



District Effectiveness Report



2020-2021

Executive Summary

Excellence Always

Mesquite ISD Health Services promotes the district vision of “Excellence Always” through programs and processes that support the relationship between student academic achievement and their health and well-being. Mesquite ISD Health Services also supports the well-being and health of staff.

Mesquite ISD employs a full time registered nurse at each of its campuses. The campus Registered Nurses manage student and staff acute, chronic, episodic and emergency medical needs to improve health outcomes, support attendance, and maximize classroom engagement for students at all developmental levels. They practice in alignment with rules and regulations established by the Texas Board of Nursing, MISD Health Services Professional Guidelines, MISD District Policy, the Texas Education Agency, the Texas Department of State Health Services, and state and federal legislation affecting student and employee health and well-being. School nurses are expected to:

- Provide nursing care with compassion and respect for all;
- Practice in a safe, effective manner;
- Apply nursing knowledge and skills that enhance student and staff outcomes;
- Act as a reliable resource for health information and services;
- Advocate for student health, well-being and academic success;
- Manage population health through surveillance of communicable diseases and implementation of preventative measures;
- Teach developmentally appropriate self-management skills for students with chronic health conditions;
- Empower students, their families, and employees to make healthy choices.



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Description

General Function

Evidence-Based Practice

The primary purpose of Mesquite ISD Health Services is to promote the District's vision of excellence by supporting student academic achievement through health and wellness measures that positively affect students throughout their school years and well into their future. Such measures include:

- Provision of acute, chronic, episodic and emergent care to students and staff;
- Administration of student medication;
- Administration of specialized nursing services;
- Management of state mandated health screenings and other screenings;
- Maintaining compliance with Texas Minimum Vaccine Requirements for students;
- Emergency preparedness;
- Communicable disease prevention and surveillance;
- Health education;
- Development and implementation of evidence-based policies and procedures;
- Employment of exceptional staff; and,
- Introduction of innovative and effective health delivery systems.

MISD Health Services reviews district policies, regulations, and nursing guidelines affecting student and staff health and well-being annually or as needed to ensure district standards of nursing practice are aligned with the Texas Board of Nursing, the Texas Education Agency, the Texas Administrative Code, the National Association of School Nurses, the American Nurses Association, and published guidelines for nursing practice and procedures. Some rules are broad allowing school nurses to practice professional judgment and interpretation of the patient's individual



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health needs with a degree of autonomy, while others are very narrow. Implementation of the stock epinephrine auto-injector program, EpiPens4Schools, is an example of evidence-based practice for school nurses and athletic trainers as well as physicians in the community.

Nursing Process

Acute, chronic, episodic and emergent school nursing care.

Mesquite ISD school nurses, enabled by their expertise in clinical assessment and critical thinking, use a standard set of tools and resources to care for students and staff with health related needs. Methods used by school nurses to maximize student time in the classroom, decrease the number of students sent home unnecessarily, and reduce absenteeism are based on the nursing **process**.

The Nursing process is applied in the school setting and provides students and their families with:

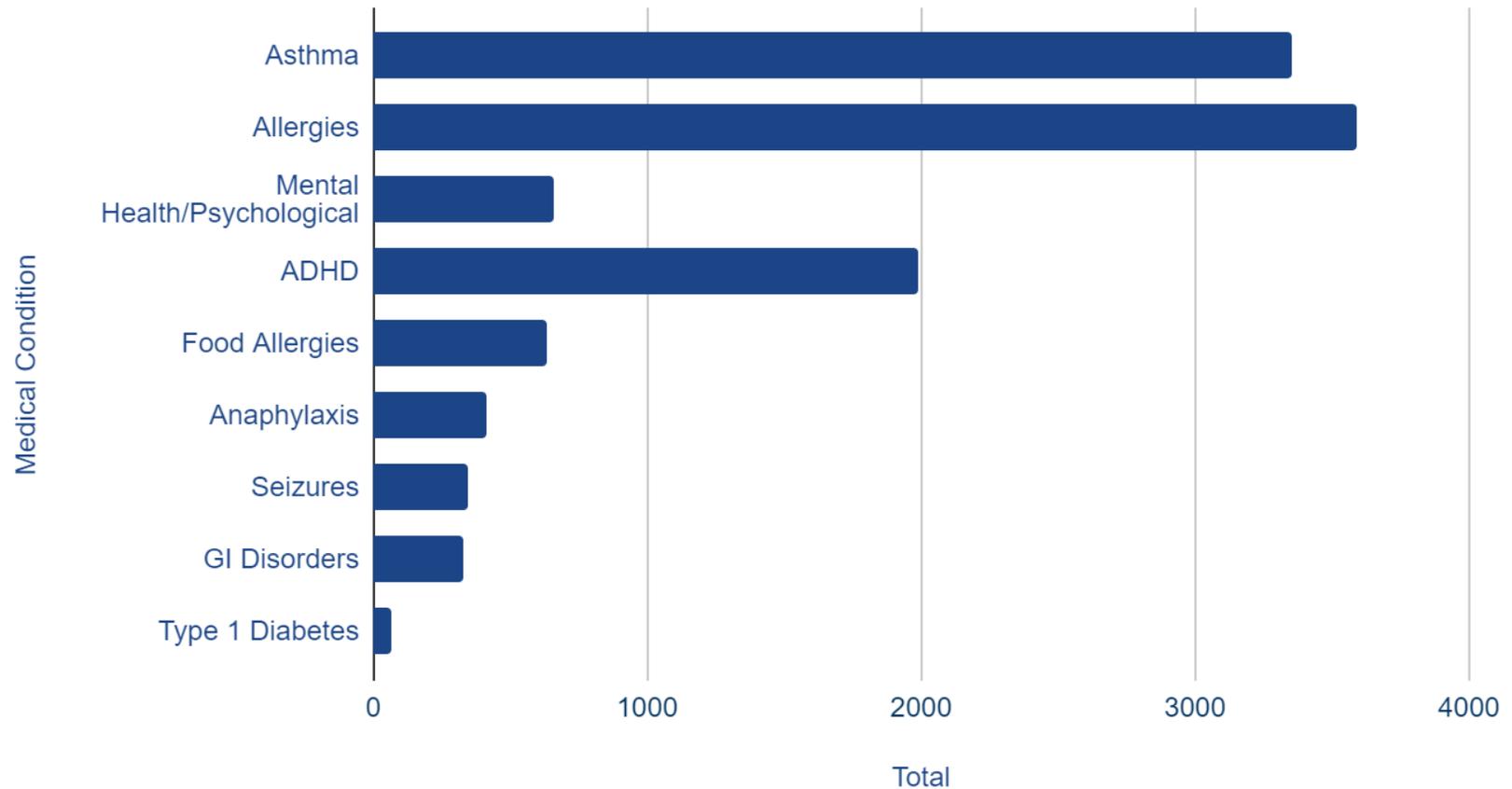
- A comprehensive individualized healthcare plan (IHP) for students with chronic or episodic health conditions;
- Health and education related referrals within the campus community;
- Referral to outside healthcare providers or organizations;
- Follow up and maintenance care within the school setting; and,
- Reduction of contagious diseases transmission.

More than **14,500** health conditions are currently documented in Skyward regarding our student population. The school nurses independently monitor and update this data annually and as needed. Now more than ever it is imperative to have a school nurse on every campus. Thankfully, in Mesquite ISD this is the reality. Children with more and more complex health needs are in school engaged in learning every day. The school nurse is the reason this is possible.



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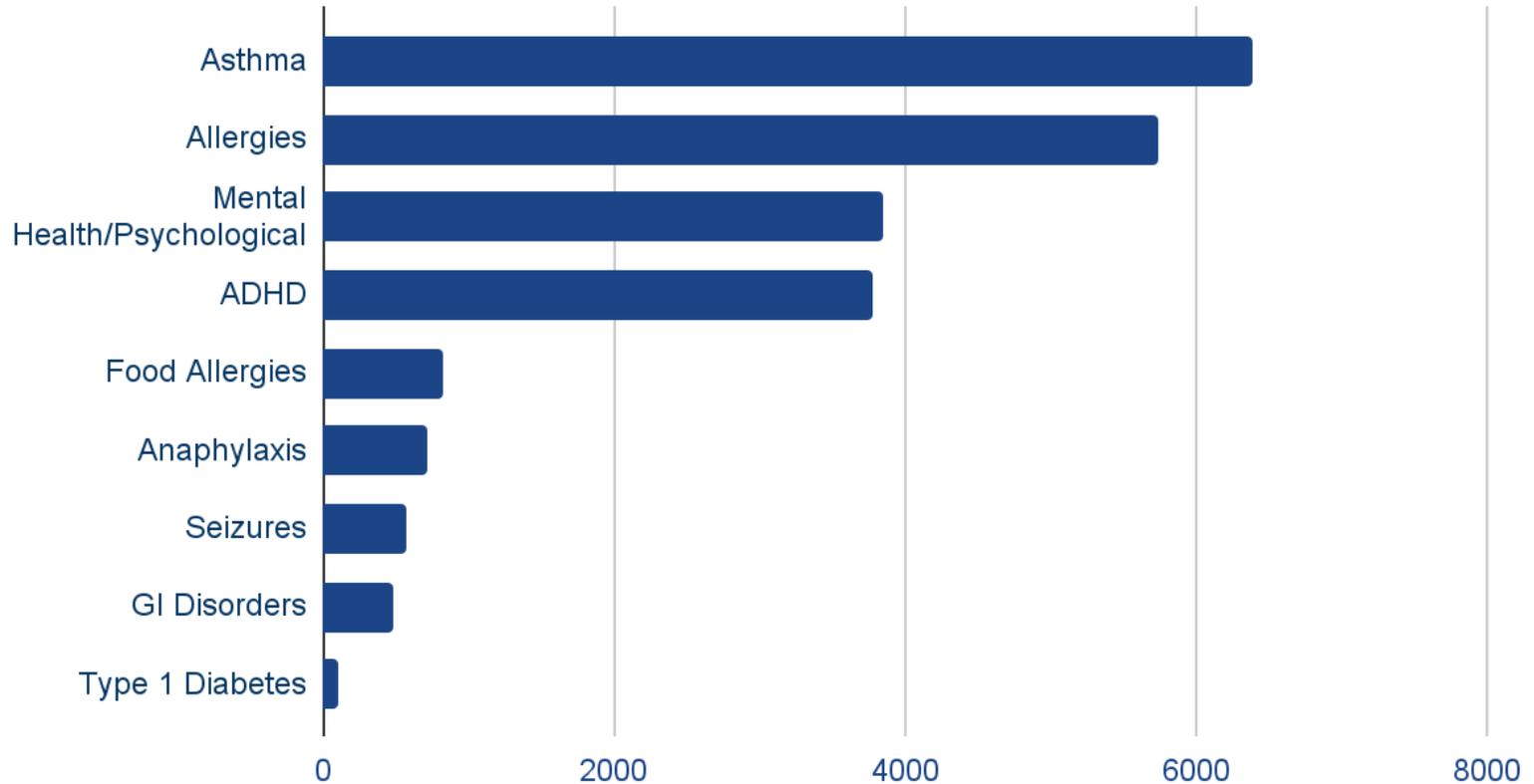
2020-2021 Health Conditions





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2019-2020 Majority of Medical Conditions





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Covid-19 Pandemic

Before the return to campuses, the school nurses spent March 2019 until September 2020 preparing for the needs that would come in the Fall of 2020. Our nurses made over 800 face-masks for our cafeteria workers who continued to feed our students through the beginning stages of the pandemic. The nurses mailed letters to students letting them know they were missed, made educational videos to present to their campuses and educated themselves in order to be a wealth of knowledge and support to our campuses. The COVID-19 pandemic presented school nurses with never-before seen challenges. Health Services created over 30 protocols specifically designed to fit the individual needs of different departments across the district. Daily communication was imperative to controlling the spread of COVID. During the first 29 weeks, only **6.9%** of our students and staff members tested positive for COVID-19. Each school nurse had a google spreadsheet that linked their campus covid information to a collective google spreadsheet that was monitored daily by the Director of Health Services. For each covid positive case, possible covid case and/or close contact, each nurse had to fill out the information below entirely on their spreadsheet to properly mitigate the spread and contact trace effectively. School nurses collaborated with Administrative Services, Campus Administration, teachers, students, athletics, trainers, guardians etc to contact trace cases. Every positive case that was reported to MISD had to promptly be reported to Dallas County, each campus and then once a week to TEA. Every day the campus nurse sent out an email with the number of cases that were reported on each campus.

