

# Healthy Children Learn Better! School Nurses Make a Difference

## How Does Your District Measure Up?

State	Students per School Nurse
Vermont	298
New Hampshire	376
DC	434
OSHNA	440
Connecticut	504
Delaware	506
Massachusetts	524
Alaska	533
Wyoming	577
Kansas	584
Rhode Island	590
New Jersey	672
Maine	689
New Mexico	793
Missouri	794
Pennsylvania	865
Texas	870
South Carolina	902
Alabama	937
Iowa	963
New York	1,001
Indiana	1,012
Maryland	1,035
Arkansas	1,087
Arizona	1,170
Virginia	1,204
Washington	1,212
West Virginia	1,344
South Dakota	1,354
Minnesota	1,404
Nebraska	1,405
Mississippi	1,412
Nevada	1,463
Montana	1,467
Colorado	1,500
North Carolina	1,571
Kentucky	1,577
Wisconsin	1,589
Georgia	1,598
Tennessee	1,628
Illinois	2,030
Louisiana	2,078
Florida	2,159
California	2,230
Ohio	2,316
Oregon	2,444
Idaho	2,494
Oklahoma	3,248
North Dakota	3,888
Michigan	4,274
Utah	5,539



**Q) How do School Nurses help children learn?**

**A)** The school nurses' role includes:

- Assessing student health status and making referrals
- Identifying vision and hearing problems that impact learning
- Delivering emergency care
- Administering medication and vaccines
- Performing health care procedures
- Disaster preparedness
- Providing health counseling and Wellness programs

**Q) What benefits can I expect from hiring School Nurses?**

- A)**
- Help students manage chronic illness, increasing presentism
  - Less absenteeism due to health concerns
  - Improved attendance = academic success
  - Keeping students at school and parents at work
  - Allows teachers to teach instead of providing health care for children
  - Help manage asthma reducing emergency room visits
  - Wellness programs for staff

**Q) How many School Nurses does my district need?**

- A)** NASN and Healthy People 2010 recommend minimum ratios to full-time RN's to students depending on the needs of the student populations:
- 1:750 WELL students
  - 1:225 in the student populations that may require daily professional school nursing Services or interventions such as Special Ed inclusions
  - 1:125 in student populations with complex health care needs
  - 1:1 may be necessary for individual students with multiple disabilities

**Q) How are School Nurses funded?**

**A)** Local School Districts budget, State budget, EPSDT, Title I, Medicaid (Only 42% of Schools access Medicaid funds!)

**Q) Can a secretary or paraeducator fill this role?**

**A)** Not safely.

**Q) Why?**

- A)**
- 24% of children have vision deficiencies
  - 17% of children are obese/overweight
  - 13% of children are prescribed medication more than 90 days
  - 10% of children have mental/emotional behavioral problems
  - 6% of children missed more than 11 days due to illness/injury
  - 5% of children have asthma
  - 5% of children have food allergies
  - 5% of children have a seizure disorder
  - 5% of children have hearing deficiencies
  - 5% of children have ADHD

**National Association of School Nurses**  
**8484 Georgia Ave., Suite 420 • Silver Spring, MD 20910**  
**(240) 821-1130 • (301) 585-1791 (fax) • www.nasn.org**