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Nurses in Schools and Students with Certain Medical Impairments Report (House Bill 2693, 2009)

Background

House Bill 2693 (2009) requires the Oregon Department of Education to submit an annual report that provides information on the availability of nurses and the number of students with certain medical impairments in Oregon public schools to the State Board of Education and the interim legislative committees related to education. The report is due no later than October 1 of each year and is based on the previous school year's data.

The information collected for school year 2011-2012 is presented in this document.

Many Oregon students arrive at school with existing health conditions, which have an influence on the student's ability to access their education. In order to best assist these students to complete and excel in their educational efforts, it is vital that health care needs within the school program be addressed and met. Some, but not all of these conditions may be reflected in State data on Special Education. The data presented in this report is an effort to reflect more accurately the actual health needs of Oregon students, and the overall numbers of students who have health care needs in Oregon schools. It also presents data on the number of school nurses who provide this care in the Oregon public school setting.

In September 2012, data was received from 107 districts out of 197 school districts. The data contained in this report is based on participation by 54% of Oregon public school districts. It is a new data collection, and past experience shows that the participation rate improves as school districts become more familiar with the collection requirements. ODE communicated the data requirements to all districts in a variety of formats. ODE staff followed up with personal phone calls to districts that hadn't submitted. Additionally, training via video conferencing was offered to all districts and posted on the ODE website for later access.

This report consists of two sections which are:

- Section One: Nurses in Schools
- Section Two: Students with various Medical Impairments (medically complex, medically fragile and nursing dependent)

Section One: Nurses in Schools

In the 107 districts that reported, there are 288 (FTE) nurses that serve students. District by district data is available here: [School Nurse Report](#)

The ratio of nurses to students, in districts reporting data, is **1:1,490**.

[House Bill 2693](#) encourages school districts to provide:

- 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

Number of Nurses (FTE) in Oregon Schools	
Category	2011-12
Licensed Practical Nurses	32
Registered Nurses	203
School Nurses (Registered Nurses who meet the further requirements set in place by the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission and may be designated by that Commission as 'school nurses')	53

Section Two: Students with various medical impairments

The second set of data reflects the numbers of students who require some predictable amount of nurse time during their hours of participation in their school program. District by district data is available here (with redacted data for cell sizes of under 6 students to protect privacy): [School Nurse Report](#)

Three categories of students are identified for collection in HB 2693:

- Medically Complex Students - students who have an unstable health condition, and who may require daily professional nursing services. Example: a student with multiple impairments who requires frequent tracheal suctioning.
- Medically Fragile Students - students who may have a life-threatening health condition and who may require immediate professional nursing services. Example: an unstable diabetic 1st grade student who needs a nurse at lunch time to test their blood, interpret the results and provide the appropriate insulin injection.
- Nursing Dependent Students - students who may have an unstable or life-threatening health condition and who may require daily, direct and continuous professional nursing services. Example: An asthmatic student that needs a nursing care plan to manage activity (P.E. etc.) and administration of rescue inhaler.

Students with various medical impairments	
Category	2011-2012
Medically Complex Students (students who have unstable health condition, and who may require daily professional nursing services)	12,705
Medically Fragile Students (students who may have a life-threatening health condition and who may require immediate professional nursing services)	3,178
Nursing Dependent Students (students who may have an unstable or life-threatening health condition and who may require daily, direct and continuous professional nursing services)	89

Conclusion

This year's report reflects the ongoing efforts of Oregon schools to accurately reflect school nurse and student data. Creating a clear picture of students with medical needs in the Oregon school system, and the nursing resources available for care of those students remain the goals of this data collection. Intensive analysis of this data will be more useful when trend data becomes available.

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