In March of 2021, the Mesquite ISD nurses began our legacy administering life saving vaccinations to our staff, community members and finally our students. Our Registered Nurses administered over 3,000 COVID-19 vaccinations. After our nurses gave several rounds of vaccinations, Health Services and Mesquite ISD partnered with Walgreens and Albertsons to continue the administration of vaccinations.

[📄 20/21 Charts/Data](#)

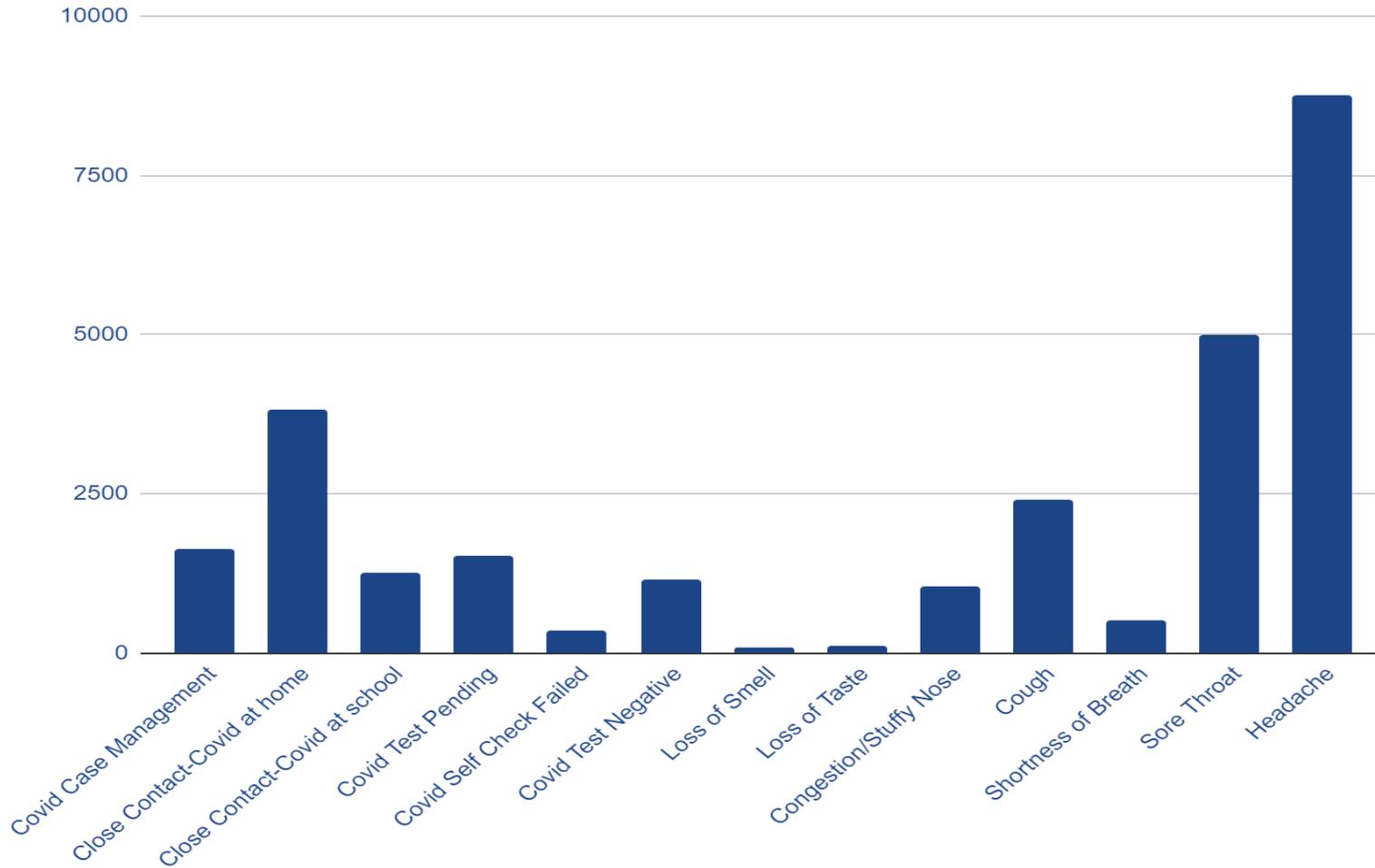
[📄 COVID Transparency-Nurse Version](#)

[Link to Nurse Protocols](#), [Link to Campus Protocols](#)



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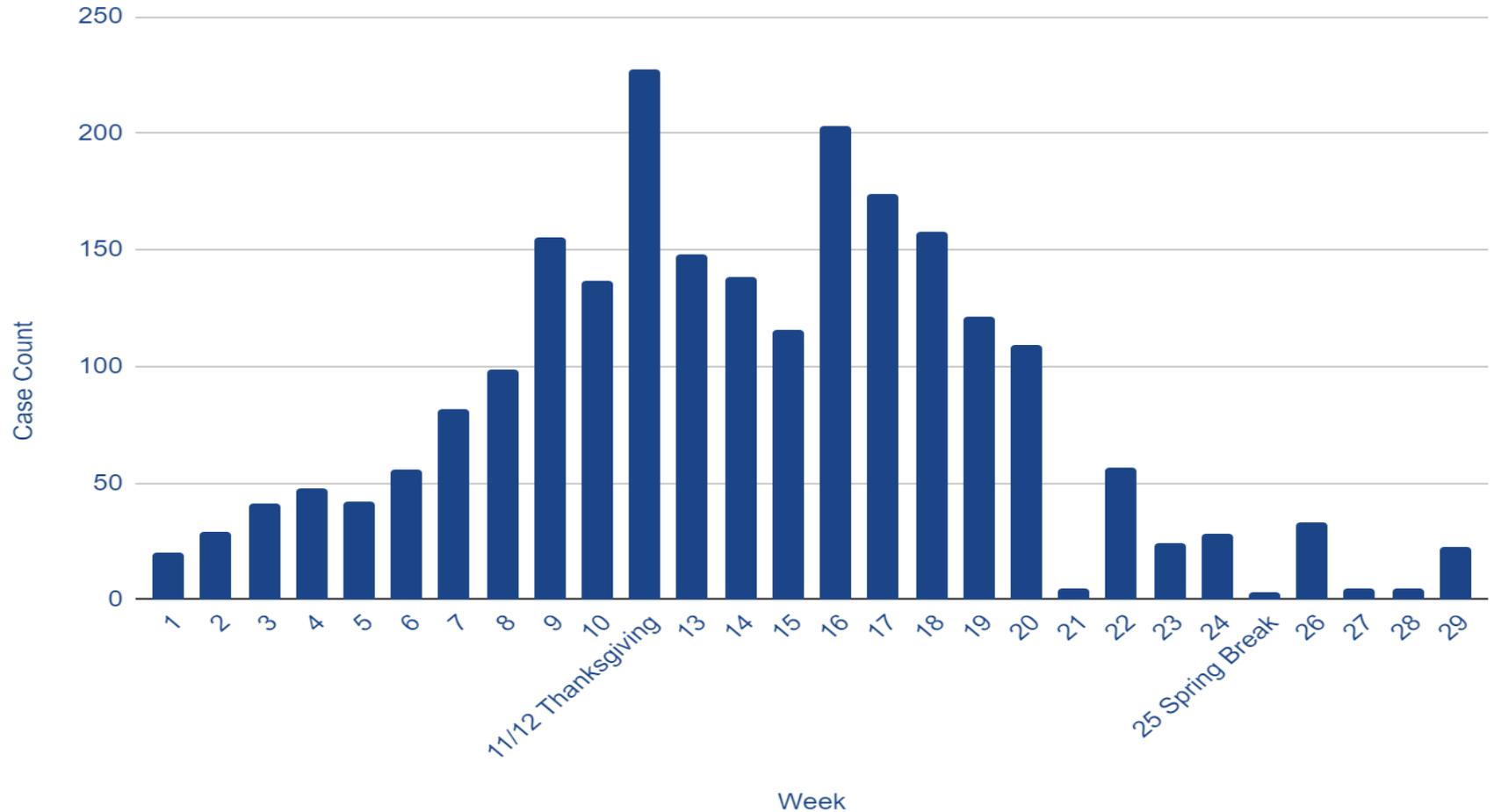
2020-2021 COVID Symptoms in School Clinics





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2020-2021 Mesquite ISD COVID Case Count by Week





