While NASN advocates for **at least one full-time school nurse (RN) in every school** to provide for the health and safety needs of students and staff, the reality is many school nurses are assigned to multiple schools and must rotate among them.

**Most challenging factors facing school nursing efficiency:**

When given a list of common challenges, and asked to select the most challenging to their work, school nurses identified the following top three challenges:

1. Number of students with social/emotional/environmental issues (36.4%)
2. Number of schools I cover (18.9%)
3. Number of students in my school(s) (13.9%)

When asked to rate each challenge separately, regarding whether it was a challenge to efficiency, **the percentage of school nurses who rated the challenge as a major or moderate challenge to efficiency is as follows.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Major/Moderate Challenge to Efficiency</th>
<th>RN</th>
<th>LPN/LVN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of schools assigned to</td>
<td>29.1%</td>
<td>10.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of students</td>
<td>38.7%</td>
<td>26.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students with high medical acuity</td>
<td>33.4%</td>
<td>16.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social/emotional/environmental issues</td>
<td>67.9%</td>
<td>43.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical acuity among students</td>
<td>32.3%</td>
<td>17.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interactions with family</td>
<td>45.6%</td>
<td>31.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English language learners</td>
<td>26.9%</td>
<td>24.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students eligible for free/reduced lunch</td>
<td>23.1%</td>
<td>13.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Nursing licensure and credentials vary. The numbers on this infographic reflect all who self-reported as school nurses, including RNs and LPNs/LVNs. Only RNs are able to conduct nursing assessments, use nursing judgment in creation of nursing diagnoses, and develop or modify nursing plans of care. LPN/LVNs must be under the supervision of an RN and may contribute to nursing assessment and planning of care.
How School Nurses Spend Their Day

Below is a breakdown of how school nurses (RN) spend their time, including the top four activities in each area.

**Leadership**
- Advocacy
- Professional development
- Creating health policies and procedures
- Committee work
- Other

**Quality Improvement**
- Documenting care
- Data review
- Leading, conducting or supervising
- Other

**Community/Public Health**
- Compliance, vaccinations/health screening
- Health promotion/prevention
- Addressing social determinants
- Addressing environmental issues
- Other

**Care Coordination**
- Acute/Chronic condition management
- Emails and reports
- Teaching/motivational interviewing/counseling
- IHPS/EPS/ECPs, 504s
- Other

49.2%

24.2%

10.0%

10.2%

6.3%

Other

These results were obtained during a 2021 study. With a 36.8% survey response rate and variable response rate per survey question, 2,568 respondents reported to be a public school nurse. Of these respondents, 2,392 provided information regarding licensure, with 2,141 reporting as RN and 251 reporting as LPN/LVN.