winston-Dillard SD 116	0	0	0	0
Woodburn SD 103	0	0	2	0
Yamhill Carlton SD 1	2	2	0.2	0
Yoncalla SD 32	0	0	0	0
Totals	64.57	45.21	311.92	39.57

### Student Population Data

As of 2019-2020, there are 28,001 students with medical needs and 554,660 remaining students, who do not require dedicated nurse staffing, in the 197 school districts in Oregon.

### Medically Fragile, Medically Complex, Nursing Dependent, and Remaining Students Statewide

During the 2019-2020 school year, Oregon school districts reported 28,001 students with health conditions that required nursing services in order to attend school and learn alongside their peers (see Table 3).

**Table 3. Medically Fragile, Medically Complex, Nursing Dependent, and Remaining Students Statewide**

School Year	Number of Medically Complex Students	Number of Medically Fragile Students		Number of Nursing Dependent Students	Remaining Students (who do not require dedicated nurse staffing)
2019-2020	22,568	5,321		112	554,660

**Table 4. Medically Fragile, Medically Complex, Nursing Dependent, and Remaining Students Statewide in Each District**

District Name	Medically Fragile Student Count	Nursing Dependent Student Count	Medically Complex Student Count	Total Student Enrollment
Adel SD 21	0	0	0	7
Adrian SD 61	0	0	0	292
Alsea SD 7J	0	0	0	321
Amity SD 4J	17	0	11	824
Annex SD 29	0	0	0	94
Arlington SD 3	0	0	0	172
Arock SD 81	0	0	0	17
Ashland SD 5	16	0	221	2843
Ashwood SD 8	0	0	0	X
Astoria SD 1	7	0	50	1896
Athena-Weston SD 29RJ	X	0	6	584X
Baker SD 5J	22	0	19	4089
Bandon SD 54	0	0	0	676
Banks SD 13	14	0	60	1144
Beaverton SD 48J	172	6	2062	41215
Bend-LaPine Administrative SD 1	147	X	813	18647X
Bethel SD 52	90	X	272	5548X
Blachly SD 90	0	0	X	228X
Black Butte SD 41	0	0	0	27
Brookings-Harbor SD 17C	33	0	153	1548

Burnt River SD 30J	0	0	0	42
Butte Falls SD 91	X	0	X	228X
Camas Valley SD 21J	0	0	0	216
Canby SD 86	130	0	890	4649
Cascade SD 5	33	X	105	2517X
Centennial SD 28J	17	X	139	6099X
Central Curry SD 1	0	0	0	481
Central Linn SD 552	X	0	6	642X
Central Point SD 6	33	0	210	4868
Central SD 13J	82	X	76	3313X
Clatskanie SD 6J	20	0	8	723
Colton SD 53	19	0	48	591
Condon SD 25J	0	0	0	138
Coos Bay SD 9	35	X	217	3265X
Coquille SD 8	6	0	61	1268
Corbett SD 39	8	0	38	1188
Corvallis SD 509J	210	X	605	6745X
Cove SD 15	0	0	0	291
Creswell SD 40	20	X	57	1288X
Crook County SD	8	0	46	3071
Crow-Applegate-Lorane SD 66	0	X	0	259X
Culver SD 4	12	0	21	683
Dallas SD 2	26	0	71	3234

David Douglas SD 40	54	0	176	9719
Dayton SD 8	8	0	51	1015
Dayville SD 16J	0	0	X	55X
Diamond SD 7	0	0	0	X
Double O SD 28	0	0	0	7
Douglas County SD 15	0	0	X	201X
Douglas County SD 4	X	X	39	6132X
Drewsey SD 13	0	0	0	6
Dufur SD 29	X	0	9	342X
Eagle Point SD 9	22	0	59	4154
Echo SD 5	X	0	7	280X
Elgin SD 23	0	0	48	403
Elkton SD 34	25	0	X	236X
Enterprise SD 21	0	0	0	406
Estacada SD 108	21	0	77	2927
Eugene SD 4J	121	X	510	17310X
Falls City SD 57	0	0	0	190
Fern Ridge SD 28J	0	0	0	1511
Forest Grove SD 15	174	X	267	6075X
Fossil SD 21J	0	0	0	1021
Frenchglen SD 16	0	0	0	X
Gaston SD 511J	13	0	27	549
Gervais SD 1	12	0	40	1376

Gladstone SD 115	21	0	7	1925
Glendale SD 77	0	0	X	299X
Glide SD 12	7	0	42	767
Grants Pass SD 7	25	0	600	6218
Greater Albany Public SD 8J	47	X	502	9441X
Gresham-Barlow SD 10J	59	0	158	11979
Harney County SD 3	0	X	0	836X
Harney County SD 4	0	0	0	602
Harney County Union High SD 1J	0	0	0	662
Harper SD 66	0	0	0	115
Harrisburg SD 7J	X	X	X	813X
Helix SD 1	X	0	X	183X
Hermiston SD 8	37	X	309	5740X
Hillsboro SD 1J	135	7	790	20269
Hood River County SD	30	0	123	4075
Huntington SD 16J	0	0	0	92
Imbler SD 11	0	0	17	290
lone SD R2	X	0	0	182X
Jefferson County SD 509J	25	0	143	2893
Jefferson SD 14J	X	0	26	826X
Jewell SD 8	0	0	0	162
John Day SD 3	0	0	0	594
Jordan Valley SD 3	0	0	0	59



