Nursing Services Plan
Readington Township Public School District
2026-2027

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 Readington Township School District was awarded the preschool expansion aid in January 2023. The District provides nursing services to the community partners of Berry Patch, Global Pioneer Academy, Stanton Learning Center and Whitehouse Prep.

The Middle School is located 7.4 miles from Three Bridges, 0.7 miles from Holland Brook, and 2.8 miles from Whitehouse. Further the Middle school is 4.2 miles from Global Pioneer Academy, 6.6 miles from Berry Patch, 4 miles from White House Prep and 6 miles from Stanton Learning Center. 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. Further, the nurse at Three Bridges Elementary School assumes the nursing responsibility of all community partners, as these sites do not have on-site nurses. 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 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. By providing the following services: 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. Organize and support fundraising opportunities in the district to bring awareness to health issues in our communities. 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:		473
General Education Enrollment:		371
Special Education Enrollment:		100
Students with 504 Plans:		50
Student with Individualized Health Plans:		58
Out of District:		2
Number of Staff in Building:		100
Level I: Nursing Dependent		1
Level II:	Medically Fragile	3
Level III:	Medically Complex	102
Level IV:	Health Concerns	212

Special Concerns:
During the past school year, the average number of injured/sick visits to the school health office was approximately 30 students per day and 3 staff visits/calls per day. In addition, mandatory health screenings of all students resulted in an estimated 500 additional office visits. Follow up on referrals for further screening takes additional time. This year at the middle school a student is required to have daily monitoring , additional staff education, ongoing training of epinephrine delegates, glucagon delegates and frequent communication with parents. Alternative instruction requires the involvement of the nurses during the course of its

implementation. There are 80 students enrolled in the free and reduced lunch program that are in contact with the nurses and provided with supplemental services throughout the school year. The Norwescap Backpack program is also run by the nurses for students in need.

Management of head injuries and other sports-related injuries increases the workload of the middle school nurses. Concussions require communication with parents and teachers and involve monitoring of symptoms as well as supervising the return to play of athletes. Each year, 30-40% of the students in the middle school try out for sports teams. Many students require follow up for medical concerns and to obtain clearance. State mandates regarding sports physicals and required vaccines consume many nursing hours to process forms, accurately maintain health records, communicate with parents and coaches, and to protect the liability of the district. The school nurse is the liaison between the student's home, medical home, school physician, and the athletic director. Sports try-outs occur three times per year. Fall sports begin in August and require compensation for nursing hours during the summer to compile sports physicals for review by the school physician. This year's sports paperwork continues to need attention as enrollment has been on a rolling basis. Obtaining nursing coverage for school trips remains a concern and is often an issue due to several nurses out for various reasons. The multiple trips require a nurse in attendance. Nursing preparation time is required to address student health needs outside of school, medication concerns, and emergency preparedness procedures for all trips.

District Wide Concerns:

Currently there is only one substitute school nurse with limited availability who requires advance notice to cover a trip or fill in at a school. There is a low response for nursing coverage from the substitutes listed. Nurses should not be asked to provide their own coverage. Without adequate coverage the nursing staff often feels compelled to come to work despite illness. Due to a nursing staff resignation the RMS nurses have not been in the office on a daily basis to personally address concerns. Staffing HBS has been covered by subs when available and with one of the RMS nurses. 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, pandemic accommodations etc.

Staff injuries require the nurse to assess the individual and ensure Qual-Lynx has been notified. This takes time away from direct student care. The number of staff injuries can vary.

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: 232

Special Education Enrollment: 80
Students with 504 Plans: 31
Out of District: 2
Student with Individualized Health Plans: 31
Number of Staff in Building: 65

Level I:	Nursing Dependent	0
Level II:	Medically Fragile	5
Level III:	Medically Complex	52
Level IV:	Health Concerns	131

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 15 students requiring the development of emergency plans and health care plans to cover their anaphylactic needs, 12 students with current asthma action plans, and several other students with asthma who might require medical interventions for an asthma flare during illness. 1 student for a seizure action plan and 1 student with medial IEP. HBS has 4 students coming to the health office daily for medication for the treatment of ADHD.

District Wide Concerns

Currently there is no full time nurse covering HBS and there is only 1 substitute nurse with very 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. HBS currently has 59 students that participate in the Free and Reduced Lunch Program, 257 students district wide. The FIN families are given resources by BOE with School nurse as a resource for the schools. 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 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.

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

Grade Levels: PS-3

Student Population (K-3): 318

General Education Enrollment: 260

Special Education Enrollment: 58

Preschool Students age 3-5: 198 (includes TBS, SLC, BPELC, GPA, WHPREP)

Students with 504 Plans: 13

Out of District: 1

21 (Epi TBS)	18 (Asthma TBS)	2 Seizure	1 Hearing (TBS)
2 Epi (SLC)	4 Epi (BPELC)	3 Epi (GPA)	1 Epi (WHPREP)

Student with Individualized Health Plans: 52 (incl PK)

Number of Staff in Building: 67

Level I:	Nursing Dependent	0
Level II:	Medically Fragile	0
Level III:	Medically Complex	52
Level IV:	Health Concerns	103

Special Concerns:

As we start the 2026-2027 school year, our enrollment in preschool has stabilized, but still accounts for an additional 198 students who require annual health screenings and creation of care plans for medically complex students . Of those 198 students there are 10 medically complex students requiring Emergency Anaphylaxis Delegate Plans as well as Individual Health Care Plans.

Health office visits at TBS average between 20–35 per day. State-mandated health screenings must be completed for all students in grades PK–3, resulting in an additional 318 on site health office visits, and 198 off-site health screenings. Referrals for further testing are sent home for any student who does not pass vision, hearing, or dental screenings (for PK).

