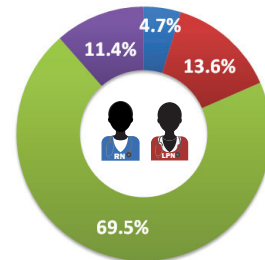


# School Nursing Practice in US Public Schools

School nurses (SNs) are professional, licensed nurses who work in public and private schools to promote individual and population-based student health, provide care coordination, advocate for quality student-centered care, and advance academic success.

NASN recommends a full-time baccalaureate-prepared registered nurse (RN) to serve as the school nurse. Licensed practical/vocational nurses (LPNs) are employed in some areas of the US to provide specific duties. LPNs do not have the needed licensure to perform all the duties of an RN.



**Nurse Staffing Models  
in Public Schools  
(SN FTE)**

- **RN**
- **RN + LPN**
- **LPN**
- **No Nurse**

## School Nursing Practice\*

The number of students with complex physical and mental health conditions, along with the number of students at risk for health concerns, and students who are affected by societal issues, such as living in poverty, necessitates SNs to use critical thinking and provide highly skilled, evidence-based practice that meet the needs of students, families and school communities.

SNs care for the entire school population, especially the most vulnerable.

**90.7%** conduct screenings to identify students at risk and help them get the care needed.

**92.8%** decrease communicable disease outbreaks by tracking student immunization requirements. They also track and address health concern trends.

SNs spend **19.4%** of their time providing health education and offering teacher support.



SNs spend **57.8%** of their time providing direct services, including catheterizations, blood glucose testing, and tracheotomy suctioning.

**93.2%** of SNs give medications.

**92.2%** develop individual student care plans and coordinate with other health professionals to help improve health and academic outcomes.

**94.9%** address acute injuries and illnesses (LPNs and aides may help with these concerns so that RNs can focus on more complex issues.)

SNs collect and use data to identify health trends and evaluate the effectiveness of their interventions.

SNs advocate for the health needs of their students and develop policies to keep students healthy, safe, and ready to learn.

\*Data reflect activities by nurses in public schools.

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