

2015 Nursing Services in Oregon Public Schools



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Executive Summary

Students are best able to access their education programs when they are healthy. Some students in Oregon arrive at school with health conditions that require nursing support for success. Nursing services available in schools are individualized to meet the variety of medical needs of such students. In 2009, the legislature amended ORS 336.201 to require the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to submit an annual report to the State Board of Education and the interim legislative committees related to education, no later than October 1 of each year, that provides data collected from districts on:

- The availability of Licensed Practical Nurses, Registered Nurses and School Nurses in each school district; and
- The number of medically complex students, medically fragile students and nursing dependent students in each school district.

Table 1 below provides the total number of enrolled students from reporting school districts over the past three years, along with the nursing FTE available.

Table 1: School Nursing Service Available in Oregon Schools									
School Year	Number of Students Enrolled	School Nurse FTE Reported in this Collection	Ratio of Nurses to Students	School Nurse Single Student FTE					
2012-2013	563,714	161.6	1:3488	2					
2013-2014	567,098	125.74	1:4510	2.48					
2014-2015	570,857	122.38	1:4664	5					

Oregon law (ORS 336.201) requires districts provide the following levels of nursing services:

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

In addition, Oregon law encourages school districts to provide one Registered Nurse or School Nurse for every 750 students by 2020 following the calendar 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

Nursing Services in Oregon Public Schools and Students with Certain Medical Impairments

Background

Many Oregon students arrive at school with existing health conditions that influence their ability to access and benefit from educational programing. As such, it is vital that student health care needs while at school be addressed. Existing health conditions, such as asthma, diabetes and epilepsy, are a "fact of life" for many of the students attending Oregon public schools.

This report provides the most accurate data the state has collected on the number of medically fragile and complex students and the number of health care providers (Registered Nurses, School Nurses, and Licensed Practical Nurses) working in Oregon schools. Subsequently, this report identifies the current School Nurse to Student ratios for Oregon.

Nursing Services Provided in Oregon Public Schools

In general, there are three ways nursing services are provided in Oregon schools.

- 1. Through Licensed Practical Nurses. Under Oregon law, Licensed Practical Nurses must work under the clinical direction of a Registered Nurse.
- 2. Through Licensed 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 (TSPC) as qualified to conduct and coordinate the health service programs of a school. The TSPC issues a certificate to Registered Nurses who meet these additional requirements promulgated by the Commission for School Nurses. However, there is no state requirement that school districts employ only TSPC certified School Nurses (ORS 342.495) to provide health services to students.
- 3. Through Registered Nurses. Oregon law allows school districts to hire registered nurses, who do not hold a TSPC School Nurse license, to provide school nursing services.

Oregon law allows School Nurses to train and delegate nursing responsibilities to non-health professionals to meet the needs of medically complex students as well as students without identified medical needs. As such, one nurse, working for a district, may train and oversee non-nursing school staff who may perform medically related tasks delegated by the nurse. Nurses have the authority to perform this training and oversight under Division 47 of the Oregon Nurse Practice Act. The Oregon Department of Education does not currently collect data on the number of school nurse delegations.

Data Collection 2014-2015

School districts were required to submit data on nursing services for the 2014-2015 school year. ODE staff communicated this requirement to all districts in a variety of formats including by phone, email, and through appropriate Listservs. ODE received data from 193 of the 197 districts in Oregon.

Nursing Services Available in Oregon Schools

In the 193 Oregon school districts who reported data, there are 303.02 full-time equivalent (FTE) nurses employed who serve students. (See district-by-district data in Appendix A). Table 2 below shows the total nursing support in public schools for the 2014-2015 school year. This data indicates an increase in the in the overall number of nurses working in Oregon schools. (see Table 2.)

Table 2: 2014-2015 Nurses Reported in Oregon Schools - FTE						
Licensed Practical Nurse	42.01					
Registered Nurse/School Nurse	261.01					
Total Nurse Support in Schools	303.02					

Students with Medical Impairments

For purposes of this report, students with medical impairments fall into three categories:

- ➤ Medically complex
- ➤ Medically fragile
- Nursing dependent

Table 3 highlights the number of students with specific medical impairments over the past three school years. This table shows there has been a steady decrease in the number of medically complex students over the past three school years. However, this decrease may be due to improved data collection strategies including better understanding of how to count students in one of the three categories.