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Clinic visits

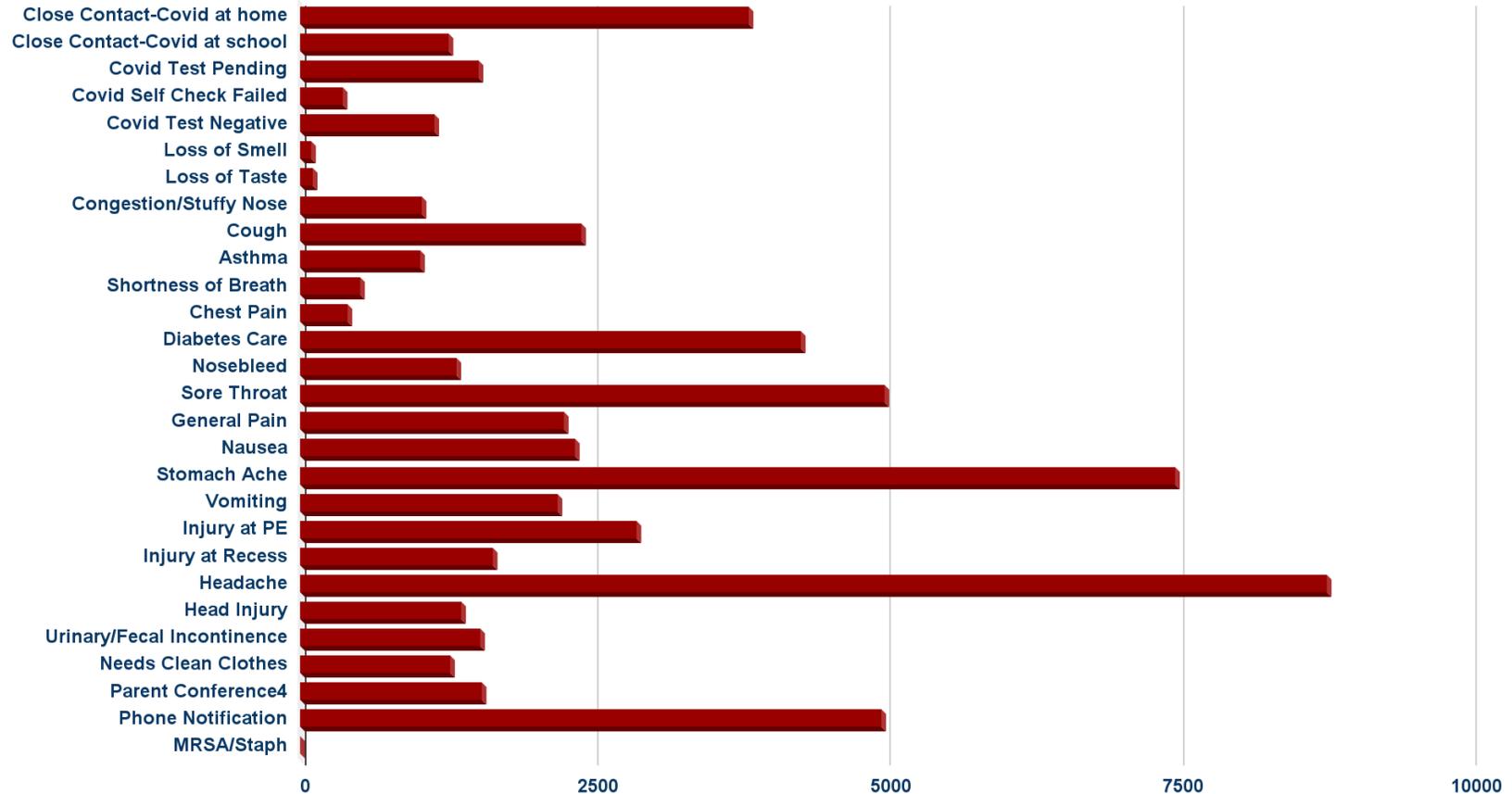
MISD school nurses monitor student health concerns throughout the year and follow up using written and verbal communication with parents or guardians, local healthcare providers, and other community resources to determine progress and needs. School nurses also provide acute care for employees presenting with health concerns. In 2019-2020, school nurses recorded 116,532 student clinic visits. This data was only procured from August-March due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. In 2020-2021, school nurses recorded **78,342** student clinic visits. The decrease in clinic visits during the 2020-2021 school year is due to the reduced number of in-person students on our campuses, as well as the nurses educating the staff members that unless a child is ill, they should try to be treated in the classroom if possible to decrease the risk of possible contact with contagious persons. It was also stressed that the clinic be kept as a secure place for our well children and immunocompromised children to safely be able to enter the clinic to take their daily medications and/or receive their daily treatments. One of the most important roles of the campus RN is to help keep our children healthy and in the classroom so they can be safe, learn and grow. Of all the students who were seen in the school clinic, **83.2% were treated and sent back to class**. Student and staff health concerns are managed on a daily basis through clinic office visits. MISD school nurses monitor student health concerns and other needs throughout the year, accessing and providing community resources, following up with parents/guardians, and communicating with healthcare providers as indicated.

Health Services effectiveness is measured by student and/or family response and outcomes. School nurses assessed each student for signs and symptoms of disease or chronic conditions to determine (a) whether or not the student is eligible to return to class, and (b) whether or not the student is able to engage in classroom learning activities. Clinic disposition measures how many students return to class after a clinic office visit. The latter is dependent on whether or not the student has symptoms requiring exclusion from school or those that prevent classroom engagement.



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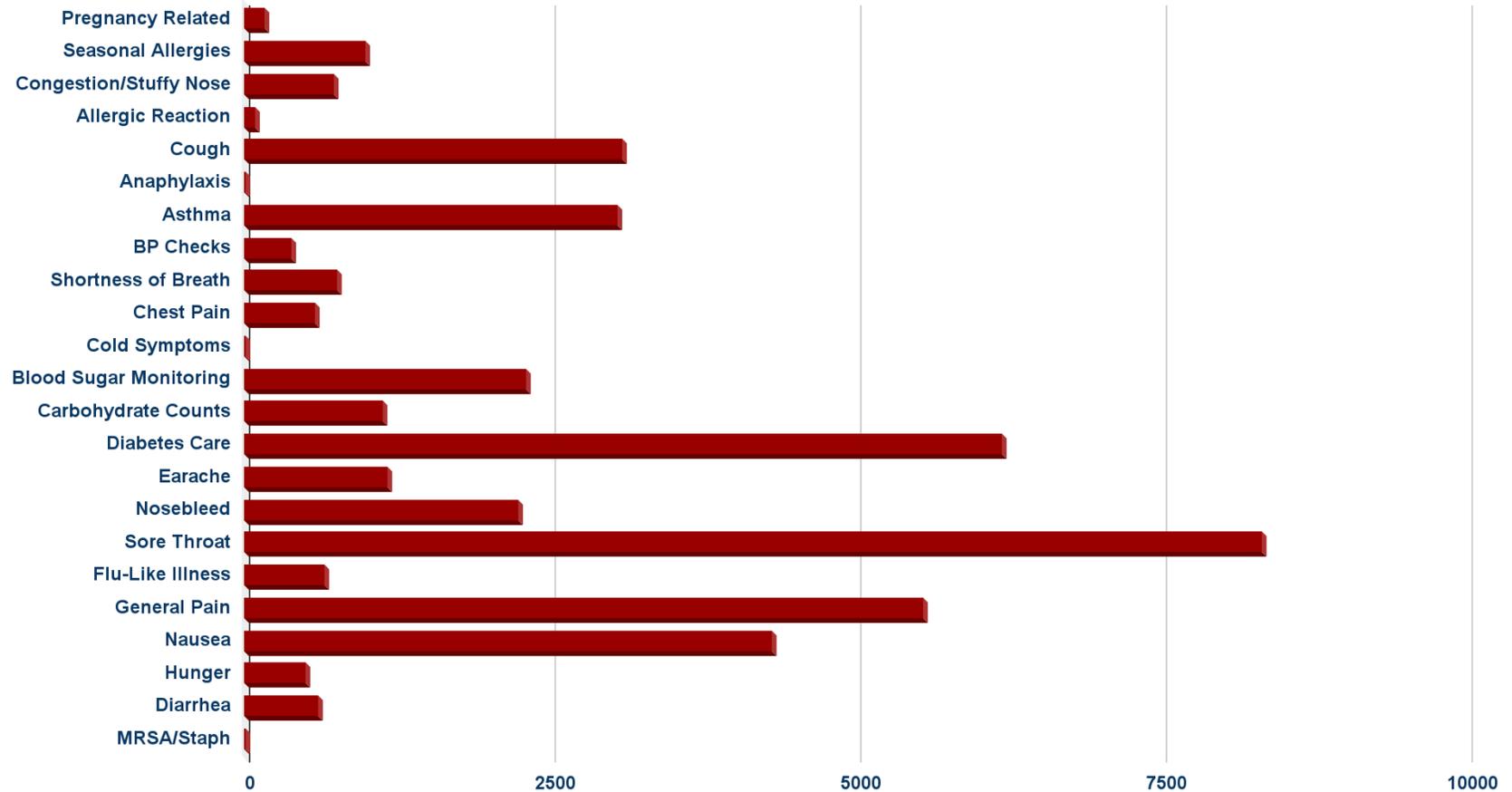
2020-2021 Clinic Visit Reason





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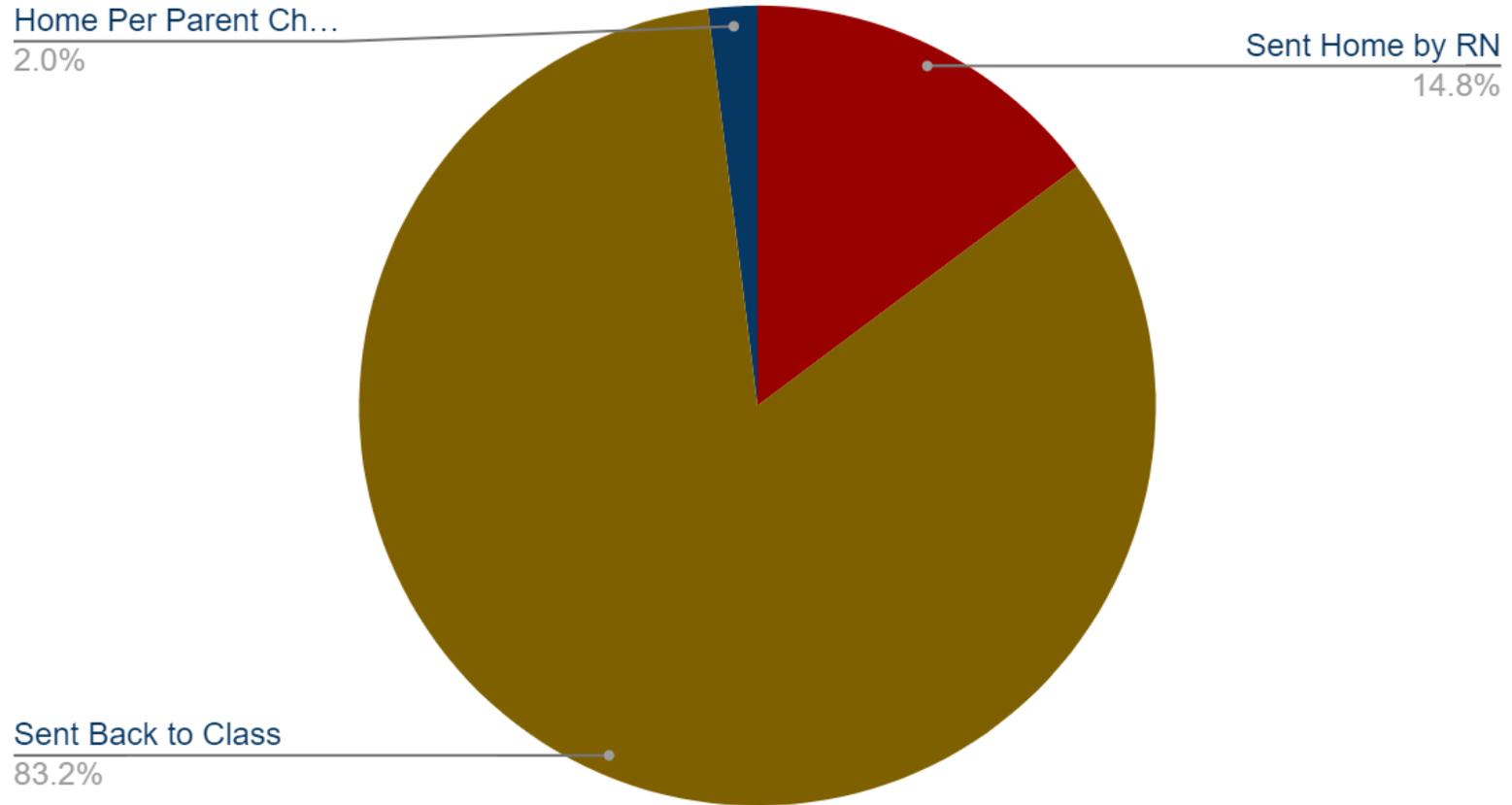
2019-2020 Clinic Visit Reason





