

Nursing Services in Oregon Public Schools

2020-2021 Legislative Report

September 2021



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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 Registered Nurses and Licensed Practical Nurses and, (2) the number of students who are medically complex, medically fragile, nursing dependent, as well as the remaining general student population in Oregon public schools. The statewide nurse-to-student ratio is also included.

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, including services required by Federal Law that entitles students with disabilities a free appropriate public education (FAPE).

Oregon law (ORS 336.201) recommends a maximum of 750 students per full-time nurse. High ratios and multiple school sites reduce opportunities for nurses to positively impact student well-being. Identifying strengths, gaps, and opportunities related to current school nursing services can inform continued efforts such that all Oregon students have the support they need to learn, grow, thrive, and achieve together.

School 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 met¹. 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.

School nurses support health for individuals and school communities, and in so doing, impact student health as well as academic outcomes. Schools with smaller nurse-to-student ratios report lower absenteeism rates and higher graduation rates². The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends there be one school nurse in every school.³

Schools are a source of critical support for students who have health conditions and social or economic needs⁴. As a critical health professional in the education setting, a school nurse supports students' access to education via individualized care as well as through the provision of medical guidance to address broader school health issues⁶.

In the 2020-2021 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 on Black, American Indian/Alaska Native, and Latino/a/x, Pacific Islander

¹ 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

² 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

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

⁴ 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.

⁵ Raspberry 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.

⁶ Maughan E. *The Impact of School Nursing on School Performance: a Research Synthesis*. Journal of School Nursing, 2003; 19(3): 163-171

communities; students experiencing disabilities; and students and families navigating poverty⁷. Now, more than ever, supporting student and community health and well-being is a cornerstone of educational equity.

The COVID-19 pandemic has also exacerbated Oregon’s school nursing challenges. Of the school nurses who responded to a survey by the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) in 2021 statewide survey (n=251), one in three reported that COVID-19 mitigation took 90% of their time, or more, plus frequent overtime. Meanwhile, 79% of nurses surveyed reported unmet nursing care needs for students on their caseload, such as incomplete care planning or lack of staff training related to a student’s health condition.³

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.”⁸

In this report, the term “school nurse” is used to describe a Registered Nurse (RN) practicing in the school setting. Oregon law states that “a Registered Nurse or school nurse is responsible for coordinating the school nursing services provided to an individual student.” (ORS 336.201) Oregon law defines “school nurse” as a RN with Professional School Nurse certification, described below.

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 Nurses 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 licensed professionals may provide nursing services in Oregon schools, and are counted in this report:

⁷ The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, August 2021. Health Equity Considerations and Racial and Ethnic Minority Groups, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/health-equity/race-ethnicity.html>

⁸ 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>

1. **Certified School Nurses.** Oregon law defines “school nurse” as a RN who is certified by the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (TSPC) as qualified to conduct and coordinate the health service programs of a school (ORS 342.455; ORS 342.475).
2. **Registered Nurses.** 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 TSPC Professional School Nurse certificate (ORS 342.455; ORS 342.475). Per Oregon licensure laws, RN scope of practice includes providing direct care; clinical direction and supervision of others including licensed practical nurses (LPNs) and unlicensed personnel; and health education and health policy development within the RN’s areas of competence. (OAR 851, division 45).
3. **Licensed Practical Nurses.** 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 RN 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 many Oregon school nurses include:

- **Individualized care and care delegation.** School nurses support students with identified health needs.
- **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 trainings and health education.** School nurses educate students, staff, and families. Nurses may provide condition-specific education, school-wide messaging or guidance, and classroom education in collaboration with licensed educators. Trainings by nurses support 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). School nurses may 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.

Ensuring Equitable Access to Education with School Nursing Services

Schools have legal and ethical responsibility to provide education equitably. All students must have access to a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE)⁹, regardless of ability and health status. In addition, both public and private schools are responsible for upholding federal and state non-discrimination laws. School nurses are essential in fulfilling these responsibilities, particularly for students who experience disability or special healthcare needs.