Table 3: Number of Students with Specific Medical Impairments									
School Year	Number of Medically Complex Students	Number of Medically Fragile Students	Number of Nursing Dependent Students						
2012-2013	17,458	2,490	121						
2013-2014	16,490	3,245	148						
2014-2015	15,911	3,721	179						

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, for instance to write a health care plan, 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 medically stable epilepsy. The school nurse will access medical orders, assess the student, write a care plan for the student, and teach non-nurse school staff how to recognize and assist the student during student 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.

In 2014-2015, districts reported 15,911 medically complex students. This is a decrease of 579 students as compared to the number reported as medically complex in 2013-2014. This decrease may be due to more accurate data collection strategies, and understanding of how to count students in one of the three categories.

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 (often daily) one-on-one intervention by a licensed school nurse. An example of this would be a six-year-old student who is newly diagnosed with diabetes. Nurse intervention is required on a daily basis to check blood status, configure 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.

In 2014-2015, districts reported 3,721 medically fragile students. This is an increase of 476 over the number of medically fragile students reported in 2013-2014. Again, this increase may be due to more accurate data collection strategies, and understanding of how to count students in one of the three categories.

Oregon seems to reflect national statistics in the numbers of diabetic and severely allergic children and young adults. Taken together, these two diagnoses may affect up to 10% of Oregon's school population. Children and young adults who have these, and other serious medical conditions, are only able to access their educational program when their chronic condition is medically under control during their school day. Achieving this optimum control during hours of school requires cooperation and communication between school staff, school nurses, parents, students, and the medical community. Nurses who deliver services in the school setting are the staff who spearhead and lead these efforts.

Nursing-Dependent Students

"Nursing-dependent students" are those students who may have an unstable or life-threatening health condition and who require daily, direct, and continuous professional nursing services. Nursing-dependent students are those who require direct one-on-one services by a licensed nurse so that they are medically safe in the school setting. A student with impaired breathing who has a tracheostomy which requires frequent suction, would be one example of a student in this category. Since professional nursing assessment is required with each instance of suctioning, a licensed nurse must be present with the student during the hours of school.

Table 3 above shows that 179 students were identified as nursing-dependent in 2014-2015. This represents an increase of 31 students compared to data reported in 2013-2014.

Conclusion

Many Oregon students are arriving at school with existing health conditions that compromise their ability to access and benefit from their educational program. Specifically, we have seen increased numbers of students with insulin-dependent diabetes and severe allergies. The data reflected in this 2015 Nursing Services in Oregon Public Schools report is the most comprehensive of the four collection years. As with all such data collections, results depend on the accuracy and timeliness of response from local districts. Responses for this year comprise 98% of Oregon's school districts reporting data.

Current staff did a thorough internal review of the collection this spring and identified several areas of concern that likely skewed the data collected and may have caused confusion during the data collection process.

The first concern is with the definition of the terms, "medically complex," "medically fragile," and "nursing dependent" used in the collection. These are not terms typically used in the school setting and the current definitions may have caused confusion for the field when determining student status for the collection.

The second area of concern identified is the need for clarification regarding the definition of a school nurse versus the definition of a LPN or a registered nurse performing similar nursing duties.

Unlike previous reports, ODE has changed the "School Nurse Ratio" in Table 1 for 2015 to reflect Registered Nurses and School Nurses practicing in a school nurse role. Previous reports included one-to-one Registered Nurses and Licensed Practical Nurses in the ratio calculation and ODE felt that to provide a more accurate picture of the students-to-school nurses ratio the calculation should be revised. To more accurately reflect the ratio, the department corrected this same data for the prior two years. This more accurate reflection of the data resulted in the Students-to-School-Nurse ratio increasing.