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2020-2021 Clinic Disposition



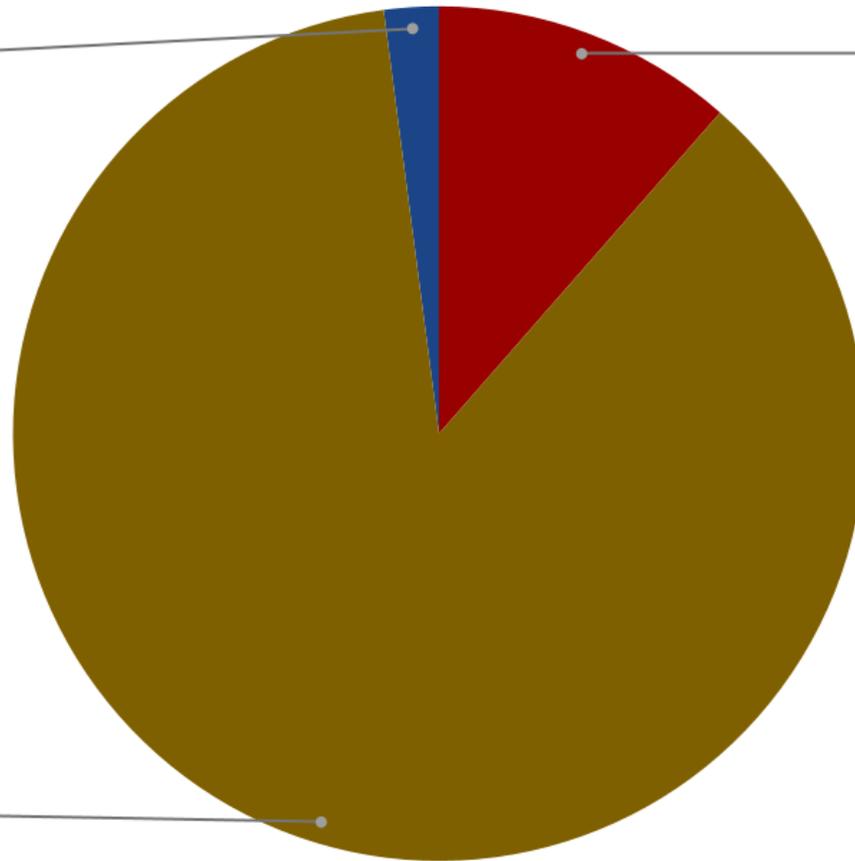


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2019-2020 Clinic Disposition

Home Per Parent
2.1%

Sent Home by RN
11.5%



Sent Back to Class
86.5%



District Effectiveness Report

Medication Administration

Mesquite ISD school nurses are responsible for administering students' prescribed medication and treatments. RN knowledge of medication extends beyond FDA approved prescribing information to signs and symptoms of adverse side effects, contraindications, allergic reactions, and overdose. The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recognizes the role of the school nurse in reinforcement of physician's recommendations and prescribed treatments in the school setting. Professional insights made by school nurses improve medical care for students and reduce the impact of ineffective treatment on student attendance and participation in instruction.

School nurses collaborate with teachers and other campus staff to ensure student medication is administered in a safe and timely manner. Each school nurse provides training for unlicensed assistive personnel (UAP) responsible for administering medication as assigned by the campus principal when the school nurse is not available. Annual training is completed prior to the first day of classes and reviewed at the beginning of the second semester. School nurses also provide medication administration training to MISD teachers and other employees sponsoring student field trips.

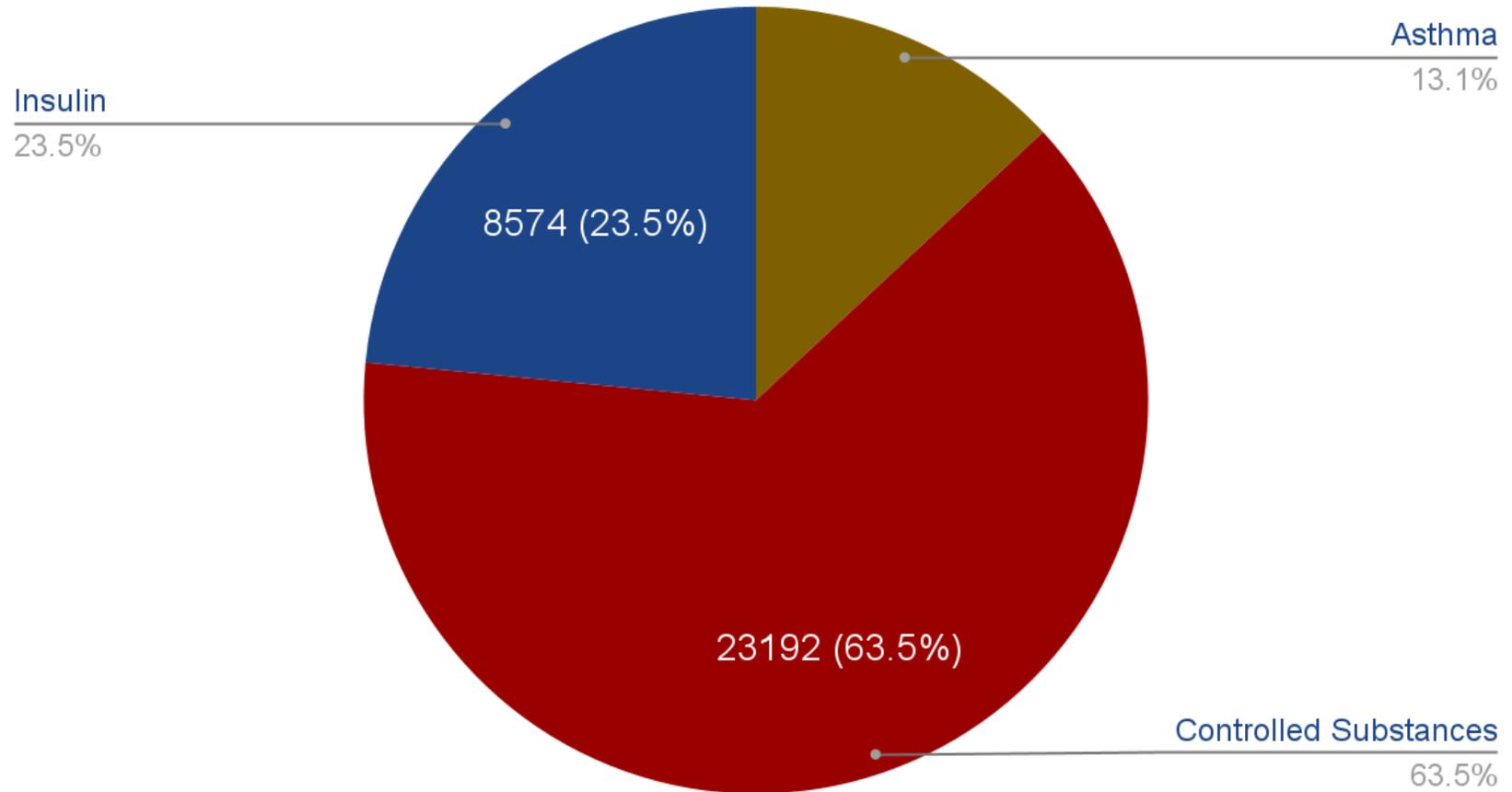
Texas law allows unlicensed school personnel to provide care for students with diabetes in the absence of the school nurse. Diabetes care includes knowledge and skills related to blood glucose monitoring, insulin to carbohydrate ratios, urinary ketone management, and administration of insulin and glucagon. Unlicensed diabetic assistive personnel (UDCA) are supervised by the school principal and trained through Health Services (Campus RN's) using materials developed by the American Diabetes Association specifically for school personnel. UDCA training is specific to the individual student so the campus UDCA(s) receives training personalized to each student with diabetes. The Board of Nursing requires RN observation of UDCA knowledge and skills at two, four and eight weeks after initial training. State law requires one UDCA on each campus assigned with a full time school nurse and three UDCA on each campus without a full time school nurse. Employees sponsoring or accompanying students on out of state school sponsored trips are trained in diabetes care to ensure student safety during those events.

During the 2020-2021 school year, **44,212 medications were administered**. The majority of the medications being administered were for respiratory exacerbations and for ADHD. Not only do the nurses administer medication; our nurses are skilled at performing special procedures such as: blood pressure checks, urinary catheterizations, medical food administration, tracheostomy suctioning and tube feedings. During the 2020-2021 school year, **812 special procedures** were provided by Health Services. The majority of those services were catheterizations, tube feedings and medical food administrations.



