

Nursing Services Plan
Readington Township Public School District
2024-2025

The Readington Township Public School District comprises four schools. The Whitehouse and Three Bridges Schools are the two elementary schools educating grades preschool-3. Holland Brook School is an upper elementary school accommodating grades 4-5, and the Readington Middle School houses grades 6-8.

The Middle School is located 7.4 miles from Three Bridges, 0.7 miles from Holland Brook, and 2.8 miles from Whitehouse. Three Bridges is 10.2 miles from Whitehouse and 8.1 miles from Holland Brook. These numbers represent one way trips. Schools communicate with one another via email, district network, and the phone system.

Certified school nurses in the Readington Public schools have a multitude of roles within the scope of their professional practice in an ongoing effort to ensure children remain healthy and ready to learn. The certified school nurse is a health services specialist who provides preventive health services to facilitate the student's optimal physical, mental, emotional, and social growth and development. We identify and treat health disorders and manage chronic health conditions among students and provide instruction in the maintenance of good health and disease prevention. We provide health assessments and mandatory screenings of all students, which includes height, weight, BMI, blood pressure, vision, hearing, and scoliosis. We develop and implement individual student health plans and emergency care plans. Thorough documentation and effective communication is a time-consuming role but essential to the legal and ethical practice of school nursing.

Nursing services provide annual training to all staff in blood borne pathogens, asthma, diabetes, student health awareness and head injury/concussion protocols. We provide Mantoux testing and TB reporting as well as annual staff training in emergency care, which includes First Aid/CPR/AED for many EpiPen delegates, the AED teams and all coaching staff. Annual Flu clinics are provided through the district nurses and our district physician.

As part of a coordinated school health program, we serve as a member of the school intervention team. Initiate health referrals for students, to parents, school personnel, or community health resources for intervention and remediation. Develop procedures and provide emergency nursing care and management of acute injury and illnesses. Serve as a resource person to all school staff members. We consult with parents, guardians, primary care physicians, specialists, health agencies, classroom teachers, and supportive staff to investigate and remediate environmental concerns, safety issues, mental health concerns, and communicable disease patterns relevant to school and student health and safety. School nurses are the liaison to district and community resources for our families with economic need. We also organize and support fundraising opportunities in the district to bring awareness to health issues in our communities. We engage in research and evaluation of school health services, and participate in professional school nursing organizations to act as advocates for positive change with regard to school health programs and school nursing practices.

During school hours, each school is staffed with a certified school nurse who provides emergency services during the school day. Before and after-school sponsored events are staffed by delegates trained in CPR/AED and/or the use of an Epinephrine auto-injector pen. The school nurse in each building trains these delegates.

As appropriate, nursing and additional services are provided to nonpublic schools through the Hunterdon County Educational Services Commission.

The following four levels of acuity have been developed to better understand the needs of our student population in the Readington Township Public Schools.

I: Nursing Dependent

Nursing dependent students require 24 hours/day, frequently one-to-one, skilled nursing care for survival. Many are dependent on technological devices for breathing, for example, a student on a ventilator, and/or require continuous nursing assessment and intervention. Without the use of the correct medical technology and nursing care, the student will experience irreversible damage or death.

Level II: Medically Fragile

Students with complicated health care needs in this category face each day with the possibility of a life-threatening emergency requiring the skill and judgment of a professional nurse. Examples may include, but are not limited to severe seizure disorder requiring medication, severe asthma, sterile procedures, and tracheostomy care with suctioning, unstable, or newly diagnosed diabetic with unscheduled blood sugar monitoring and insulin injections, diabetics with insulin pumps requiring monitoring, and asthmatics requiring nebulizer treatments.

Level III: Medically Complex

Students with medically complex concerns require treatments or close monitoring by a professional nurse. They may have unstable physical and/or social-emotional conditions and the potential for a life threatening event may exist. Examples include, but are not limited to: ADHD and on medication, anaphylactic event, cancer, immune disorders, moderate to severe asthma (inhaler, peak flow meter), preteen or teenage pregnancy, carefully timed medications, medications with major side effects, unstable metabolic conditions, continuous or intermittent oxygen, and complex mental or emotional disorders.

Level IV: Health Concerns

In the category of health concerns, the student's physical and/or social-emotional condition is currently uncomplicated and predictable. Occasionally, the student requires monitoring, varying from biweekly to annually. Examples include, but are not limited to dental disease, headaches, migraines, sensory impairments, diabetes self-managed by the student, dietary restrictions, eating disorders, orthopedic conditions requiring accommodations, and encopresis. In preparing the nursing services plan each year, it is critical to review not only population size, but also the severity of health concerns and associated time requirements.