Given these concerns and the impact they have had on the validity of the data collected over the past four years, ODE is working with an advisory group to redesign the Nursing Services in Oregon Public Schools collection for the 2015-16 school year. This redesign will assure the data collected for the 2015-16 school year is more accurate, valid, and useful. As a result of the anticipated changes, the data collected for the 2015-16 school year will become a new baseline and subsequent reports will only include this most current baseline data.

Appendix A

2014-2015 Medically Fragile Data Collection District Level

Note: The rows of Districts who did not report their data to ODE were intentionally left blank.

School Districts	Medically Fragile Student Count	Nursing Dependent Student Count	Medically Complex Student Count	Licensed Practical Nurse FTE	Registered Nurse/ School Nurse FTE	School Nurse FTE
Adel SD 21	0	0	0	0	0	0
Adrian SD 61	0	0	0	0	0	0
Alsea SD 7J	1	0	0	0.2	0	0
Amity SD 4J	0	0	0	0	0.04	0
Annex SD 29	0	0	0	0	0	0
Arlington SD 3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Arock SD 81	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ashland SD 5	3	0	118	0	1.2	0
Ashwood SD 8	0	0	0	0	0	0
Astoria SD 1	2	0	38	0	1.3	1.3
Athena-Weston SD 29RJ	0	0	7	0	0.11	0
Baker SD 5J	0	0	41	0	0.4	0.4
Bandon SD 54	1	1	1	1	0	0
Banks SD 13	19	0	36	0	0.2	0.2
Beaverton SD 48J	140	12	4618	1	19.25	12.25
Bend-LaPine Administrative SD 1	1	1	30	0	10	5
Bethel SD 52	29	1	158	0	1	1
Blachly SD 90	1	0	0	0	0	0
Black Butte SD 41	0	0	0	0	0	0
Brookings-Harbor SD 17C	33	1	1	0	1	1
Burnt River SD 30J	0	0	0	0	0	0
Butte Falls SD 91	0	0	0	0	0	0
Camas Valley SD 21J	1	0	0	0	0	0
Canby SD 86	0	0	290	0	1	1
Cascade SD 5	1	0	0	0	1	1
Centennial SD 28J	4	0	31	0	3.36	3.1
Central Curry SD 1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Central Linn SD 552	10	0	5	0	0.6	0
Central Point SD 6	0	0	16	0	0.1	0
Central SD 13J	8	1	72	1	1	1
Clatskanie SD 6J	5	2	2	0	0.5	0
Colton SD 53	0	0	0	0	0	0
Condon SD 25J	0	0	0	0	0	0
Coos Bay SD 9	0	24	142	0	2.6	0
Coquille SD 8	4	1	17	1	1	0

School Districts	Medically Fragile Student Count	Nursing Dependent Student Count	Medically Complex Student Count	Licensed Practical Nurse FTE	Registered Nurse/ School Nurse FTE	School Nurse FTE
Corbett SD 39	0	0	7	0	0.45	0.4
Corvallis SD 509J	21	4	156	0	6	0
Cove SD 15	0	0	0	0	0	0
Creswell SD 40	3	3	0	7	3	0
Crook County SD	7	0	47	0	2	0
Crow-Applegate-Lorane SD 66	0	0	0	0	0	0
Culver SD 4	4	0	14	0	1	0
Dallas SD 2	21	1	57	0	2	0
David Douglas SD 40	23	2	88	2	4.04	3.6
Dayton SD 8	21	0	45	0	1	1
Dayville SD 16J	0	0	0	0	0	0
Diamond SD 7	0	0	0	0	0	0
Double O SD 28	0	0	0	0	0	0
Douglas County SD 15	0	0	0	0	0	0
Douglas County SD 4	0	1	0	0	1	0
Drewsey SD 13	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dufur SD 29	23	0	0	0	0.18	0
Eagle Point SD 9	3	0	188	1	1	0
Echo SD 5	0	0	5	0	0.06	0
Elgin SD 23	1	0	7	0	0.3	0.3
Elkton SD 34	0	0	0	0	1	1
Enterprise SD 21	0	0	0	0	0	0
Estacada SD 108	47	0	114	0	1	0
Eugene SD 4J	18	55	221	3	15	8
Falls City SD 57	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fern Ridge SD 28J	0	0	0	0	0	0
Forest Grove SD 15	90	4	168	0	2	0
Fossil SD 21J	0	0	0	0	0	0
Frenchglen SD 16	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gaston SD 511J	0	0	4	0	0.2	0
Gervais SD 1	9	0	25	0	0.24	0
Gladstone SD 115	0	1	7	0	1.6	0.6
Glendale SD 77	0	0	0	0	0	0
Glide SD 12	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grants Pass SD 7	0	0	730	0	1	0
Greater Albany Public SD 8J	0	1	193	1	0.1	0
Gresham-Barlow SD 10J	28	3	44	2	6.47	5
Harney County SD 3	0	0	0	0	0	0

