

2021 SPECIAL SESSION I

INTRODUCED

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HOUSE BILL NO. 1736

Offered January 13, 2021

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A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 22.1-253.13:2, 22.1-274 and 22.1-274.01:1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to school personnel; school nurses.

Patrons—Adams, D.M., Kory, Guzman and Willett

Referred to Committee on Education

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That §§ 22.1-253.13:2, 22.1-274 and 22.1-274.01:1 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 22.1-253.13:2. Standard 2. Instructional, administrative, and support personnel.

A. The Board shall establish requirements for the licensing of teachers, principals, superintendents, and other professional personnel.

B. School boards shall employ licensed instructional personnel qualified in the relevant subject areas.

C. Each school board shall assign licensed instructional personnel in a manner that produces divisionwide ratios of students in average daily membership to full-time equivalent teaching positions, excluding special education teachers, principals, assistant principals, school counselors, and librarians, that are not greater than the following ratios: (i) 24 to one in kindergarten with no class being larger than 29 students; if the average daily membership in any kindergarten class exceeds 24 pupils, a full-time teacher's aide shall be assigned to the class; (ii) 24 to one in grades one, two, and three with no class being larger than 30 students; (iii) 25 to one in grades four through six with no class being larger than 35 students; and (iv) 24 to one in English classes in grades six through 12. After September 30 of any school year, anytime the number of students in a class exceeds the class size limit established by this subsection, the local school division shall notify the parent of each student in such class of such fact no later than 10 days after the date on which the class exceeded the class size limit. Such notification shall state the reason that the class size exceeds the class size limit and describe the measures that the local school division will take to reduce the class size to comply with this subsection.

Within its regulations governing special education programs, the Board shall seek to set pupil/teacher ratios for pupils with intellectual disability that do not exceed the pupil/teacher ratios for self-contained classes for pupils with specific learning disabilities.

Further, school boards shall assign instructional personnel in a manner that produces schoolwide ratios of students in average daily memberships to full-time equivalent teaching positions of 21 to one in middle schools and high schools. School divisions shall provide all middle and high school teachers with one planning period per day or the equivalent, unencumbered of any teaching or supervisory duties.

D. (Effective until July 1, 2022) Each local school board shall employ with state and local basic, special education, gifted, and career and technical education funds a minimum number of licensed, full-time equivalent instructional personnel for each 1,000 students in average daily membership (ADM) as set forth in the appropriation act. Calculations of kindergarten positions shall be based on full-day kindergarten programs. Beginning with the March 31 report of average daily membership, those school divisions offering half-day kindergarten with pupil/teacher ratios that exceed 30 to one shall adjust their average daily membership for kindergarten to reflect 85 percent of the total kindergarten average daily memberships, as provided in the appropriation act.

D. (Effective July 1, 2022) Each local school board shall employ with state and local basic, special education, gifted, and career and technical education funds a minimum number of licensed, full-time equivalent instructional personnel for each 1,000 students in average daily membership (ADM) as set forth in the appropriation act.

E. In addition to the positions supported by basic aid and in support of regular school year programs of prevention, intervention, and remediation, state funding, pursuant to the appropriation act, shall be provided to fund certain full-time equivalent instructional positions for each 1,000 students in grades K through 12 who are identified as needing prevention, intervention, and remediation services. State funding for prevention, intervention, and remediation programs provided pursuant to this subsection and the appropriation act may be used to support programs for educationally at-risk students as identified by the local school boards.

To provide algebra readiness intervention services required by § 22.1-253.13:1, school divisions may employ mathematics teacher specialists to provide the required algebra readiness intervention services. School divisions using the Standards of Learning Algebra Readiness Initiative funding in this manner

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59 shall only employ instructional personnel licensed by the Board of Education.

60 F. In addition to the positions supported by basic aid and those in support of regular school year
61 programs of prevention, intervention, and remediation, state funding, pursuant to the general
62 appropriation act, shall be provided to support (i) 18.5 full-time equivalent instructional positions in the
63 2020-2021 school year for each 1,000 students identified as having limited English proficiency and (ii)
64 20 full-time equivalent instructional positions in the 2021-2022 school year and thereafter for each 1,000
65 students identified as having limited English proficiency, which positions may include dual language
66 teachers who provide instruction in English and in a second language.