Care Planning

School nurses are licensed to develop individualized care plans, which are important for students with identified health needs. A Health Management Plan provides guidance regarding how a specific student's condition is to be managed during the school day and at school-sponsored events. A Health Management Plan is often an attachment to the Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or 504 plan.

To develop a Health Management Plan, the nurse follows the nursing process to assess the student and situation, identify a nursing diagnosis, plan and implement appropriate nursing interventions, and

⁹ United States Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights, Free Appropriate Public Education for Students With Disabilities: Requirements Under Section 504 of The Rehabilitation Act of 1973

evaluate whether the interventions are meeting student needs. The nurse conducts this process in collaboration with the student, family, school staff, and community providers.

Care Delivery: Direct Care, Care Delegation, Anticipated Emergencies

Nursing care tasks must be performed or overseen by a Registered Nurse. When the nurse is not directly providing services, the Nurse Practice Act provides them the authority to delegate tasks to non-health professionals. The nurse may only delegate care in this manner after determining that the student 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, or not, lies specifically with the Registered Nurse.

Most school districts in Oregon report student health needs which exceed capacity of direct service by available Registered Nurses and licensed practical nurses. This can often necessitate use of unlicensed assistive personnel to provide nursing care under delegation orders. OHA surveys indicate that most Oregon school nurses (81-93%) use care delegation to meet student needs.³ In addition to care delegation for conditions which are stable and predictable, RNs may use a different licensed process to teach unlicensed assistive personnel to respond to anticipated emergencies and provide life-saving treatments.

According to OHA, the most common school nursing procedure delegated in 2020-2021 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, and other cardiac monitoring.

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

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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.

General Population Students Who Do Not Require Dedicated Nurse Staffing

“General population” includes students who do not require dedicated nurse staffing, but may benefit from the services of a school nurse. This 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, dental, and scoliosis screenings, supported by the school nurse. While not all students require dedicated school nurse staffing, school nurses can

support prevention, early intervention, and life-long management of physical and mental health needs for every student in the school community.

Relevant Laws 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 and appropriate public education. There are two overarching federal laws that ensure this right:

- 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).

Multiple Oregon state education laws indicate the need for school nursing services:

- 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).
- 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 providing medications to students complete state-approved training provided by a licensed provider (OAR 581-021-0200; OAR 581-021-0037).
- 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 581-22-2220)

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

According to ORS 336.201, school districts are required to submit yearly data on nursing services and students with medical needs 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 through June, 2021. Districts had a subsequent review window period in August, where they had the opportunity to review and adjust their data. ODE staff then emailed or called districts that had errors or data that was flagged for being inconsistent with prior years. ODE staff then conducted the data analysis included in the remainder of this report.

For the 2020-2021 school year, ODE received data from 168 districts in Oregon. In the prior 2019-2020 school year, all 196 districts with student enrollment submitted data. This year, six school districts did not submit data. After analyzing prior year data from these districts, it was decided to include their data

as zeros in the analysis of nurse FTE and students with health conditions included in this report. Last year, these 6 districts submitted a total of .2 nurses and 3 medically complex students. This year, they are counted as zeros in the analysis section.

It is important to note that the COVID-19 pandemic during the 2020-2021 school year has presented many 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. When school resumed in Fall 2020, executive orders required schools to provide Comprehensive Distance Learning when county metrics indicated spread of COVID-19; based on those metrics, most schools provided Comprehensive Distance Learning until executive orders changed in March 2021. These challenges may have caused the decrease in district participation in this data collection, and may have caused data to be less accurate than in prior years.

Nurse Staffing Data

Table 1 below shows the total nursing support (Registered Nurses and Licensed Practical Nurses) in public schools for the 2020-2021 school year. Districts reported a combined total of 379.65 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 reported 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. However, as mentioned above, fewer districts reported data during the 2020-2021 school year than in prior years. Table 2 provides the list of districts and the number of nurse FTE reported. Districts who did not report any data this year are included.