School Districts	Medically Fragile Student Count	Nursing Dependent Student Count	Medically Complex Student Count	Licensed Practical Nurse FTE	Registered Nurse/ School Nurse FTE	School Nurse FTE
Harney County SD 4						
Harney County Union High SD						
1J	0	0	0	0	0	0
Harper SD 66	0	0	0	0	0	0
Harrisburg SD 7J	5	0	1	0	0.2	0
Helix SD 1	0	0	1	0	0.01	0
Hermiston SD 8	9	1	18	0	2	1
Hillsboro SD 1J	410	4	786	4.18	6.4	0
Hood River County SD	12	1	107	0	1.6	1.6
Huntington SD 16J			_			
Imbler SD 11	0	0	5	0	0.3	0
Ione SD R2	0	0	1	0	0.01	0
Jefferson County SD 509J	50	0	22	0	1.25	1
Jefferson SD 14J	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jewell SD 8	8	0	1	0	1	1
John Day SD 3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jordan Valley SD 3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Joseph SD 6	1	0	0	0	0	0
Junction City SD 69	3	0	63	0	1	0
Juntura SD 12	0	0	0	0	0	0
Klamath County SD	102	0	84	0	3.1	0
Klamath Falls City Schools	54	0	163	0	2	0
Knappa SD 4	4	0	23	0	0.6	0
La Grande SD 1	0	0	0	0	1	1
Lake County SD 7	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lake Oswego SD 7J	2	3	330	2.5	3	1
Lebanon Community SD 9	57	0	139	0	1.6	0
Lincoln County SD	100	4	198	0	2	0
Long Creek SD 17	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lowell SD 71	0	0	0	0	0	0
Malheur County SD 51						
Mapleton SD 32	0	0	0	0	0	0
Marcola SD 79J	0	0	0	0	0	0
McKenzie SD 68	0	0	0	0	0	0
McMinnville SD 40	74	0	178	0	2	2
Medford SD 549C	24	0	276	0	3.6	0
Milton-Freewater Unified SD 7	4	0	24	0	0.28	0.05
Mitchell SD 55	0	0	0	0	0	0

School Districts	Medically Fragile Student Count	Nursing Dependent Student Count	Medically Complex Student Count	Licensed Practical Nurse FTE	Registered Nurse/ School Nurse FTE	School Nurse FTE
Molalla River SD 35	0	0	2	0	1	1
Monroe SD 1J	19	0	0	0	0	0
Monument SD 8	0	0	0	0	0	0
Morrow SD 1	3	0	16	0	0.23	0.23
Mt Angel SD 91	0	0	0	0	0.02	0
Myrtle Point SD 41	1	0	21	0	0.02	0
Neah-Kah-Nie SD 56	19	0	0	0	0.42	0.42
Nestucca Valley SD 101J	0	0	6	0	0	0
Newberg SD 29J	18	0	88	0	1	0
North Bend SD 13	41	1	155	0	3	0
North Clackamas SD 12	866	4	128	2	8	6
North Douglas SD 22	0	0	0	0	0	0
North Lake SD 14	0	0	0	0	0	0
North Marion SD 15	18	0	159	0	1	0
North Powder SD 8J	0	0	5	0	0.13	0
North Santiam SD 29J	2	0	50	0	1.2	0
North Wasco County SD 21	24	0	61	0	1.3	0
Nyssa SD 26	0	0	0	0	0	0
Oakland SD 1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Oakridge SD 76	1	0	0	0	0	0
Ontario SD 8C	22	1	60	1	1	0
Oregon City SD 62	36	2	305	1.5	2.6	2
Oregon Department of						
Education	30	0	2	2	1	1
Oregon Trail SD 46	0	0	108	0	0.63	0
Paisley SD 11	0	0	0	0	0	0
Parkrose SD 3	7	1	4	0	2.14	1
Pendleton SD 16	5	0	43	0	0.57	0
Perrydale SD 21	2	0	14	0	0.2	0
Philomath SD 17J	27	0	4	0	1	0
Phoenix-Talent SD 4	1	0	45	0	1	1
Pilot Rock SD 2	0	0	1	0	0.01	0
Pine Creek SD 5	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pine Eagle SD 61	1	0	0	0	1	0
Pinehurst SD 94	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pleasant Hill SD 1	0	0	0	0.25	0	0
Plush SD 18	0	0	0	0	0	0
Port Orford-Langlois SD 2CJ	0	0	0	0	0	0

