



Oak Park Elementary School District 97

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Date: October 9, 2015

To: Dr. Carol Kelley
Superintendent

From: Michael Padavic
Senior Director of Student Services

Re: Nurse Staffing

A District 97 parent/guardian contacted us seeking information regarding why we have one nurse assigned to cover Beye and Mann elementary schools. As a result of this inquiry, we performed an analysis of how our school nurse staffing levels compare to the Forecast 5 school districts. What we discovered were dramatically different results across these districts, as well as the absence of a standard formula or set of criteria for determining the appropriate staffing level.

Our district currently employs seven full-time licensed professional nurses. The nurse at Lincoln is expected to have her license by the end of the school year. There is also a retired licensed nurse currently assigned to work at Hatch for the 100 days allowed by law. The responsibilities of our nurses include, but are not limited to, writing health histories for IEP students, serving as a case manager for students with medical 504 plans, administering medication to students, and monitoring the blood sugar levels of children with diabetes.

Through our contract with Maxim Health Services, we have a licensed practical nurse that provides coverage for either Beye or Mann when our school nurse is at the other building. Unfortunately, due to various circumstances, we are on our third licensed practical nurse for the school year, which has impacted the quality and consistency of the health care services we have been able to provide students at both schools. In addition, we have seen an increase in students with serious food allergies and diabetes during the past two years.

Based on these issues, I am recommending that we hire full-time nurses for Beye and Mann. To cover the cost of the additional position, I would transfer \$65,000 dollars from the special education contracted services budget into the nurses personnel salary budget. I also recommend that we hire a full-time nurse for Hatch starting with the 2016-2017 school year to ensure we have consistent and equitable coverage across the district.