Table 1. Nurse FTE in the 2020-2021 School Year Statewide

Registered Nurse/School Nurse FTE	329.67
Licensed Practical Nurse FTE	49.98
Total Nurse FTE in Schools	379.65

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Table 2. Nurse FTE in the 2020-2021 School Year per District

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	0.2	0
Alsea SD 7J	0	0	0	0
Amity SD 4J	0	0	0.22	0
Annex SD 29	0	0	0	0
Arlington SD 3	0	0	0	0
Arock SD 81	NO DATA	NO DATA	NO DATA	NO DATA
Ashland SD 5	0.8	0	1.53	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	NO DATA	NO DATA	NO DATA	NO DATA
Banks SD 13	0	0	0.4	0
Beaverton SD 48J	4	3	18.75	2
Bend-LaPine Administrative SD 1	0	0	20	0
Bethel SD 52	3	3	3	0
Blachly SD 90	0	0	0	0
Black Butte SD 41	0	0	0	0
Brookings-Harbor SD 17C	0	0	0.75	0
Burnt River SD 30J	0	0	0.05	0
Butte Falls SD 91	0	0	0.03	0
Camas Valley SD 21J	0	0	0	0
Canby SD 86	0	0	2.6	0
Cascade SD 5	2	1	1	0
Centennial SD 28J	0.11	0	5.33	0.6

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Central Curry SD 1	0	0	0	0
Central Linn SD 552	0	0	0.2	0
Central Point SD 6	0	0	1	0.12
Central SD 13J	0	0	3	1
Clatskanie SD 6J	0	0	1	0
Colton SD 53	0	0	0.25	0
Condon SD 25J	0	0	0	0
Coos Bay SD 9	0	0	3	0
Coquille SD 8	0	0	1	0
Corbett SD 39	0	0	0.89	0
Corvallis SD 509J	2	2	5.2	3
Cove SD 15	0	0	0.2	0
Creswell SD 40	2	2	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	1	1	1	0
David Douglas SD 40	0.14	0	5.62	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	0	0
Drewsey SD 13	0	0	0	0
Dufur SD 29	0	0	0.75	0
Eagle Point SD 9	0	0	3.43	0
Echo SD 5	0	0	0.2	0
Elgin SD 23	0	0	0.2	0
Elkton SD 34	0	0	0.25	0
Enterprise SD 21	0	0	0	0
Estacada SD 108	0	0	0.5	0
Eugene SD 4J	5	0	13.5	1
Falls City SD 57	0	0	0	0

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Fern Ridge SD 28J	0	0	0.75	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	0.13	0
Gervais SD 1	0	0	1.25	0
Gladstone SD 115	0	0	1	0
Glendale SD 77	0	0	0	0
Glide SD 12	0	0	0.5	0
Grants Pass SD 7	0	0	2	0
Greater Albany Public SD 8J	4	4	4.32	0.32
Gresham-Barlow SD 10J	0.11	0	5.52	0
Harney County SD 3	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	0	0	5	1
Hillsboro SD 1J	12.25	6.13	9.2	0
Hood River County SD	0	0	1.65	0
Huntington SD 16J	0	0	0	0
Imbler SD 11	0	0	0.2	0
lone SD R2	0	0	0.2	0
Jefferson County SD 509J	0	0	2	0
Jefferson SD 14J	0	0	0.6	0
Jewell SD 8	0	0	0.2	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	1.25	0
Juntura SD 12	NO DATA	NO DATA	NO DATA	NO DATA
Klamath County SD	0	0	1	0
Klamath Falls City Schools	0	0	3.5	0

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Knappa SD 4	0	0	0.5	0
La Grande SD 1	0	0	2	0
Lake County SD 7	0	0	0	0
Lake Oswego SD 7J	0	0	3.2	0
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*	NA	NA	NA	NNA
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	3	0
Medford SD 549C	2	0	5	0
Milton-Freewater Unified SD 7	0	0	1	0
Mitchell SD 55	0	0	0	0
Molalla River SD 35	0	0	2.3	0
Monroe SD 1J	0	0	0	0
Monument SD 8	0	0	0	0
Morrow SD 1	0.6	0	0	0
Mt Angel SD 91	0	0	0.34	0
Myrtle Point SD 41	0	0	0.8	0
Neah-Kah-Nie SD 56	0	0	0.4	0
Nestucca Valley SD 101J	0	0	0.2	0
Newberg SD 29J	0	0	1	0
North Bend SD 13	0	0	3	1
North Clackamas SD 12	0	0	8.57	0.47
North Douglas SD 22	0	0	0.4	0
North Lake SD 14	0	0	0	0
North Marion SD 15	0	0	1.2	0
North Powder SD 8J	0	0	0.4	0
North Santiam SD 29J	0	0	1.4	0
North Wasco County SD 21	0	0	3	0
Nyssa SD 26	1	0	1	0