Each year, significant time and effort is dedicated to ensuring compliance with New Jersey state mandates requiring physical examinations and documentation of age-appropriate immunizations for all incoming students. This process encompasses all PK-3 students. This work involves multiple and repeated communications with parents/guardians to obtain the required paperwork, despite a new streamlined system for obtaining the required paperwork. Once submitted, the information must be carefully reviewed and subsequently entered into Genesis. Ongoing follow-up is necessary until all documentation is received. In cases where paperwork remains incomplete, state regulations require that a student may need to be excluded from attendance.

As part of the New Jersey state preschool program, it is required that health lessons be provided in all preschool classrooms. These lessons will continue to focus on foundational health topics, including understanding germs with an emphasis on proper handwashing, dental health instruction utilizing the Hunterdon Co DOH Tooth Fairy Program, and nutrition through the "Eat the Rainbow" approach to healthy eating. The health lessons will also be supported by The Great Body Shop and Creative Curriculum.

TBS has two students with active seizure action plans, 1 student with hearing loss, who wears hearing aids full time. In addition, TBS has 21 students requiring the development of emergency delegate plans and individual health care plans to cover their anaphylactic risks. As part of the delegate process, classroom teachers who are willing to be epipen delegates must be trained on the use of the various epipens available. Additional staff responsible for covering the lunch room must also be trained in Epipen administration. The independent PK providers have a collective 10 additional students who also require the development of emergency delegate plans and individual health care plans for students with anaphylaxis.. TBS has 18 students with current asthma action plans, and several other students with asthma who might require medical interventions for an asthma flare during illness.

TBS currently has 34 students that have been found eligible to be included in the Free and Reduced Lunch Program. Due to the significant increase in families qualifying for additional assistance throughout the district, 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. The social services needed in the district have increased tremendously and as a result there is a greater need for community resources.

TBS continues to have an OOD student requiring a nurse to ride on the bus to and from Lakeview School due to seizures. This year a new company is being utilized which will hopefully resolve many of the issues from last year. As a result of the nurse ensuring the safety of the student during transportation, her in-district support is extremely limited.

The district nurses continue to have concerns with low substitute retention rates and currently have only one substitute nurse with very limited availability. Should a district nurse become ill or require days off for medical reasons, there is often no coverage for the schools. The nurses feel obligated to work sick/injured and are often responsible for finding their own coverage, unlike their teacher counterparts.. Contingency planning for contract services/agency nurses should continue to be pursued in the event a district nurse is unavailable or experiences a prolonged absence due to illness, jury duty etc.

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

Grade Levels:	PS-3
Student Population:	359
General Education Enrollment:	300
Special Education Enrollment:	59
Preschool Students age 3-5:	39
Students with 504 Plans:	18
Out of District:	0
Student with Individualized Health Plans:	26
Number of Staff in Building:	61

Level I:	Nursing Dependent	0
Level II:	Medically Fragile	3
Level III:	Medically Complex	32
Level IV:	Health Concerns	93

Special Concerns:

The health office averages 25–40 student visits daily, in addition to 359 visits for state-mandated health screenings. Students who do not pass vision or hearing screenings receive referrals, requiring parent communication and follow-up. Significant time is also devoted to New Jersey compliance requirements for initial data entry of preschool physicals and immunizations, communication and follow-up with kindergarten families regarding outstanding immunization requirements, and review and data entry of records for transfer students. Preschool influenza vaccine compliance requires ongoing monitoring, parent communication, documentation, and data entry into Genesis by the November 30 deadline.

Several students require specialized nursing care and coordination. Two students have seizure action plans involving rescue medication, and one preschool student requires daily NG tube feedings. One student with juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA) requires an individualized health plan and classroom management plan to address disease flares, staff communication, and emergency evacuation needs. Two students use hearing aids connected to the Roger device; daily equipment checks and troubleshooting for one student, along with collaboration with the Summit Speech School consultant for both students, support consistent auditory access to instruction.

Additional responsibilities include assessing students following physical restraints and completing and maintaining required restraint documentation, as well as documenting, obtaining a case number from Qual-Lynx, dispense to appropriate personnel, and maintaining accident reports involving students, staff, and visitors.

The nurse also conducts in-person height, weight, vision, and hearing screenings for approximately two to three prospective preschool students monthly through the Child Study Team evaluation process.

Approximately 22% of Whitehouse students qualify for the Free and Reduced-Price Meal Program. Identifying and addressing family needs involves connecting families with resources for food, school supplies, lunch boxes, and reusable water bottles; coordinating assistance for school events and field trips; and collaborating with the HSA, Readington Township social worker, and community partners. The NORWESCAP Weekly Backpack Program currently supports seven students. Ongoing staff communication helps identify additional needs, including internet access, and facilitates appropriate referrals.

District Wide Concerns:

Contingency plans for substitute nursing coverage, including through HCESC, are needed to ensure continuity of health services during nurse absences and appropriate coverage for field trips, as the district currently has only one substitute nurse with limited availability. School nurses are also responsible for documenting accidents involving students, staff, and visitors and contacting Qual-Lynx to initiate workers' compensation claims, which reduces time available for direct student care. With approximately 22% of Whitehouse students qualifying for the Free and Reduced-Price Meal Program and fewer community resources available for food, vision care, and health insurance, a designated district contact, such as a school social worker, would help coordinate family support and referrals. The district should also utilize multiple communication methods when requesting responses from families to improve outreach and follow-up.

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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.

Created by: Stephanie Armstrong, Katie Lynch, Jill Komosinski, Marjorie Milloria, and Maureen Sjonell

Reviewed by Rebecca Burns, Director of Pupil Services Rebecca Burns Date: 10.19.26

Reviewed by Ronald M Frank, MD _____ Date 10/18/2026