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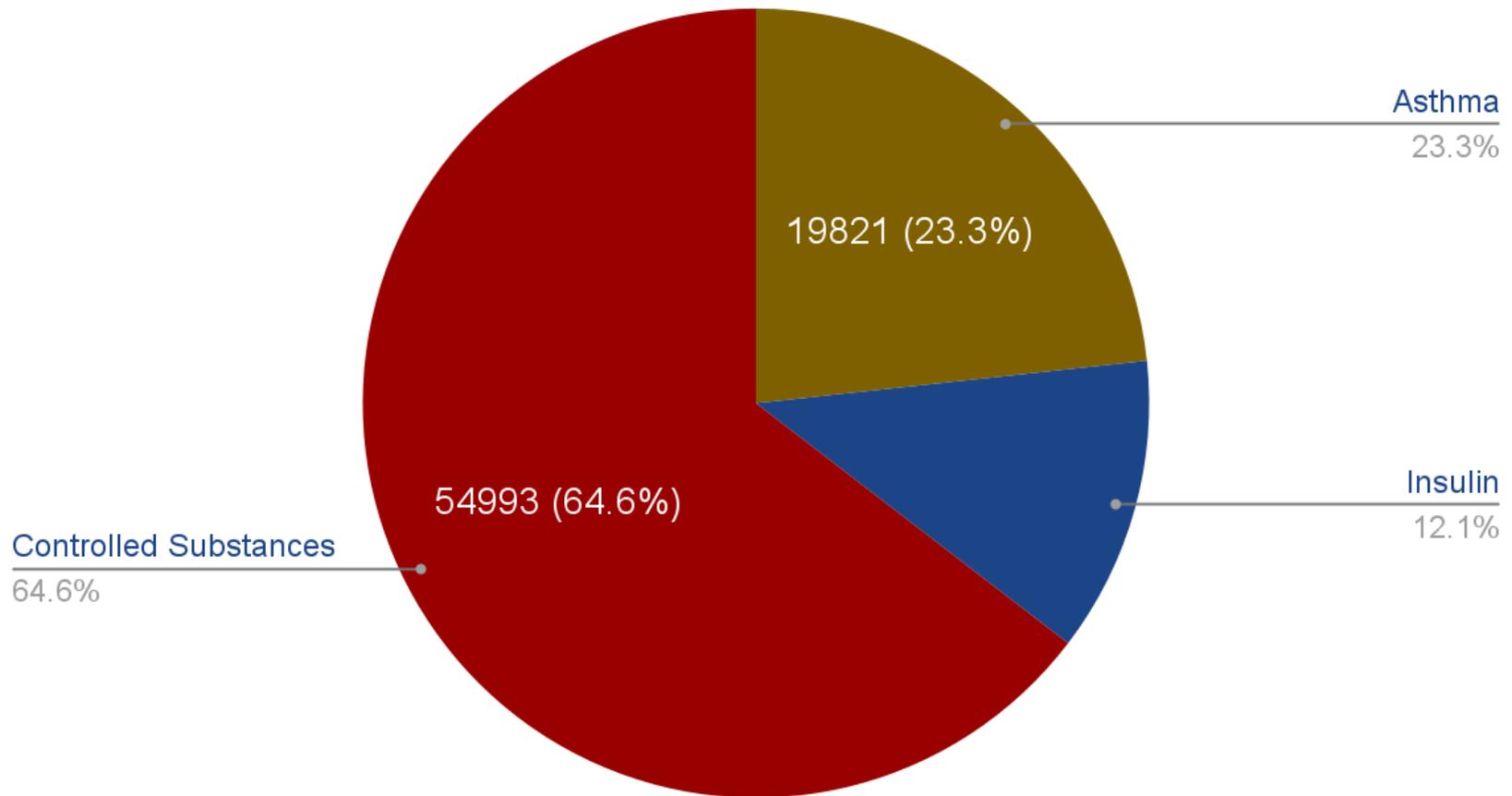
2020-2021 Medication Administration





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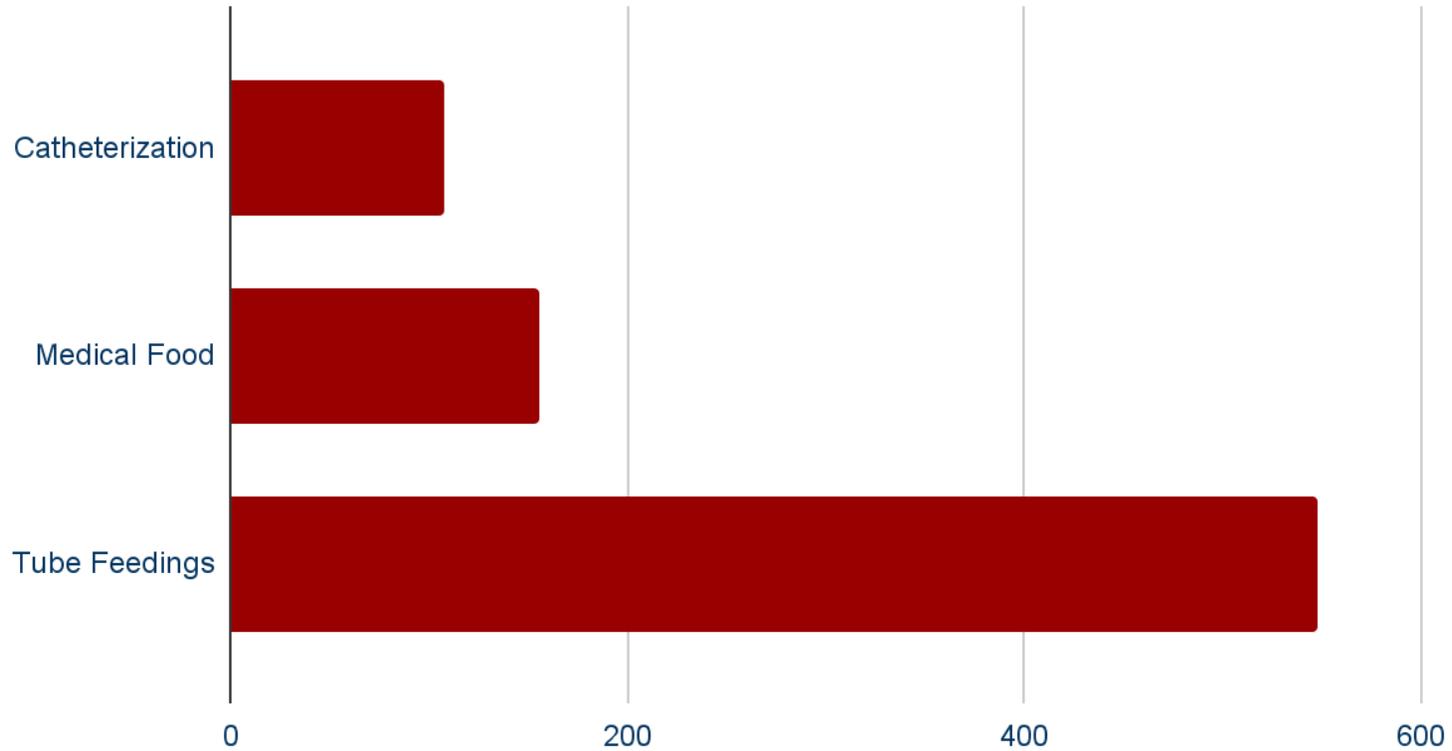
2019-2020 Medication Administration





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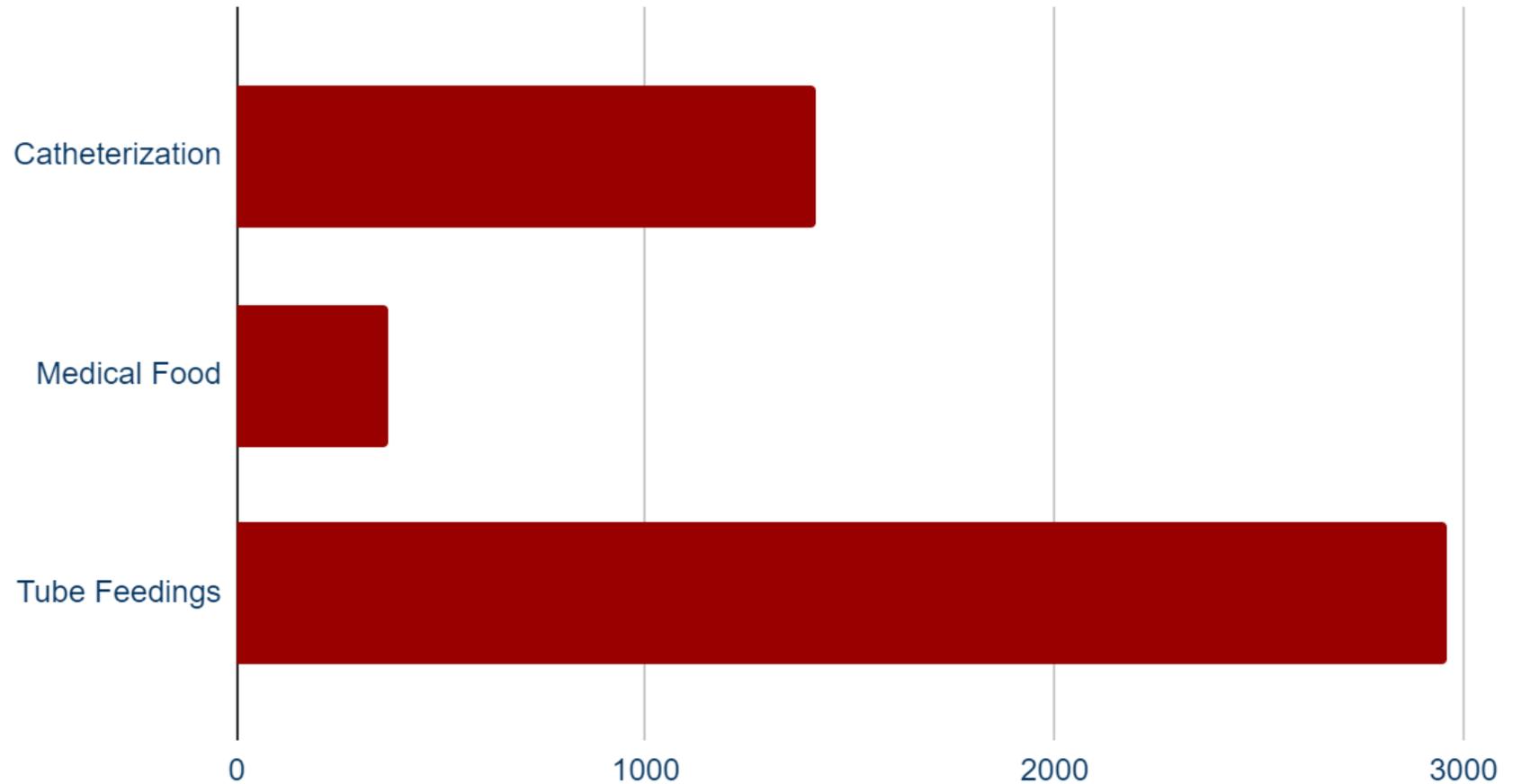
2020-2021 Special Procedures





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2019-2020 Special Procedures





District Effectiveness Report

State Mandated Health Screenings

Hearing, vision, spinal, and Texas Risk Assessment for Type 2 Diabetes (TRAT2D) screenings are mandated by the Department of State Health Services (DSHS). Students need to see and hear well enough to fully engage in classroom activities and instruction.

Hearing and vision screening is required for all students in prekindergarten, kindergarten, first grade, third grade, fifth grade and seventh grade and is recommended for new students enrolling in the district in any other grade level. **TRAT2D** is required for first, third, fifth and seventh grade students and for new students enrolling in the district. These three screenings are held in the fall semester of each year with the assistance of the Health Services Screening Team.

PlusOptix® photo screeners were widely used across the district. The Department of State Health Services Vision, Hearing, and Spinal Screening Department clarified vision screening recommendations and guidelines in March 2018 including recommendation for use of Photo Screening equipment in students less than six years of age.