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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	1.5
Oregon Trail SD 46	0.62	0.61	1.01	0.01
Paisley SD 11	0	0	0	0
Parkrose SD 3	0.06	0	1.89	0
Pendleton SD 16	0	0	1.6	1
Perrydale SD 21	0	0	0.2	0
Philomath SD 17J	0	0	150	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	0.2	0
Pinehurst SD 94	0	0	0	0
Pleasant Hill SD 1	0.8	0	0.1	0
Plush SD 18	0	0	0	0
Port Orford-Langlois SD 2CJ	0	0	.6	0
Portland SD 1J	0.24	0	34.88	0.9
Powers SD 31	0	0	0	0
Prairie City SD 4	NO DATA	NO DATA	NO DATA	NO DATA
Prospect SD 59	0	0	1	0
Rainier SD 13	0	0	5	0
Redmond SD 2J	1	0	12	1
Reedsport SD 105	0	0	2	.4
Reynolds SD 7	2.05	1.79	9.18	0
Riddle SD 70	0	0	0.2	0
Riverdale SD 51J	0	0	0.45	0
Rogue River SD 35	0	0	0.01	0
Salem-Keizer SD 24J	1.4	0.4	20.6	0.8
Santiam Canyon SD 129J	0	0	0	0
Scappoose SD 1J	0	0	1	0
Scio SD 95	NO DATA	NO DATA	NO DATA	NO DATA
Seaside SD 10	0	0	1	0
Sheridan SD 48J	0	0	0.8	0

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Sherman County SD	0	0	0.2	0
Sherwood SD 88J	0	0	2	0
Silver Falls SD 4J	0	0	3.2	0
Sisters SD 6	0	0	1.75	0
Siuslaw SD 97J	0	0	0	0
South Harney SD 33	NO DATA	NO DATA	NO DATA	NO DATA
South Lane SD 45J3	1	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	3.5	0
St Helens SD 502	0	0	1	1
St Paul SD 45	0	0	0.2	0
Stanfield SD 61	0	0	0.2	0
Suntex SD 10	0	0	0	0
Sutherlin SD 130	0	0	0.33	0
Sweet Home SD 55	0	0	2	0
Three Rivers/Josephine County SD	0	0	2	0
Tigard-Tualatin SD 23J	0	0	8	4
Tillamook SD 9	0	0	2.17	1
Troy SD 54	0	0	0	0
Ukiah SD 80R	0	0	0.05	0
Umatilla SD 6R	0.8	0	0	0
Union SD 5	0	0	0.2	0
Vale SD 84	0	0	1	0
Vernonia SD 47J	0	0	0.29	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	.02	.02
Winston-Dillard SD 116	0	0	0.5	0
Woodburn SD 103	0	0	2	0
Yamhill Carlton SD 1	0	0	0.3	0

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Yoncalla SD 32	0	0	0	0
Totals	49.98	26.93	329.67	24.14

**Malheur County SD 51 reports no student enrollment*

Student Population Data

During the 2020-2021 school year, Oregon school districts reported 29,330 students with health conditions that required nursing services in order to attend school and learn alongside their peers.

Table 3 provides a breakdown according to student acuity.

