



**For Immediate Release:**  
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**News  
 Release**

**School Nursing Report Illustrates Critical Shortage of  
 Nurses in Utah Schools**

(Salt Lake City, UT) – The newly released school nursing annual report from The Utah Department of Health EPICC Program indicates Utah does not meet the traditional recommendation of one nurse for every 750 well students, or even one nurse for every school. In fact Utah’s ratio of 1 nurse for every 4318 students ranks 49 out of 50 states.

“The school nurse is often the only healthcare provider that a student sees on a regular basis“ said BettySue Hinkson, School Nurse Consultant for the UDOH EPICC. “In the past year the National Association of School Nurses has shifted the focus away from ratios and now suggests the number of school nurses be based on student acuity, social determinants of the community, and health disparities. The current recommendation is that each student have daily access to a school nurse, which can improve students’ health, safety, and their abilities to learn. Whether you use the old guideline or the new, the bottom line is that Utah is woefully understaffed when it comes to nurses in the schools.”

**Utah school nurse to student ratios for school year 2015-2016**

<b>2015-2016 School year</b>	<b>Number of Students</b>	<b>School nurse FTE</b>	<b>Ratio of school nurses to students</b>
<b>Typical Students</b> Typical school nurses and students only, no special education included	<b>544,176</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>1:4318</b>
<b>Special Education Students*</b> Special education nurses and students only	<b>13,261</b>	<b>27.75</b>	<b>1:478</b>

\* Defined as those spending less than 40% school day in a typical class, or attending a separate school

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The full 2016 Annual School Nurse Report can be found on the UDOH EPICC website at <http://choosehealth.utah.gov/prek-12/school-nurses/data.php>

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*The mission of the Utah Department of Health is to protect the public's health through preventing avoidable illness, injury, disability and premature death, assuring access to affordable, quality health care, and promoting healthy lifestyles.*