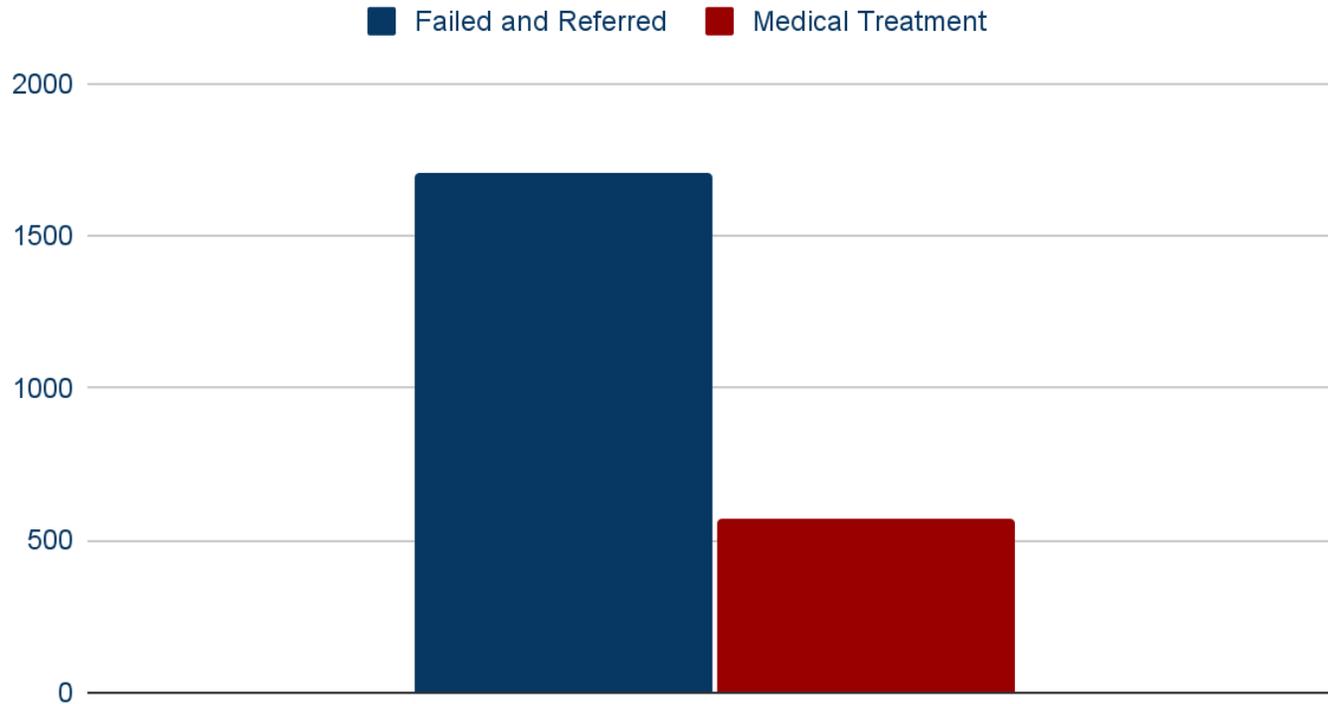
Vision Testing

School nurses identify and refer for treatment students that do not meet the state standard for passing any state mandated screening. School nurses share failed vision screening results with classroom teachers to (1) ensure the teacher is aware the student may have trouble seeing in class, (2) to gather additional information for the referral such as excessive squinting or blinking, (3) to help determine whether or not the family would benefit from assistance, and (4) to help communicate student needs with parents. During the 2020-2021 COVID pandemic, the nurses on each campus were limited in their abilities to help our children receive vision medical treatment.



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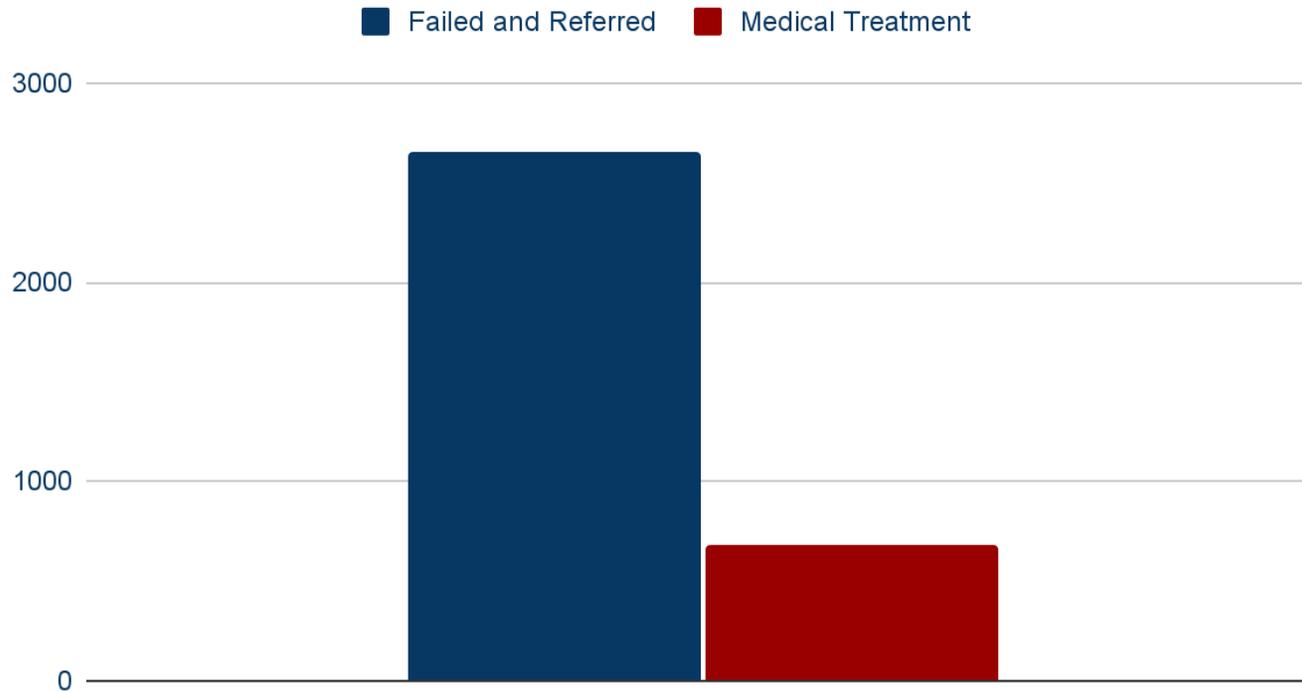
2020-2021 Vision Effectiveness





District Effectiveness Report

2019-2020 Vision Effectiveness



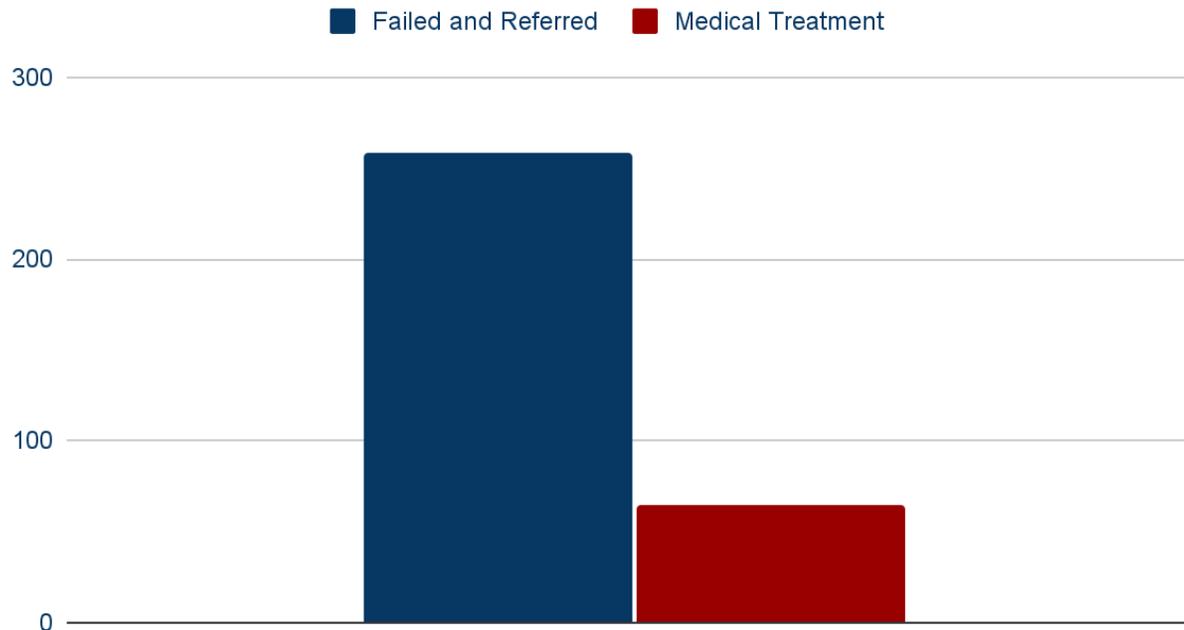
Hearing Testing



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The hearing screening process was modified for 2017-2018 and since then has continued to improve compliance with state standards for rescreening and referral. The district audiologist, Ellen Quinn, scheduled campus hearing rechecks within the one-week interval between the third and fourth week following mass screening. 12,464 students had their hearing screened and 12,848 had their vision screened during the 2020-2021 school year.

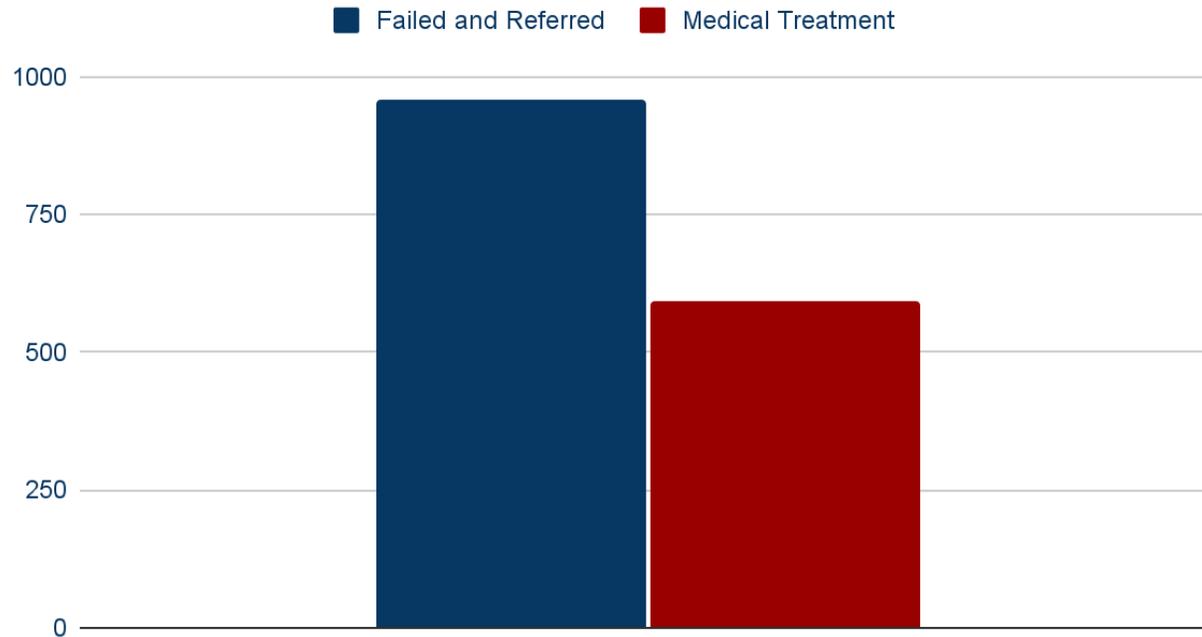
2020-2021 Hearing Effectiveness





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2019-2020 Hearing Effectiveness





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Spinal Screening

Changes mandated by the Department of State Health Services for 2018-2019 have been implemented since the 2019-2020 school year and increased alignment with the program and recommendations from the American Academy/Association of Orthopedic Surgeons (AAOS). Female students ages ten and twelve years of age will be screened and male students ages 13 or 14 will be screened for spinal abnormalities.