67 To provide flexibility in the instruction of English language learners who have limited English
68 proficiency and who are at risk of not meeting state accountability standards, school divisions may use
69 state and local funds from the Standards of Quality Prevention, Intervention, and Remediation account to
70 employ additional English language learner teachers or dual language teachers to provide instruction to
71 identified limited English proficiency students. Using these funds in this manner is intended to
72 supplement the instructional services provided in this section. School divisions using the SOQ
73 Prevention, Intervention, and Remediation funds in this manner shall employ only instructional personnel
74 licensed by the Board of Education.

75 G. In addition to the full-time equivalent positions required elsewhere in this section, each local
76 school board shall employ the following reading specialists in elementary schools, one full-time in each
77 elementary school at the discretion of the local school board. One reading specialist employed by each
78 local school board that employs a reading specialist shall have training in the identification of and the
79 appropriate interventions, accommodations, and teaching techniques for students with dyslexia or a
80 related disorder and shall serve as an advisor on dyslexia and related disorders. Such reading specialist
81 shall have an understanding of the definition of dyslexia and a working knowledge of (i) techniques to
82 help a student on the continuum of skills with dyslexia; (ii) dyslexia characteristics that may manifest at
83 different ages and grade levels; (iii) the basic foundation of the keys to reading, including multisensory,
84 explicit, systemic, and structured reading instruction; and (iv) appropriate interventions, accommodations,
85 and assistive technology supports for students with dyslexia.

86 To provide reading intervention services required by § 22.1-253.13:1, school divisions may employ
87 reading specialists to provide the required reading intervention services. School divisions using the Early
88 Reading Intervention Initiative funds in this manner shall employ only instructional personnel licensed
89 by the Board of Education.

90 H. Each local school board shall employ, at a minimum, the following full-time equivalent positions
91 for any school that reports fall membership, according to the type of school and student enrollment:

92 1. Principals in elementary schools, one half-time to 299 students, one full-time at 300 students;
93 principals in middle schools, one full-time, to be employed on a 12-month basis; principals in high
94 schools, one full-time, to be employed on a 12-month basis;

95 2. Assistant principals in elementary schools, one half-time at 600 students, one full-time at 900
96 students; assistant principals in middle schools, one full-time for each 600 students; assistant principals
97 in high schools, one full-time for each 600 students; and school divisions that employ a sufficient
98 number of assistant principals to meet this staffing requirement may assign assistant principals to schools
99 within the division according to the area of greatest need, regardless of whether such schools are
100 elementary, middle, or secondary;

101 3. Librarians in elementary schools, one part-time to 299 students, one full-time at 300 students;
102 librarians in middle schools, one-half time to 299 students, one full-time at 300 students, two full-time
103 at 1,000 students; librarians in high schools, one half-time to 299 students, one full-time at 300 students,
104 two full-time at 1,000 students. Local school divisions that employ a sufficient number of librarians to
105 meet this staffing requirement may assign librarians to schools within the division according to the area
106 of greatest need, regardless of whether such schools are elementary, middle, or secondary; and

107 4. School counselors:

108 a. Effective with the 2020-2021 school year, in elementary schools, one hour per day per 75
109 students, one full-time at 375 students, one hour per day additional time per 75 students or major
110 fraction thereof; in middle schools, one period per 65 students, one full-time at 325 students, one
111 additional period per 65 students or major fraction thereof; in high schools, one period per 60 students,
112 one full-time at 300 students, one additional period per 60 students or major fraction thereof.

113 b. Effective with the 2021-2022 school year, local school boards shall employ one full-time
114 equivalent school counselor position per 325 students in grades kindergarten through 12.

115 c. Local school divisions that employ a sufficient number of school counselors to meet the school
116 counselor staffing requirements set forth in this subdivision may assign school counselors to schools
117 within the division according to the area of greatest need, regardless of whether such schools are
118 elementary, middle, or high schools.

119 I. Local school boards shall employ five full-time equivalent positions per 1,000 students in grades
120 kindergarten through five to serve as elementary resource teachers in art, music, and physical education.

121 J. Local school boards shall employ two full-time equivalent positions per 1,000 students in grades
122 kindergarten through 12, one to provide technology support and one to serve as an instructional
123 technology resource teacher.

124 To provide flexibility, school divisions may use the state and local funds for instructional technology
125 resource teachers to employ a data coordinator position, an instructional technology resource teacher
126 position, or a data coordinator/instructional resource teacher blended position. The data coordinator
127 position is intended to serve as a resource to principals and classroom teachers in the area of data
128 analysis and interpretation for instructional and school improvement purposes, as well as for overall data
129 management and administration of state assessments. School divisions using these funds in this manner
130 shall employ only instructional personnel licensed by the Board of Education.

