



# One School One Nurse Bill

HF 2037 (Berg, et.al)

SF 2256 (Baldon)

## ACTION

The School Nurse Organization of Minnesota urges state legislators to pass the One School One Nurse bill, which would recognize the critical role of licensed school nurses in providing students access to quality health care so that they are healthy, safe, and ready to learn. One School, One Nurse would work to enable every public and charter school to have a full-time licensed school nurse on staff so that children are safe, healthy, and ready to learn.

## RATIONALE

- National data indicates 39 percent of public schools have a school nurse all day, every day, while another 35 percent of schools have a school nurse who works part-time in one or more schools leaving 26 percent of schools without any school nurse coverage.
- School nursing inequities exist across the state and school districts, and between urban and rural schools.
- Further, the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that a registered school nurse be in every elementary and secondary school every day.
- This bill seeks to eliminate health inequities in our public and charter schools and to provide better healthcare for our school children.
- School nurses promote wellness and disease prevention and perform early intervention services, such as routine screening for vision, hearing, and dental problems, to reduce barriers to learning.
- School nurses play a critical role in helping to manage the chronic physical, emotional, mental, and social health needs of students, facilitating vaccinations and immunization compliance efforts. They are often the first stop for help for students' physical and mental needs.
- Licensed school nurses are “translators” between the medical and education system.
- School nurses reduce burdens on educators and other school staff, and support a positive and healthy school climate.
- In 2020, the U.S. Census Bureau reported 5.6 percent of children under 19 (4.3 million) were uninsured. For many of our nation’s children, the school nurse is the sole medical healthcare provider in an educational setting and enables access to health care. This makes the role of school nurses even more critical.
- Health care happens in schools. School nursing services support student physical health, mental wellness, safety, and availability for learning.

## HISTORY AND BACKGROUND

- Current Minnesota School Health statute, developed in 1986, requires a licensed school nurse if there are 1,000 or more students in a district and that doesn't cover a school with 999 or less students or a school that has thousands of students.
- Recent data reports there is currently 1 school nurse per 1,403 students.
- In Minnesota approximately two-thirds of schools do not have a licensed school nurse. This bill seeks both to support the recruitment and hiring of school nurses and to enable every school to have a licensed school nurse in the building.
- The One School, One Nurse seeks to convert part-time school nurses to full-time.
- Medical technology has greatly improved. Children are surviving premature births and other chronic health conditions and are coming to school with increased medical issues: life-threatening allergies, diabetes, gastrostomy tubes, asthma, seizures, mental health issues and more.
- The CDC encourages "The Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child, or WSCC model, is CDC's framework for addressing health in schools. The WSCC model is student-centered and emphasizes the role of the community in supporting the school, the connections between health and academic achievement and the importance of evidence-based school policies and practices." This bill would help achieve these goals.  
<https://www.cdc.gov/healthyschools/wsc/index.htm>

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