Minimum State Vaccine Requirements for Students

In 2009, the State introduced new **immunization requirements** for students in kindergarten through twelfth grade using a methodical plan beginning with kindergarten and seventh grade students, and ending previous rules based on age. Students enrolled in subsequent grade levels are required to meet the newest grade level requirement each year through 2021-2022. These requirements improved protection against vaccine preventable diseases including measles, mumps, rubella, hepatitis A, tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis, varicella, and meningococcal meningitis. Updated annual immunization requirements are made available to parents and guardians through notification by the school nurse, Skylert and the district website.

School nurses are responsible for reviewing and entering immunizations into the individual electronic student health record, for following up on parent or guardian requests for exemption and provisional enrollments, and for communicating with the campus principal any students who do not meet the minimum state immunization requirements. Students not meeting minimum state immunization requirements are excluded from school and continued non-compliance can lead to withdrawal.

New student immunization records are checked for compliance with state requirements by the school nurse or other campus official before enrollment. New records must be entered into the electronic health system before October 1 of each school year in preparation for the annual State Report.

The annual DSHS Report for immunization is submitted in December of each school year and reflects the number of students enrolled in prekindergarten, kindergarten, and seventh grade whose immunizations are complete as of the last Friday in October.

Emergency Preparedness

Mesquite ISD Health Services is a CPR **training center** of the American Safety and Health Institute (ASHI). All 2nd year nurses are trained and become CPR instructors. CPR records are maintained by Health Services. Employees on the Medical Emergency



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Response Teams (MERT) teams are all certified in CPR by our nurses as well as transportation, PE, and band directors-hundreds of employees are trained annually across the district by MISD HS nurses.

The **stock epinephrine** auto-injector program continues with support from Dr. Gere Feltus with the Mesquite Employee Health Clinic (MEHC) and Mylan Pharmaceuticals EpiPen4Schools program. Four stock EpiPens were used to assist students experiencing symptoms of anaphylaxis during the 2019-2020 school year.

District Health Services developed protocols for providing nursing care during reunification following a mass casualty event.

School nurses received **Stop the Bleed** instructor training in April and May 2018. Stop the bleed kits containing a tourniquet, rolled gauze, and instructions for use were assembled in May 2018 and deployed to campuses for placement in AED cabinets and clinic disaster kits-this is still in place and is monitored by the school nurse.

1. House Bill 496 requires district Bleeding Control Protocols:
 - a. Set the criteria for a course of instruction
 - b. Provided minimum requirements for Bleeding Control Kits
 - c. Requires districts offer annual training in grades 7th -12th (not completed d/t COVID-19)
 - d. Sets the TEA approval date of the course instruction on or before October 1, 2019
 - e. Gave districts a deadline of January 1, 2020 to implement changes
2. Mesquite ISD school nurses respond to medical emergencies on campus through supportive measures that prepare the patient for advanced assessment, treatment and care. Incident Reports are completed for injuries where safety measures are needed to correct factors related to the incident, when a patient is referred to a healthcare provider due to an injury occurring during school, when Emergency Medical Services is activated, or when the injury is the result of a physical altercation at school.

Population Health and Education

Disease Prevention is addressed through health education programs for students in kindergarten through twelfth grade that encourage infectious disease avoidance measures such as promoting hand washing, covering coughs and sneezes, and keeping hands away from the face. These preventative measures help limit the effects of communicable disease on school attendance for students and staff.



District Effectiveness Report

Seizure Training

1. HB 684 requires seizure training for school nurses and district staff having regular contact with students:
 - a. Includes parent submission of seizure management plans
 - b. Outlines training criteria requires TEA approval of the course of instruction on or before December 1, 2019

Personnel & Staffing

MISD Health Services uses a full time staffing model comprised of the following:

- Macey Dossey BSN-RN Director, Health Services;
- One shared administrative assistant;
- 51 Registered nurses (RN) serving as school nurses employed in the school setting wherein:
 - A nurse facilitator;
 - Manages all scheduling of the Fall Health Screenings, maintains and manages plus optix equipment, teaches hearing and vision classes to certify screeners, assists new nurses in orientation to their clinics and ongoing throughout the year, updates student records, scans files, enters vaccines and is available to sub should a nurse be out.
 - A full time school nurse assigned to each of the 50 elementary and secondary campuses;
 - An additional full time RN is assigned to provide specialized nursing services for medically fragile students at one elementary, one middle school campus, and one high school campus; and,
 - One full time school nurse assignment split between the Learning Center and Mesquite Academy;
- Eight full time clinic aides, each assigned to assist one of the high school nurses and Mesquite Academy/Learning Center;
- Other Health Services roles provide a stipend for responsibilities beyond full time campus assignments and include:
 - One nurse acting as the "Nurse Facilitator";
 - Two school nurses acting as Lead Nurses;
 - One school nurse acting as the American Safety and Health Institute (ASHI) CPR program liaison;
 - One teacher acting as the district's Wellness Facilitator; and,
- Health Services Screening Team members working as Extra Duty staff as well as substitute nurses.



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Innovative and Effective Health Delivery Systems

Health Services collaborates with **local health care providers** to improve student health and associated academic outcomes. Providers include local physicians as well as Dallas Regional Medical Center, Scottish Rite Hospital, Children's Health, and Medical City Children's Hospital. Each of these providers assists with health education, nursing staff development, individual student and employee health care, and research. Other organizations coordinating care for students include the Health and Wellness Alliance for Children's Health and LifeSavers Foundation.

The LifeSavers Foundation mobile pediatric clinic, **The Doctor Spot**, was a common sight at some Mesquite ISD campuses. The clinic provided necessary health services for students with little or no access to care including acute care, care for students with chronic health conditions, and immunizations.

Mesquite ISD Health Services partners with **Dallas CareVan** to offer free vaccinations to our community once per month.

Mesquite ISD Health Services partners with **Essilor Vision** to offer free eye examinations and glasses for our students who don't pass the state required vision test.

Albertsons and **Walgreens** provided free COVID-19 immunization clinics for our families and community.

Health Services has implemented a technological transformation to reduce paper use and storage using Skyward Health System, Google Drive (this houses the Health Services Guidelines Manual), Google Classroom.

1. Spreadsheets collect data not available through Skyward,
2. Spreadsheets to track COVID data available on Google Sheets
3. School nurses access and update the substitute nurse Google Calendar,
4. The Health Services Google Website provides all nurses with quick access to the School Nurse Handbook and UAP/UDCA Training Binder,
5. Google Classrooms is used to set up 'assignments' for nurses to submit paperwork within a set timeline, and
6. Google Forms is used to survey school nurses for efficacy of systems and trends in clinic visits or care.

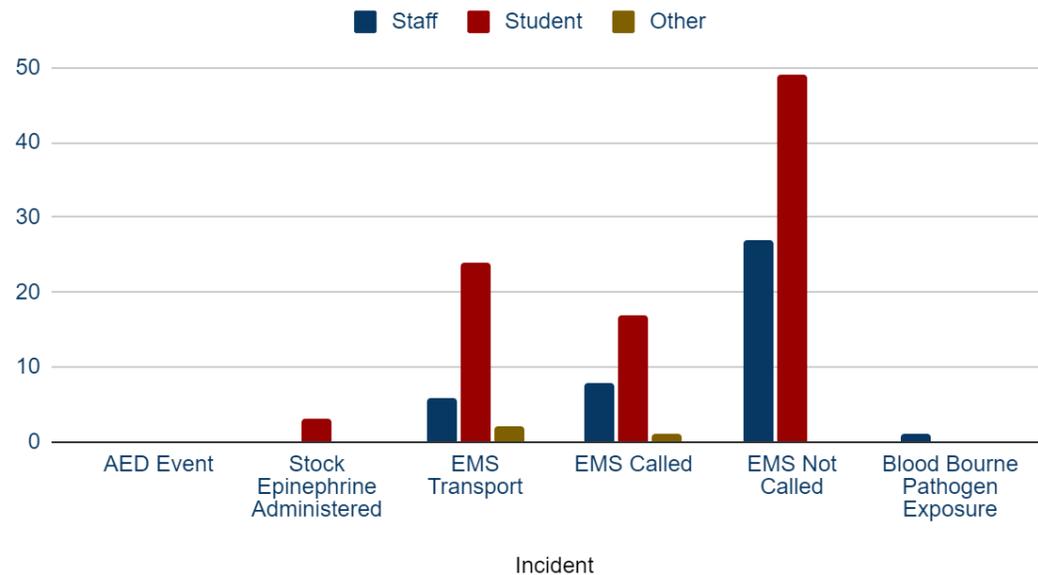


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Incident Report Data

Mesquite ISD school nurses respond to medical emergencies on campus through supportive measures that prepare the patient for advanced assessment, treatment and care. Incident Reports are completed for those injuries where safety measures are needed to correct factors related to the incident, when a patient is referred to a healthcare provider due to an injury occurring during school, when Emergency Medical Services is activated, or when the injury is the result of a physical altercation at school. During the 2018-2019 school year, there were 43 transports to the emergency room. This year, there were only approximately 21 transports to the emergency room. Our nurses have improved health related outcomes due to better communication with families and acquiring emergency medication needed for our students in emergency situations.