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
2020-2021	24,547	4,709	74	531,640

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	12
Adrian SD 61	0	0	0	254
Alsea SD 7J	0	0	0	460
Amity SD 4J	<10	0	31	733
Annex SD 29	0	0	0	82
Arlington SD 3	0	0	0	162
Arock SD 81	NO DATA	NO DATA	NO DATA	16
Ashland SD 5	24	0	302	2,551
Ashwood SD 8	0	0	0	10
Astoria SD 1	<10	0	48	1,809
Athena-Weston SD 29RJ	<10	0	<10	548
Baker SD 5J	16	0	21	4,669
Bandon SD 54	NO DATA	NO DATA	NO DATA	634
Banks SD 13	11	0	58	1,062
Beaverton SD 48J	161	<10	2835	39,515
Bend-LaPine Administrative SD 1	114	<10	690	17,542
Bethel SD 52	73	<10	297	5,291
Blachly SD 90	<10	0	<10	217
Black Butte SD 41	0	0	0	22
Brookings-Harbor SD 17C	38	0	134	1,405
Burnt River SD 30J	0	0	<10	30
Butte Falls SD 91	<10	0	0	232
Camas Valley SD 21J	0	0	0	226
Canby SD 86	130	0	890	4,190

Nursing Services in Oregon Public Schools

Cascade SD 5	19	<10	49	2,453
Centennial SD 28J	13	<10	117	5,710
Central Curry SD 1	0	0	0	434
Central Linn SD 552	<10	0	12	576
Central Point SD 6	44	0	373	4,731
Central SD 13J	64	<10	102	3,127
Clatskanie SD 6J	17	0	<10	651
Colton SD 53	<10	0	15	510
Condon SD 25J	0	0	0	134
Coos Bay SD 9	20	0	126	3,022
Coquille SD 8	<10	0	36	1,322
Corbett SD 39	<10	0	43	1,083
Corvallis SD 509J	101	<10	874	6,461
Cove SD 15	<10	0	<10	252
Creswell SD 40	20	<10	40	1,152
Crook County SD	<10	0	61	3,060
Crow-Applegate-Lorane SD 66	0	<10	<10	248
Culver SD 4	14	0	34	646
Dallas SD 2	93	<10	<10	3,036
David Douglas SD 40	54	0	135	9,209
Dayton SD 8	39	0	20	943
Dayville SD 16J	0	0	0	57
Diamond SD 7	0	0	0	<10
Double O SD 28	0	0	0	<10
Douglas County SD 15	<10	0	<10	206
Douglas County SD 4	<10	0	39	5,581
Drewsey SD 13	0	0	0	<10
Dufur SD 29	<10	0	12	345
Eagle Point SD 9	21	0	112	3,998
Echo SD 5	0	0	13	290
Elgin SD 23	<10	0	28	408
Elkton SD 34	0	0	<10	226
Enterprise SD 21	0	0	0	373
Estacada SD 108	16	0	69	3,184
Eugene SD 4J	125	<10	420	16,671

Nursing Services in Oregon Public Schools

Falls City SD 57	0	0	0	170
Fern Ridge SD 28J	0	0	17	1,416
Forest Grove SD 15	159	<10	242	5,747
Fossil SD 21J	0	0	0	1,317
Frenchglen SD 16	0	0	0	<10
Gaston SD 511J	11	0	24	512
Gervais SD 1	12	0	32	1,504
Gladstone SD 115	20	0	<10	1,796
Glendale SD 77	0	0	<10	279
Glide SD 12	<10	0	22	692
Grants Pass SD 7	12	0	466	5,687
Greater Albany Public SD 8J	95	<10	558	8,988
Gresham-Barlow SD 10J	52	0	152	11,694
Harney County SD 3	0	0	0	745
Harney County SD 4	0	0	0	786
Harney County Union High SD 1J	0	0	0	1,110
Harper SD 66	0	0	0	176
Harrisburg SD 7J	<10	<10	<10	712
Helix SD 1	0	0	<10	162
Hermiston SD 8	44	<10	272	5,508
Hillsboro SD 1J	120	<10	826	19,366
Hood River County SD	<10	0	125	3,770
Huntington SD 16J	0	0	0	21
Imbler SD 11	0	0	16	279
Ione SD R2	<10	0	0	149
Jefferson County SD 509J	27	0	79	2,750
Jefferson SD 14J	<10	0	20	781
Jewell SD 8	0	0	<10	112
John Day SD 3	0	0	0	543
Jordan Valley SD 3	0	0	0	52
Joseph SD 6	0	0	0	270
Junction City SD 69	0	0	44	1,623
Juntura SD 12	NO DATA	NO DATA	NO DATA	<10
Klamath County SD	46	212	166	6,784