Additional Considerations

Students' conditions may change during the school year, moving them from one level to another. Students with the same condition may be on different levels, depending on if their condition is stable and routine, or unstable with unscheduled procedures.

Readington Middle School
48 Readington Rd. PO Box 700
Whitehouse Station, NJ 08889
Phone: 908-534-2113

Grade Levels:	6-8	
Student Population:	489	
General Education Enrollment:	382	
Special Education Enrollment:	105	
Students with 504 Plans:	22	
Student with Individualized Health Plans:	74	
Out of District:	3	
Number of Staff in Building:	92	
Level I:	Nursing Dependent	0
Level II:	Medically Fragile	3
Level III:	Medically Complex	138
Level IV:	Health Concerns	19

Special Concerns:

The increasing number of the free and reduced students takes time from the nurses , use of an in district designated individual has been very helpful to provide resources to all the schools. Sports forms are completed three times a year by the nursing staff and additional hours are required over the summer to have optimal participation in Fall sports. Sixth grade students & newly enrolled students have mandatory vaccines which are audited by the state for compliance, this takes a great deal of follow up to ensure data coalition and compliance. The charts are audited annually by the Health Department. All students are screened to state requirements which adds an extra 475 visits yearly. The average number of visits to the health office varies 35-40 per day. Students with concussions and/or physical injuries take a significant amount of care, and medical follow-up especially our student athletes.

District Wide Concerns:

Currently there is only one substitute nurse (others listed have other jobs and limited availability) The substitutes require advance notice to cover a trip or fill in at a school. Contingency planning for contract nursing services should continue to be pursued in the event a district nurse is unavailable or experiences a prolonged absence due to illness, jury duty, resignation, etc. A district float nurse or part time screening nurse to assist the school nurses in mandatory PK-8 screenings would allow the school specific nurse to complete duties more directly , identify and follow up on concerns.

Holland Brook School
52 Readington Rd. PO Box 1500
Whitehouse Station, NJ 08889
Phone: 908-823-0454

Grade Levels: 4-5

Student Population: 312

General Education Enrollment: 249

Special Education Enrollment: 63

Students with 504 Plans: 25

Out of District 1

Student with

Individualized Health Plans: 23

Number of Staff in Building:

Level I: Nursing Dependent 0

Level II: Medically Fragile 1

Level III: Medically Complex 68

Level IV: Health Concerns 107

Special Concerns:

Student visits average from 20-30 visits a day. In addition to daily visits, all mandatory health screenings were completed for all grade levels, thus resulting in an additional 312 visits. Additional handwashing lessons with the PE teacher are done for both grade levels additional 312 visits. Referrals for additional testing were sent home for any student that did not pass the vision or the hearing screenings. In addition, HBS has 12 students requiring the development of emergency plans and health care plans to cover their anaphylactic needs and 1 student for a seizure action plan. HBS has 2 students coming to the health office daily for medication for the treatment of ADHD. These students are monitored and offered multiple additional supplemental services throughout the school year. HBS currently has 60 students that participate in the Free and Reduced Lunch Program. The increasing number of the free and reduced students takes time from the nurses, use of an in district designated individual has been very helpful to provide resources to all the schools. The FIN families are given resources by BOE with School nurse as a resource for the schools.

District Wide Concerns

Currently there are substitute nurses 2-3 with limited availability and requires advance notice to cover a trip or fill in at a school.. Contingency planning for contract nursing services should be pursued in the event a district nurse is

unavailable or experiences a prolonged absence due to illness, jury duty, resignation, etc. & continue to hire sub nurses for the district.

Three Bridges School
480 Main Street PO Box 443
Three Bridges, NJ 08887
908-534-5729

Grade Levels: PS-3

Student Population: 293

General Education Enrollment: 225

Special Education Enrollment: 68

Preschool Students age 3-5: 26

Students with 504 Plans: 9

Out of District: 2

Student with
Individualized Health Plans: 37

Number of Staff in Building: 69

Level I:	Nursing Dependent	0
Level II:	Medically Fragile	1
Level III:	Medically Complex	36
Level IV:	Health Concerns	107

Special Concerns:

We are seeing a return to normal enrollment in the schools, but increased enrollment in kindergarten and PK since the state rolled out free PK services for the district. TBS utilizes classrooms at both Berry Patch Early Learning Center and Stanton Learning Center for PK instruction. This accounts for an additional 70 students. Student visits average from 20-35 visits a day. In addition to daily visits, all mandatory health screenings were completed for all grade levels (PK-3 including the stand alone preschool classrooms), thus resulting in an additional 363 visits. Referrals for additional testing were sent home for any student that did not pass the vision or the hearing screenings.