131 K. *Local school boards shall employ at least one full-time equivalent school nurse position in each*
132 *elementary school, middle school, and high school in the local school division. For purposes of this*
133 *subsection, a school nurse is a registered nurse engaged in the specialized practice of nursing who*
134 *protects and promotes student health, facilitates optimal development, and advances academic success.*

135 L. Local school boards may employ additional positions that exceed these minimal staffing
136 requirements. These additional positions may include, but are not limited to, those funded through the
137 state's incentive and categorical programs as set forth in the appropriation act.

138 ~~L.~~ M. A combined school, such as kindergarten through 12, shall meet at all grade levels the staffing
139 requirements for the highest grade level in that school; this requirement shall apply to all staff, except
140 for school counselors, and shall be based on the school's total enrollment; school counselor staff
141 requirements shall, however, be based on the enrollment at the various school organization levels, i.e.,
142 elementary, middle, or high school. The Board of Education may grant waivers from these staffing
143 levels upon request from local school boards seeking to implement experimental or innovative programs
144 that are not consistent with these staffing levels.

145 ~~M.~~ N. School boards shall, however, annually, on or before December 31, report to the public (i) the
146 actual pupil/teacher ratios in elementary school classrooms in the local school division by school for the
147 current school year; and (ii) the actual pupil/teacher ratios in middle school and high school in the local
148 school division by school for the current school year. Actual pupil/teacher ratios shall include only the
149 teachers who teach the grade and class on a full-time basis and shall exclude resource personnel. School
150 boards shall report pupil/teacher ratios that include resource teachers in the same annual report. Any
151 classes funded through the voluntary kindergarten through third grade class size reduction program shall
152 be identified as such classes. Any classes having waivers to exceed the requirements of this subsection
153 shall also be identified. Schools shall be identified; however, the data shall be compiled in a manner to
154 ensure the confidentiality of all teacher and pupil identities.

155 ~~N.~~ O. Students enrolled in a public school on a less than full-time basis shall be counted in ADM in
156 the relevant school division. Students who are either (i) enrolled in a nonpublic school or (ii) receiving
157 home instruction pursuant to § 22.1-254.1, and who are enrolled in public school on a less than full-time
158 basis in any mathematics, science, English, history, social science, career and technical education, fine
159 arts, foreign language, or health education or physical education course shall be counted in the ADM in
160 the relevant school division on a pro rata basis as provided in the appropriation act. Each such course
161 enrollment by such students shall be counted as 0.25 in the ADM; however, no such nonpublic or home
162 school student shall be counted as more than one-half a student for purposes of such pro rata
163 calculation. Such calculation shall not include enrollments of such students in any other public school
164 courses.

165 ~~O.~~ P. Each local school board shall provide those support services that are necessary for the efficient
166 and cost-effective operation and maintenance of its public schools.

167 For the purposes of this title, unless the context otherwise requires, "support services positions" shall
168 include the following:

169 1. Executive policy and leadership positions, including school board members, superintendents and
170 assistant superintendents;

171 2. Fiscal and human resources positions, including fiscal and audit operations;

172 3. Student support positions, including (i) social workers and social work administrative positions; (ii)
173 school counselor administrative positions not included in subdivision H 4; (iii) homebound
174 administrative positions supporting instruction; (iv) attendance support positions related to truancy and
175 dropout prevention; and (v) health and behavioral positions, including licensed behavior analysts,
176 licensed assistant behavior analysts, ~~school nurses~~, and school psychologists, *but excluding school*
177 *nurses*;

178 4. Instructional personnel support, including professional development positions and library and
179 media positions not included in subdivision H 3;

180 5. Technology professional positions not included in subsection J;

181 6. Operation and maintenance positions, including facilities; pupil transportation positions; operation

182 and maintenance professional and service positions; and security service, trade, and laborer positions;

183 7. Technical and clerical positions for fiscal and human resources, student support, instructional
184 personnel support, operation and maintenance, administration, and technology; and

185 8. School-based clerical personnel in elementary schools; part-time to 299 students, one full-time at
186 300 students; clerical personnel in middle schools; one full-time and one additional full-time for each
187 600 students beyond 200 students and one full-time for the library at 750 students; clerical personnel in
188 high schools; one full-time and one additional full-time for each 600 students beyond 200 students and
189 one full-time for the library at 750 students. Local school divisions that employ a sufficient number of
190 school-based clerical personnel to meet this staffing requirement may assign the clerical personnel to
191 schools within the division according to the area of greatest need, regardless of whether such schools are
192 elementary, middle, or secondary.