Nursing Services in Oregon Public Schools

Klamath Falls City Schools	64	0	247	2,799
Knappa SD 4	0	0	13	492
La Grande SD 1	<10	0	41	1,979
Lake County SD 7	0	0	0	736
Lake Oswego SD 7J	14	0	276	6,845
Lebanon Community SD 9	15	0	82	3,779
Lincoln County SD	15	0	104	5,004
Long Creek SD 17	0	0	0	37
Lowell SD 71	0	0	0	1,252
Malheur County SD 51	NA	NA	NA	NA
Mapleton SD 32	0	0	<10	142
Marcola SD 79J	0	0	0	753
McKenzie SD 68	0	0	0	188
McMinnville SD 40	94	0	195	6,345
Medford SD 549C	56	0	397	13,940
Milton-Freewater Unified SD 7	35	0	26	1,609
Mitchell SD 55	0	0	0	1,285
Molalla River SD 35	96	0	298	2,546
Monroe SD 1J	0	0	<10	345
Monument SD 8	0	0	0	51
Morrow SD 1	19	0	23	2,217
Mt Angel SD 91	0	0	28	658
Myrtle Point SD 41	0	0	0	496
Neah-Kah-Nie SD 56	10	0	121	711
Nestucca Valley SD 101J	<10	0	0	455
Newberg SD 29J	12	0	87	4,432
North Bend SD 13	<10	<10	124	5,404
North Clackamas SD 12	374	<10	954	16,384
North Douglas SD 22	0	0	<10	319
North Lake SD 14	0	0	0	233
North Marion SD 15	77	0	328	1,753
North Powder SD 8J	0	0	11	244
North Santiam SD 29J	12	0	144	2,107
North Wasco County SD 21	34	0	83	2,774

Nursing Services in Oregon Public Schools

Nyssa SD 26	<10	0	18	1,180
Oakland SD 1	0	0	0	576
Oakridge SD 76	10	0	16	527
Ontario SD 8C	20	0	36	2,331
Oregon City SD 62	284	<10	840	7,380
Oregon Trail SD 46	<10	<10	72	4,335
Paisley SD 11	0	0	0	194
Parkrose SD 3	15	0	41	2,977
Pendleton SD 16	52	<10	150	2,918
Perrydale SD 21	<10	0	11	305
Philomath SD 17J	<10	0	64	1,543
Phoenix-Talent SD 4	11	0	111	2,394
Pilot Rock SD 2	<10	0	<10	280
Pine Creek SD 5	0	0	0	<10
Pine Eagle SD 61	0	0	<10	192
Pinehurst SD 94	0	0	0	18
Pleasant Hill SD 1	<10	0	<10	986
Plush SD 18	0	0	0	13
Port Orford-Langlois SD 2CJ	0	0	0	194
Portland SD 1J	189	<10	1175	46,924
Powers SD 31	0	0	0	125
Prairie City SD 4	NO DATA	NO DATA	NO DATA	175
Prospect SD 59	0	0	0	198
Rainier SD 13	<10	0	28	857
Redmond SD 2J	53	<10	232	7,069
Reedsport SD 105	15	<10	32	568
Reynolds SD 7	60	<10	142	10,443
Riddle SD 70	<10	0	<10	367
Riverdale SD 51J	<10	0	30	601
Rogue River SD 35	<10	0	<10	1,070
Salem-Keizer SD 24J	355	<10	3566	39,892
Santiam Canyon SD 129J	<10	0	396	5,231
Scappoose SD 1J	<10	0	58	2,123
Scio SD 95	NO DATA	NO DATA	NO DATA	2,836
Seaside SD 10	<10	0	54	1,513

