

House Bill 3813

Sponsored by Representative NERON

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**. The statement includes a measure digest written in compliance with applicable readability standards.

Digest: Authorizes ODE to award grants to school districts and ESDs to improve school nursing services. (Flesch Readability Score: 61.8).

Authorizes the Department of Education to award grants to school districts and education service districts for the purpose of developing, implementing and annually updating a health services plan.

Directs the Department of Education to establish and administer a pilot program for regional support of school nursing services.

Declares an emergency, effective July 1, 2025.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1 Relating to grants for school nursing services; and declaring an emergency.

2
3 Whereas school nursing is a required school service under the Individuals with Disabilities Ed-
4 ucation Act and section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 for students who experience disabili-
5 ties; and

6 Whereas in this state, 27.7 percent of children are impacted by a chronic disease, 9.7 percent
7 of children are impacted by a complex chronic disease and 18.0 percent of children are impacted by
8 a noncomplex chronic disease; and

9 Whereas in 2024, 22 percent of school districts in this state had no access to a school nurse;
10 and

11 Whereas in 2024, 67 percent of school districts in the 10 frontier counties reported no school
12 nursing services, which meant that 9,695 students in those counties had no access to school nursing
13 services; and

14 Whereas the lack of school nursing services in the frontier counties statistically means that
15 students without access to school nursing services included 824 students with asthma, 737 students
16 with severe allergic reactions, 68 students with seizures, 39 students with diabetes and up to 1,939
17 students with mental health conditions; and

18 Whereas the lack of school nursing services in frontier counties statistically means that nursing
19 services were not available to 465 students who are medically complex because they may have an
20 unstable health condition and may require daily professional nursing services and 68 students who
21 are medically fragile because they may have a life-threatening health condition and may require
22 immediate professional nursing services; and

23 Whereas the statewide ratio of school nurses to the general population of students is 1 to 2,843,
24 which is almost four times more than the recommended ratio of one school nurse to every 750 stu-
25 dents established by statute; and

26 Whereas only 17 percent of school districts in this state meet the statutory recommendation of
27 one school nurse for every 750 students; and

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 Whereas school nurses play a pivotal role in improving the health and well-being of children and
 2 adolescents by providing health promotion, health counseling, referrals to other sources of help,
 3 active treatment, education, family support, care coordination and multiagency work; and

4 Whereas school nurses play a key role in improving the health of students with asthma and
 5 diabetes; and

6 Whereas school nurses frequently are the first school staff members to identify students with
 7 symptoms of stress, anxiety, depression and other behavioral and mental health challenges; and

8 Whereas the presence of a school nurse is associated with a decrease in absenteeism and related
 9 to an increase in academic achievement; and

10 Whereas school nurses possess the skills and judgment to identify and address the structural
 11 and systemic barriers that impact the attainment of safe, supportive and equitable school environ-
 12 ments that contribute to a student’s ability to achieve wellness and academic success; and

13 Whereas action needs to be taken to strengthen school nursing services in this state; now,
 14 therefore,

15 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

16 **SECTION 1. Section 2 of this 2025 Act is added to and made a part of ORS chapter 327.**

17 **SECTION 2. (1) In addition to those moneys distributed through the State School Fund,
 18 the Department of Education shall award grants to school districts and education service
 19 districts for the purpose of developing, implementing and annually updating a health services
 20 plan for the students of the school district or the education service district.**

21 **(2) Grants awarded under this section must be used by a school district or an education
 22 service district to enter into a contract with a nonprofit school nursing professional organ-
 23 ization that is based in this state and that has expertise in the delivery of school nursing
 24 services. The contract must require the school nursing professional organization to provide
 25 technical assistance related to:**

- 26 **(a) Developing and updating a health services plan, including registration requirements;**
- 27 **(b) Improving the collection of data used for acuity assessments; and**
- 28 **(c) Designing and implementing systems to provide school nursing services, including
 29 student care coordination.**

30 **(3) When awarding grants under this section, the department shall prioritize school dis-
 31 tricts and education service districts that, based on rules adopted by the State Board of
 32 Education, are in:**

- 33 **(a) Rural or frontier regions; and**
- 34 **(b) Regions with inadequate school nursing services.**

35 **SECTION 3. (1) The Department of Education shall establish and administer a pilot pro-
 36 gram for regional support of school nursing services.**

37 **(2) Under the program, the department shall distribute grants to education service dis-
 38 tricts for the purpose of providing regional support in the delivery of school nursing services,
 39 including student care coordination, to component school districts, as defined in ORS 334.003.**

40 **(3) Regional support in the delivery of school nursing services shall be provided to com-
 41 ponent school districts by:**

- 42 **(a) A school nurse, as defined in ORS 342.455, who is employed by the education service
 43 district; and**
- 44 **(b) School nursing service providers who are under contract with the education service
 45 district, including trained registered nurses who serve the communities of the component**

1 school districts and nurse-led telehealth providers.

2 (4) Grants awarded under this section must be used by an education service district to
3 enter into a contract with a nonprofit school nursing professional organization that is based
4 in this state and that has expertise in the delivery of school nursing services. The contract
5 must require the school nursing professional organization to provide technical assistance
6 related to:

7 (a) Completing an assessment of the school nursing services provided by component
8 school districts.

9 (b) Facilitating the collaborative design of a school nursing services model for the edu-
10 cation service district.

11 (c) Training school nursing service providers and related partners in delivering school
12 nursing services.

13 (d) Collecting through electronic health records systems and student information sys-
14 tems the following nonpersonally identifiable information for each component school district:

15 (A) The dispensation of students who accessed school nursing service during the school
16 day, including whether the student returned to class or went home;

17 (B) Information about communicable disease outbreaks;

18 (C) The number of visits made by students for school nursing services and the number
19 of contacts made with nurse-led telehealth providers;

20 (D) The number and types of health screenings provided to students;

21 (E) The student immunization rate;

22 (F) Patterns of school attendance, including chronic absenteeism and early releases for
23 health reasons;

24 (G) Patterns of academic achievement; and

25 (H) Patterns of behavior incidents.

26 (5) The department shall select two education service districts for participation in the
27 pilot program. When selecting education service districts, the department shall prioritize
28 education service districts that, based on rules adopted by the State Board of Education, are
29 in:

30 (a) Rural or frontier regions; and

31 (b) Regions with inadequate school nursing services.

32 (6) No later than September 15, 2027, the department shall submit a report on the pilot
33 program and the data collected under subsection (4)(d) of this section in the manner provided
34 by ORS 192.245, and may include recommendations for legislation and administrative rules,
35 to:

36 (a) The interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to education and health
37 care; and

38 (b) The State Board of Education.

39 **SECTION 4.** Section 3 of this 2025 Act is repealed on January 2, 2028.

40 **SECTION 5.** This 2025 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public
41 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2025 Act takes effect
42 July 1, 2025.