

**From the Massachusetts Department of Public Health School Health Manual 2nd Ed 2007
Chapter 2 page 10.**

https://www.neushi.org/student/programs/attachments/shi_SHManual.pdf

(2) Health Services Staff may include the school nurses, school physician consultant, health aide, school nurse practitioner, and health education/human services coordinator. Each school system develops its own position descriptions for these roles. Exhibits 2-7 through 2-12 present sample descriptions for general school health services staff.

School nurses:

The foundation of the health services program consists of the school nurse(s). They are required to be **registered nurses with a Bachelor's or Master's of Science in nursing and be licensed (certified) by the Massachusetts Department of Education.** (See <http://www.doe.mass.edu/lawsregs/603cmr7.html> for complete requirements.)

The school nurse is a public health nurse, responsible for the health of the population of children in the specific school building(s) to which she/he is assigned. In this role, the nurse serves as clinical expert, service provider, and health program manager in the educational setting. By necessity, the school nurse must maintain a wide range of skills including, but not limited to, clinical, public health, and managerial skills. Ideally, the number of school nurses (registered nurses meeting the licensure requirements of the Massachusetts Department of Education) responsible for the school health services program should be determined by a needs assessment of the health status of the student population/community. When data on the health needs of local students are not readily available, regional or statewide health status data may provide a useful starting point for planning the staffing patterns. In the 1998 Report to the Massachusetts Legislature,

Options for Developing School Health Services in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the Department of Public Health recommended the following:

- One fulltime equivalent (FTE) licensed school nurse for each building (both public and nonpublic) with 250 to 500 students;
- An additional 0.1 FTE for each additional 50 students in buildings with more than 500 students; and
- 0.1 FTE for each 25 students in buildings with fewer than 250 students.

When developing staffing plans, other factors to consider include the number of children with special health care needs, the number of buildings, and distance and/or travel time between buildings.

Licensed Practical Nurses:

The Massachusetts Department of Education defines the requirements for school nurses. While Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs) do not meet the DOE licensure requirements and therefore are not school nurses, they may perform other roles. In some school districts, an LPN may provide care to a child who needs a one-to-one nurse, based on the school nurse's assessment of the appropriate level of care.

Note:

In such situations, the LPN, under her/his license, may administer prescription medications, but only under the supervision of the school nurse. This is a requirement of the Regulations Governing the Administration of Prescription Medications (105 CMR 210(I), which states:

"For the purposes of 105 CMR 210.000, a Licensed Practical Nurse functions under the general supervision of the school nurse who has delegating authority."