Nursing Services in Oregon Public Schools

Sheridan SD 48J	15	0	68	917
Sherman County SD	0	0	0	230
Sherwood SD 88J	126	<10	269	4,842
Silver Falls SD 4J	19	0	88	3,616
Sisters SD 6	<10	0	49	1,076
Siuslaw SD 97J	0	0	<10	1,222
South Harney SD 33	NO DATA	NO DATA	NO DATA	16
South Lane SD 45J3	21	0	32	2,686
South Umpqua SD 19	0	0	22	1,383
South Wasco County SD 1	0	0	<10	237
Spray SD 1	0	0	0	49
Springfield SD 19	245	<10	618	9,827
St Helens SD 502	<10	<10	54	2,655
St Paul SD 45	<10	0	<10	289
Stanfield SD 61	<10	0	20	500
Suntex SD 10	0	0	0	<10
Sutherlin SD 130	<10	0	0	1,337
Sweet Home SD 55	12	0	162	2,132
Three Rivers/Josephine County SD	<10	0	76	4,445
Tigard-Tualatin SD 23J	53	<10	359	11,859
Tillamook SD 9	20	<10	67	2,076
Troy SD 54	0	0	0	<10
Ukiah SD 80R	<10	0	0	28
Umatilla SD 6R	<10	0	45	1,440
Union SD 5	<10	0	19	326
Vale SD 84	0	0	0	819
Vernonia SD 47J	20	0	40	536
Wallowa SD 12	0	0	0	189
Warrenton-Hammond SD 30	19	0	38	945
West Linn-Wilsonville SD 3J	136	<10	537	9,295
Willamina SD 30J	<10	<10	0	844
Winston-Dillard SD 116	<10	0	<10	1,363
Woodburn SD 103	18	0	66	5,363
Yamhill Carlton SD 1	10	0	25	1,040

Yoncalla SD 32	0	0	<10	248
Totals	4,709	74	24,547	560,917

**Malheur County SD 51 reports no student enrollment*

Nurse to Student Ratios

In the 2020-2021 academic year, there were 560,917 students enrolled in Oregon public schools, and 329.67 full-time equivalent (FTE) Registered Nurses working in schools and 50 FTE Licensed Practical Nurses. Table 5 provides an estimate of how many nurses are serving 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 (rounded)	Licensed Practice Nurse FTE (rounded)
Total number of students and nurse FTE	560,917	329.67	50
<i>Students with medical needs and nurses who serve them**</i>	<i>(-29,330)</i>	<i>(-170.8)</i>	<i>(-50)</i>
Remaining general population students and nurses after subtracting students with medical needs and nurses who serve them	531,587	158.9	0
Statewide Ratio of Nurses to General Population Students	1:3,346*		

**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 students with medical needs. 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

The Oregon Department of Education'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. A total of 329.67 nurses serve all 560,917, students, including the 29,330 students with health conditions that require school nursing services. Only 41% (n=81) of public school districts in Oregon reported staffing one or more full-time school nurse(s). According to a survey from the Oregon Health Authority, the vast majority of these nurses serve many schools within their districts. On average, full-time nurses serve 4 schools¹⁰.

Although Oregon schools did report an increase of 17 school nurse FTE statewide from the 2019-2020 school year, **30% (n=60) school districts did not report any nurse FTE**. Out of the 137 districts who did report nurse FTE, 44 were hired for less than half time, meaning that a nurse was available less than 20 hours a week for the entire district.

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 135 school districts (69%) reporting students with health conditions enrolled in their district, a dozen of those districts lack access to any nurses at all.

Currently, there is approximately one nurse for every 1,836 students, including the students who have health conditions who require nursing services. However, 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 those required services to students with health conditions, the **statewide nurse-to-student ratio is one nurse for every 3,346 students for general population students**. This is almost five times over the recommended ratio of one nurse for every 750 students established in statute (ORS 336.201). In fact, **only 15 school districts (7.6%) meet the recommended ratio of 1 nurse to every 750 students**.

All students could benefit from the support of a school nurse. As the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic unfold, it is evident that it has negatively affected all students in deep and long-lasting ways. As health professionals with expertise 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.

¹⁰ Oregon Health Authority, 2021. School Nurse Survey.