School Districts	Medically Fragile Student Count	Nursing Dependent Student Count	Medically Complex Student Count	Licensed Practical Nurse FTE	Registered Nurse/ School Nurse FTE	School Nurse FTE
Portland SD 1J	150	8	283	3	39.1	35.1
Powers SD 31	0	0	0	0	0	0
Prairie City SD 4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Prospect SD 59	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rainier SD 13	1	0	91	0	1	0
Redmond SD 2J	120	2	405	0.88	5	2.5
Reedsport SD 105	0	0	0	0	0	0
Reynolds SD 7	21	5	52	3	6.61	4
Riddle SD 70	0	0	0	0	0	0
Riverdale SD 51J	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rogue River SD 35	0	0	3	0	0	0
Salem-Keizer SD 24J	49	1	432	0	14	2
Santiam Canyon SD 129J	1	0	1	0	0.25	0.25
Scappoose SD 1J	8	0	67	0	1	0
Scio SD 95	0	0	0	0	0.2	0
Seaside SD 10	6	0	33	0	1	1
Sheridan SD 48J	11	0	15	0	0	0
Sherman County SD	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sherwood SD 88J	151	1	422	0	1.75	0
Silver Falls SD 4J	12	5	206	0	3	0
Sisters SD 6	5	0	217	0	2	2
Siuslaw SD 97J	0	0	0	0	0	0
South Harney SD 33	0	0	0	0	0	0
South Lane SD 45J3	0	0	394	0	2	2
South Umpqua SD 19	0	0	0	0	0	0
South Wasco County SD 1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Spray SD 1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Springfield SD 19	12	1	116	0	4	0
St Helens SD 502	9	1	38	0	1.47	1
St Paul SD 45	3	0	0	0	0.15	0.15
Stanfield SD 61	1	0	2	0	0.04	0
Suntex SD 10	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sutherlin SD 130	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sweet Home SD 55	9	9	47	0	1.6	1.6
Three Rivers/Josephine County		_				
SD	4	0	2	0	0.2	0.2
Tigard-Tualatin SD 23J	345	4	915	0	8	1
Tillamook SD 9	1	0	33	0	2	0

School Districts	Medically Fragile Student Count	Nursing Dependent Student Count	Medically Complex Student Count	Licensed Practical Nurse FTE	Registered Nurse/ School Nurse FTE	School Nurse FTE
Troy SD 54	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ukiah SD 80R	0	0	0	0	0	0
Umatilla SD 6R	3	0	8	0	0.13	0.13
Union SD 5	1	0	4	0	0.06	0
Vernonia SD 47J	7	0	0	0	0.23	0
Wallowa SD 12	1	0	0	0	0	0
Warrenton-Hammond SD 30	15	0	83	0	1	0
West Linn-Wilsonville SD 3J	37	0	268	0	3	1
Willamina SD 30J	0	0	0	0	0	0
Winston-Dillard SD 116	0	0	0	0	0	0
Woodburn SD 103	91	0	334	0	2	0
Yamhill Carlton SD 1	3	0	0	1.5	1.5	0
Yoncalla SD 32	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	3721	179	15911	42.01	261.01	122.38