Joseph SD 6	0	0	0	264
Junction City SD 69	X	X	49	1717X
Juntura SD 12	0	0	0	X
Klamath County SD	51	0	189	6841
Klamath Falls City Schools	65	0	235	2959
Knappa SD 4	0	0	14	502
La Grande SD 1	15	0	81	2348
Lake County SD 7	7	0	0	757
Lake Oswego SD 7J	36	X	405	7088X
Lebanon Community SD 9	42	0	211	4230
Lincoln County SD	32	X	85	5631X
Long Creek SD 17	X	0	0	35X
Lowell SD 71	0	0	0	857
Malheur County SD 51	X	X	X	X
Mapleton SD 32	0	0	8	158
Marcola SD 79J	0	0	0	649
McKenzie SD 68	0	0	X	226X
McMinnville SD 40	102	0	297	6708
Medford SD 549C	67	0	435	14468
Milton-Freewater Unified SD 7	24	0	26	1671
Mitchell SD 55	0	0	0	533
Molalla River SD 35	179	X	355	2784X
Monroe SD 1J	0	0	X	349X

Monument SD 8	0	0	0	53
Morrow SD 1	15	0	21	2290
Mt Angel SD 91	X	0	26	728X
Myrtle Point SD 41	X	0	18	524X
Neah-Kah-Nie SD 56	29	0	231	806
Nestucca Valley SD 101J	X	0	0	490X
Newberg SD 29J	14	0	97	4825
North Bend SD 13	6	X	146	4214X
North Clackamas SD 12	360	X	929	17200X
North Douglas SD 22	0	0	X	319X
North Lake SD 14	0	0	X	224X
North Marion SD 15	99	0	152	1857
North Powder SD 8J	8	0	10	266
North Santiam SD 29J	11	0	132	2283
North Wasco County SD 21	47	0	120	2987
Nyssa SD 26	10	0	11	1212
Oakland SD 1	0	0	0	647
Oakridge SD 76	X	0	7	566X
Ontario SD 8C	25	0	65	2406
Oregon City SD 62	123	X	598	8018X
Oregon Trail SD 46	34	X	204	4528X
Paisley SD 11	X	0	0	211X
Parkrose SD 3	14	0	46	3068

Pendleton SD 16	19	X	76	3117X
Perrydale SD 21	18	0	10	316
Philomath SD 17J	X	0	74	1656X
Phoenix-Talent SD 4	11	0	115	2578
Pilot Rock SD 2	0	0	X	303X
Pine Creek SD 5	0	0	0	X
Pine Eagle SD 61	0	0	8	227
Pinehurst SD 94	0	0	0	10
Pleasant Hill SD 1	X	0	6	1032X
Plush SD 18	0	0	0	7
Port Orford-Langlois SD 2CJ	0	0	0	228
Portland SD 1J	191	9	1250	48559
Powers SD 31	0	0	0	117
Prairie City SD 4	0	0	X	170X
Prospect SD 59	0	0	0	213
Rainier SD 13	7	0	45	920
Redmond SD 2J	111	X	378	7469X
Reedsport SD 105	X	X	18	628X
Reynolds SD 7	63	6	139	10940
Riddle SD 70	X	0	X	398X
Riverdale SD 51J	7	0	33	648
Rogue River SD 35	X	0	6	1099X
Salem-Keizer SD 24J	421	8	826	41770

Santiam Canyon SD 129J	21	0	400	4453
Scappoose SD 1J	8	0	132	2405
Scio SD 95	0	0	0	863
Seaside SD 10	X	0	54	1618X
Sheridan SD 48J	14	0	16	899
Sherman County SD	0	0	0	267
Sherwood SD 88J	126	X	293	5259X
Silver Falls SD 4J	54	14	135	3974
Sisters SD 6	10	0	97	1115
Siuslaw SD 97J	0	0	7	1356
South Harney SD 33	0	0	0	15
South Lane SD 45J3	28	X	279	2804X
South Umpqua SD 19	X	0	18	1521X
South Wasco County SD 1	X	0	X	226X
Spray SD 1	0	0	0	64
Springfield SD 19	166	X	707	10571X
St Helens SD 502	X	X	46	2833X
St Paul SD 45	6	0	X	290X
Stanfield SD 61	X	0	32	527X
Suntex SD 10	0	0	0	X
Sutherlin SD 130	X	0	0	1401X
Sweet Home SD 55	13	0	175	2323
Three Rivers / Josephine County SD	57	0	65	4814