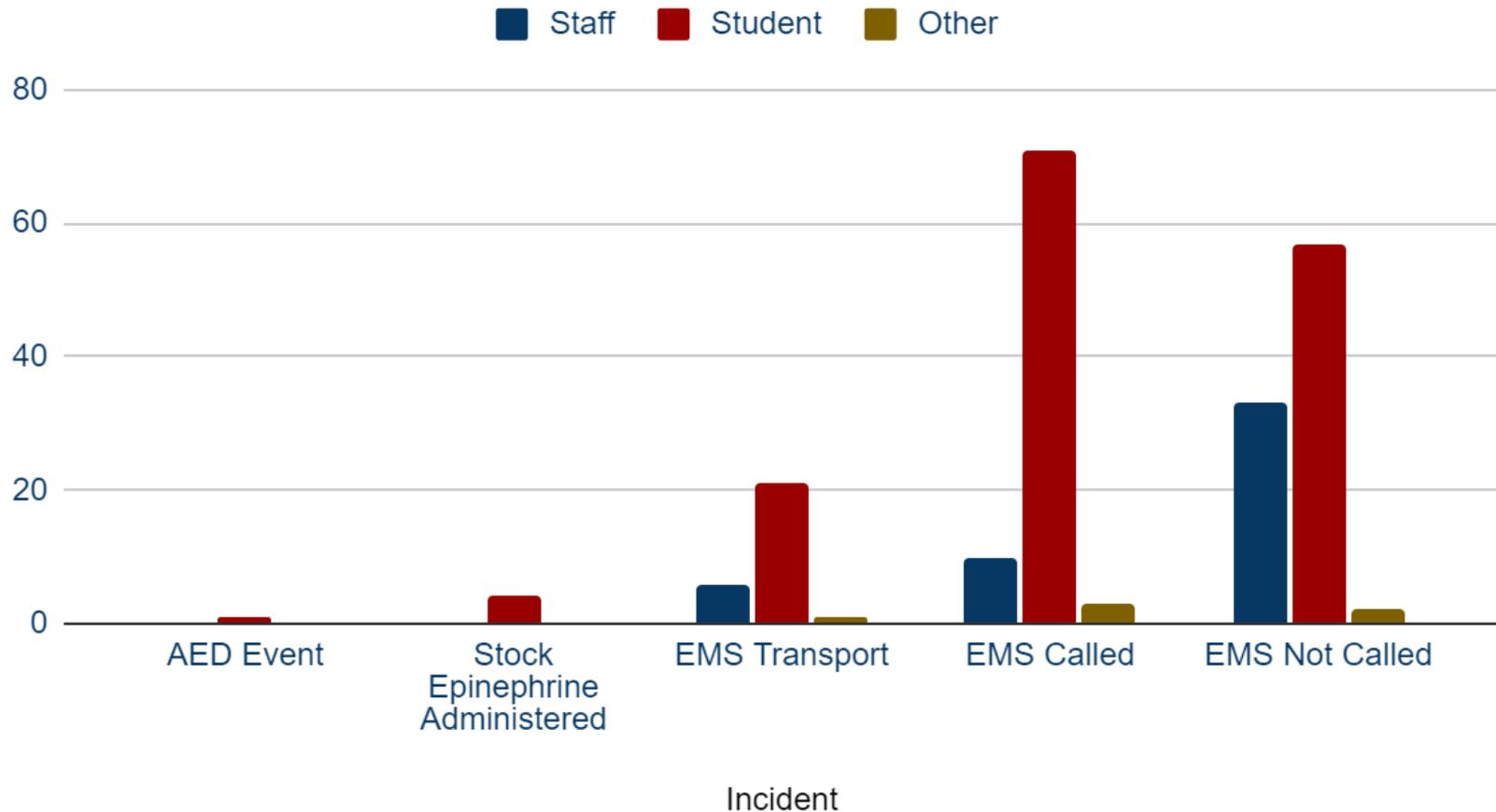
2020-2021 Incident Reports





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2019-2020 Incident Reports





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MISD Wellness Program

The Health Services Wellness program operates under a separate budget and is managed by a facilitator. The Wellness budget allots payment to aerobics instructors, supplies, wellness reading materials for members and much more.

The Mesquite ISD **Wellness** program consists of three components:

- Physical fitness program for employees;
- Preventative health services; and,
- Health and fitness news updates.

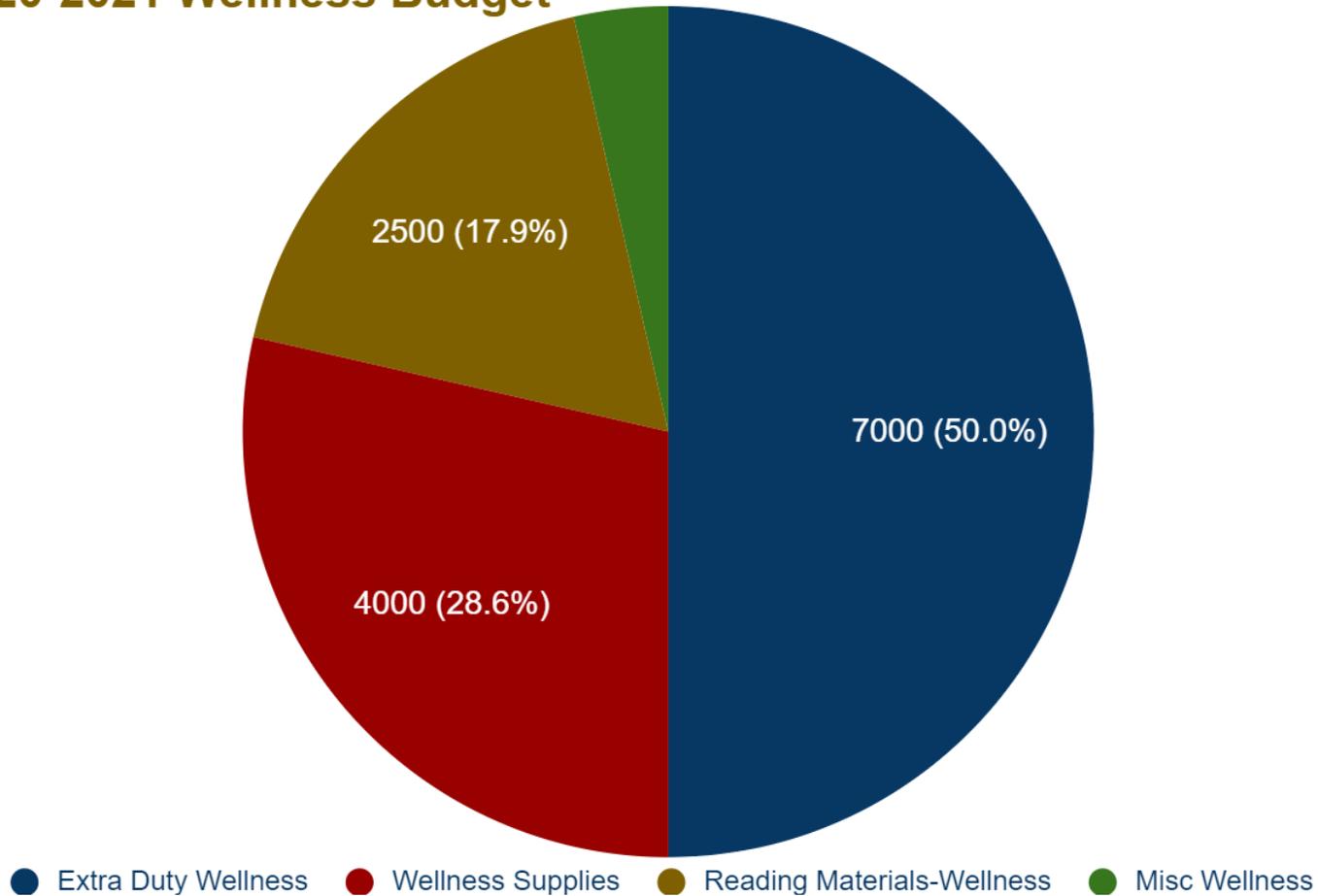
Membership is \$10 per year and provides members with eight electronic copies of Well Balanced Magazine, access to exercise opportunities, and an incentive program for meeting health goals.

Employees may join Wellness any time during the school year and must be a member to participate in exercise and incentive programs. All employees are encouraged to participate in preventative health measures such as mammograms, flu shots, blood screening and health challenges.



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2020-2021 Wellness Budget



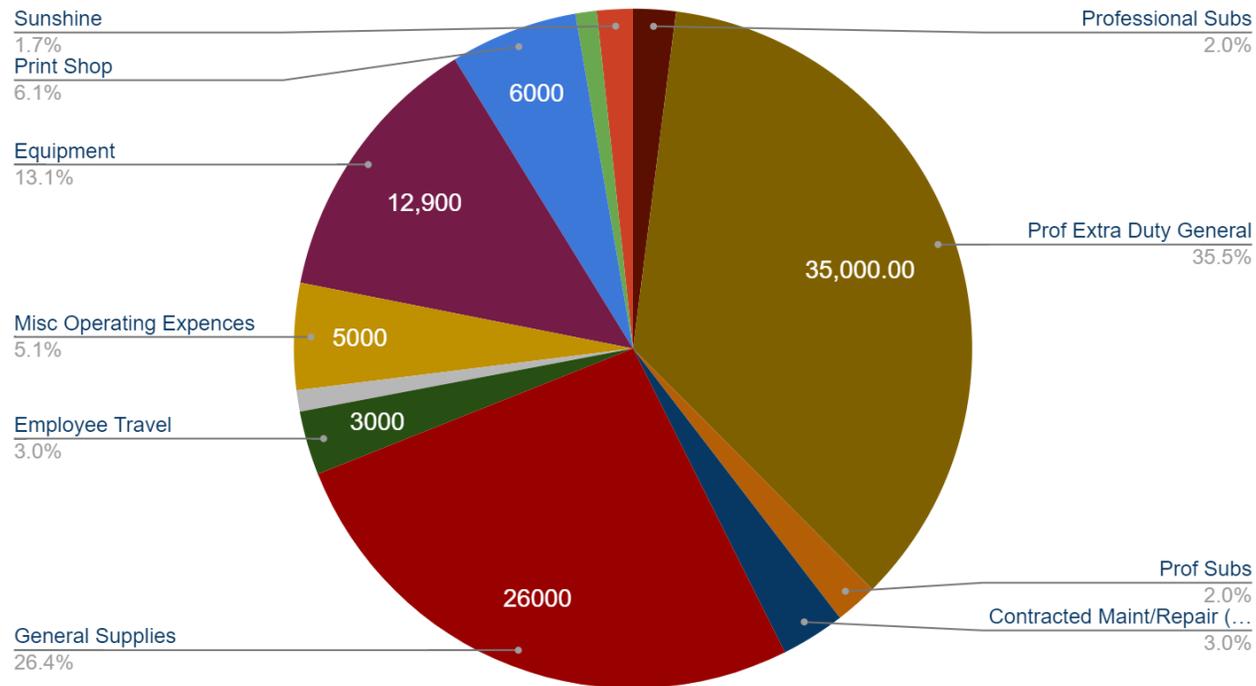


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Health Services Annual Operating Expenses

The following chart represents Mesquite ISD Health Services budget, programs and associated costs for 2020-2021.

2020-2021 Health Services Budget





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Vision for the Future

Classroom engagement and academic success are paramount to the future of our students and our community. Health Services is dedicated to supporting that future through efforts that improve student access to healthcare providers and resources, support infection prevention on campuses, and reduce barriers to health and well-being for all students and staff.

The National Association of School Nurses recommends one registered nurse for every 750 “healthy” students enrolled. I envision not only each campus having a school nurse, but our larger campuses to meet the recommendation of the NASN.

Due to the unsettling times of the COVID-19 pandemic, MISD Health Services goal for the 2021-2022 school year is to continue to implement protocols and procedures passed down from the TEA, Dallas County and the CDC. MISD Health Services is confident in the mitigations that were created by MISD Health Services and is looking forward to the next effectiveness report that should reveal effective COVID-19 mitigations.

As Always, Nursing Excellence!