Each year, significant time is spent addressing the New Jersey state mandates regarding the required physical examinations and proof of age appropriate immunizations for all incoming students. This year, this included all the new PK students attending the stand alone preschool classrooms at BPELC and SLC. This requires multiple and repeated forms of communication with parents/guardians requesting them to submit the required paperwork. Once all the data is gathered, it must be entered into Genesis.

This year, the state has also mandated that each PK class be provided monthly health lessons. The health lessons will be completed using lessons provided through The Great Body Shop. Each lesson should not take more than 10-15 min, but travel to and from the facilities also increases time spent out of the school.

Three Bridges currently has 2 students with Medical 504 plans which required extensive time spent on developing and implementing the accommodations that best fulfill the student's needs. TBS has two students with active seizure action plans. In addition, TBS has 17 students requiring the development of emergency plans and health care plans to cover their anaphylactic needs. TBS has 15 students with current asthma action plans, and several other students with asthma who might require medical interventions for an asthma flare during illness. TBS has two students coming to the health office daily for medication for the treatment of ADHD.

District Wide Concerns:

TBS currently has 41 students that participate in the Free and Reduced Lunch Program, 248 students district wide.. Due to the significant increase in families qualifying for additional assistance this year, the district is now requiring a family to specifically request assistance when needed. If it is an HSA sponsored event, they must officially request assistance from the HSA. If a student is identified as having food insecurity, the family will be encouraged to reach out to NORWESCAP Food Bank Backpack Program, Flemington Food Pantry or Starfish for supplemental food. Families in need of health care assistance can reach out to NJ FamilyCare; and the YMCA can assist with before and aftercare.

Whitehouse School
50 Whitehouse Ave PO Box 151
Whitehouse Station, NJ 08889
Phone: 908-534-4411

Grade Levels:	PS-3
Student Population:	331
General Education Enrollment:	293
Special Education Enrollment:	38
Preschool Students age 3-5:	23
Students with 504 Plans:	10
Out of District:	1
Student with Individualized Health Plans:	17
Number of Staff in Building:	74
Level I: Nursing Dependent	0
Level II: Medically Fragile	1
Level III: Medically Complex	21
Level IV: Health Concerns	98

Special Concerns:

Student visits average from 20-30 visits a day. In addition to daily visits, all mandatory health screenings were completed for all grade levels, thus resulting in an additional 331 visits. Referrals for additional testing are sent home for any student that did not pass the vision or hearing screenings.

In addition, the preschool school program off site has a total of 87 students enrolled at Whitehouse Prep and Global Pioneer. These student health records including health physical forms, immunization record of 9 vaccines or provided appropriate religious exemption letter and provide influenza vaccine documentation by December 31, 2024. In total that is over 1200 items to track. In addition, these 87 students are to be screened including their height, weight, blood pressure and vision screening.

Each year, significant time is spent addressing the New Jersey state mandates regarding the required physical examinations and proof of immunizations for all incoming students. This includes multiple and repeated forms of communication with parents/guardians requesting them to submit the required paperwork. Once all the data is gathered, it must be entered into Genesis.

The direct certified students make up 20% of the student population and the free and reduced students make up an additional 5% of the student's population. It takes time to continuously monitor the dynamic list of students accepted in the program for school events, school trips, assisting with making connections between HSA and FIN families. Additionally, as the number of financially reduced families in the school increases the need for awareness to recognize the signs of food insecurities that can occur in the classroom or in the cafeteria. When it is identified then an option to participate in the NORWESCAP weekly backpack program. is offered, currently there are 9 students being assisted.

District Wide Concerns:

The need to increase our nurse substitution pool is paramount. The need for a nurse to go to our offsite locations can put a strain on the other building. The increase in the numbers of families accepted into the free and reduces program can be supported more efficiently with a district point contact, ie Social Worker. The person can address the needs and communicate with the families on community programs available and assist with the variety of physical and mental needs that arise.

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One full time certified school nurse is required in each of the elementary level schools, Three Bridges, Whitehouse and Holland Brook, to meet the needs of the school. Clerical support is utilized on an as needed basis to assist with clerical duties.

One full time certified school nurse and one full time registered nurse, preferably a certified school nurse, are required at Readington Middle School.

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Reviewed by Staci Beegle, Director of Pupil Services

Date:

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10/31/24

Reviewed by Ronald M Frank, MD

Date

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10/31/24