Tigard-Tualatin SD 23J	69	X	370	12619X
Tillamook SD 9	17	X	63	2259X
Troy SD 54	0	0	0	X
Ukiah SD 80R	X	0	0	29X
Umatilla SD 6R	X	0	48	1425X
Union SD 5	X	0	15	373X
Vale SD 84	X	X	X	906X
Vernonia SD 47J	22	0	39	573
Wallowa SD 12	0	0	0	191
Warrenton-Hammond SD 30	18	X	40	1028X
West Linn-Wilsonville SD 3J	259	X	915	9802X
Willamina SD 30J	0	0	X	876X
Winston-Dillard SD 116	X	0	8	1393X
Woodburn SD 103	70	0	75	5628
Yamhill Carlton SD 1	11	X	15	1052X
Yoncalla SD 32	X	0	X	265X
Totals	5321	112	22568	582,661

## Nurse-to-Student Ratios

### Statewide Ratios: Nurse-to-Students with Medical Needs and Remaining Students

In the 2019-2020 academic year, there were 582,661 students enrolled in Oregon public schools, and 311.92 full-time equivalent (FTE) Registered Nurses working in schools and 64.6 FTE Licensed Practical Nurses.

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

	Number of Students	Registered Nurse FTE (rounded)	Licensed Practice Nurse FTE (rounded)
Total number of students and nurse FTE	582,661	311.9	64.6
<i>Students with medical needs and nurses who serve them**</i>	<i>(-28,001)</i>	<i>(-190.6)</i>	<i>(-64.6)</i>
Remaining students and nurses after subtracting students with medical needs and nurses who serve them	554,660	121.3	0
<b>Statewide Ratio of Nurses to Students Who Do Not Require Dedicated Nurse Staffing</b>  (Remaining students after subtracting students with medical needs from total population)	<b>1:4,572*</b>		

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

*\*\*This assumes that each district is using their reported FTE for meeting mandated ratios first. For the sake of this calculation, this assumes that all LPNs are all designated to 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

Only 13 schools districts (< 7%) reported full-time access to a school nurse. When compared to other states, Oregon schools rank near the bottom in terms of access to school nurse services.<sup>13,14</sup> Although Oregon schools did report an increase of 15 FTE (5%) statewide, **61 school districts (30%) still report no nurse access.** Additionally, even among the school districts who did report having a school nurse available, more than a quarter (30%, 43) of those have a nurse available less than half time.

<sup>13</sup> 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

<sup>14</sup> Institute for Educational Services, National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). *Public High School Graduation Rates*. Updated May 2019. [https://nces.ed.gov/programs/coe/indicator\\_coi.asp](https://nces.ed.gov/programs/coe/indicator_coi.asp)

A total of 311.92 nurses serve all 582,661 students, including the 28,001 students with health conditions that require school nursing services. Students with health conditions, such as type 1 diabetes, asthma, and seizure disorders, require support from a nurse in order to access their education, grow, and succeed in school alongside their peers. **Despite 140 school districts (71%) reporting students with health conditions enrolled in their district, more than a dozen of those districts lack access to any nurses at all.** It is well-known that school nurse staffing is essential to educational equity and to the health and academic success of students.<sup>1516</sup>

ORS 336.201 requires that school districts provide nursing services for all students with medical needs at different ratios, depending on the acuity of student health conditions. After subtracting for nurses who are designated to provide services to students with health conditions, **the statewide nurse-to-student ratio is one nurse for every 4,572 students (1:4572). This is six times over the recommended ratio of one nurse for every 750 students (1:750)** established in statute (ORS 336.201). **In fact, only 7 school districts (4%) meet the recommended ratio of 1 nurse to every 750 students.**

This report demonstrates a significant shortage of nursing services for all students in Oregon. Nurses are spread too thin: they are often assigned to multiple schools and, in some cases, to multiple school districts. Few nurses have time or capacity to provide support for prevention programs, policy development, or many other activities described in the *Types of Care Provided* section. Additionally, COVID-19 has amplified the need for nurses working in schools. As the impacts of the pandemic unfold, it is evident that it has negatively affected all students in deep and long-lasting ways— whether by illness, family unemployment, and/or stress, anxiety, and depression. As experts in communicable disease prevention, population health, and school health, nurses play an essential role in planning for and curbing these effects on students and their families. Now, more than ever, nurses working in the school setting are critical to providing equitable education.

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<sup>15</sup> Arimas-Macalino, C., Weismuller, P. C., & McClanahan, R. (2019). Addressing illness-related chronic absences. *NASN School Nurse*, 34(6), 357–362. doi:10.1177/1942602X19852749

<sup>16</sup> Best, N. C., Oppewal, S., & Travers, D. (2017). Exploring school nurse interventions and health and education outcomes: An integrative review. *The Journal of School Nursing*, 34(1), 14–27. doi:10.1177/1059840517 745359