193 Pursuant to the appropriation act, support services shall be funded from basic school aid.

194 School divisions may use the state and local funds for support services to provide additional
195 instructional services.

196 P. Q. Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, when determining the assignment of
197 instructional and other licensed personnel in subsections C through J, a local school board shall not be
198 required to include full-time students of approved virtual school programs.

199 **§ 22.1-274. School health services.**

200 A. ~~Each~~ school board shall provide pupil personnel and support services in compliance with
201 § 22.1-253.13:2. ~~Each~~ school board may employ ~~school nurses~~, physicians, physical therapists,
202 occupational therapists, and speech therapists ~~and shall employ school nurses in compliance with~~
203 ~~subsection K of § 22.1-253.13:2~~. No such personnel shall be employed unless they meet such standards
204 as may be determined by the Board of Education. Subject to the approval of the appropriate local
205 governing body, a local health department may provide personnel for health services for the school
206 division.

207 B. ~~In implementing subsection O of § 22.1-253.13:2, relating to providing support services that are~~
208 ~~necessary for the efficient and cost-effective operation and maintenance of its public schools, each~~
209 ~~school board may strive to employ, or contract with local health departments for, nursing services~~
210 ~~consistent with a ratio of at least one nurse (i) per 2,500 students by July 1, 1996; (ii) per 2,000~~
211 ~~students by July 1, 1997; (iii) per 1,500 students by July 1, 1998; and (iv) per 1,000 students by July 1,~~
212 ~~1999. In those school divisions in which there are more than 1,000 students in average daily~~
213 ~~membership in school buildings, this section shall not be construed to encourage the employment of~~
214 ~~more than one nurse per school building. Further, this section shall not be construed to mandate the~~
215 ~~aspired-to ratios.~~

216 C. The Board of Education shall monitor the progress in achieving the ratios set forth in subsection
217 B and any subsequent increase in prevailing statewide costs, and the mechanism for funding health
218 services, pursuant to subsection O of § ~~22.1-253.13:2~~ and the appropriation act. The Board shall also
219 ~~determine~~ *analyze* how school health funds are used and school health services are delivered in each
220 locality and shall provide, by December 1, 1994, a detailed analysis of school health expenditures to the
221 House Committee on Education, the House Committee on Appropriations, the Senate Committee on
222 Education and Health, and the Senate Committee on Finance.

223 D. C. With the exception of school administrative personnel and persons employed by school boards
224 who have the specific duty to deliver health-related services, no licensed instructional employee,
225 instructional aide, or clerical employee shall be disciplined, placed on probation, or dismissed on the
226 basis of such employee's refusal to (i) perform nonemergency health-related services for students or (ii)
227 obtain training in the administration of insulin and glucagon. However, instructional aides and clerical
228 employees may not refuse to dispense oral medications.

229 For the purposes of this subsection, "health-related services" means those activities that, when
230 performed in a health care facility, must be delivered by or under the supervision of a licensed or
231 certified professional.

232 E. D. Each school board shall ensure that in school buildings with an instructional and administrative
233 staff of 10 or more (i) at least three employees have current certification or training in emergency first
234 aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and the use of an automated external defibrillator and (ii) if one or
235 more students diagnosed as having diabetes attend such school, at least two employees have been trained
236 in the administration of insulin and glucagon. In school buildings with an instructional and
237 administrative staff of fewer than 10, school boards shall ensure that (a) at least two employees have
238 current certification or training in emergency first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and the use of an
239 automated external defibrillator and (b) if one or more students diagnosed as having diabetes attend such
240 school, at least one employee has been trained in the administration of insulin and glucagon.
241 "Employee" includes any person employed by a local health department who is assigned to the public
242 school pursuant to an agreement between the local health department and the school board. When a
243 registered nurse, nurse practitioner, physician, or physician assistant is present, no employee who is not

244 a registered nurse, nurse practitioner, physician, or physician assistant shall assist with the administration
245 of insulin or administer glucagon. Prescriber authorization and parental consent shall be obtained for any
246 employee who is not a registered nurse, nurse practitioner, physician, or physician assistant to assist with
247 the administration of insulin and administer glucagon.

248 **§ 22.1-274.01:1. Students who are diagnosed with diabetes; self-care; insertion and reinsertion**
249 **of insulin pump.**

250 A. Each local school board shall permit each enrolled student who is diagnosed with diabetes, with
251 parental consent and written approval from the prescriber, as that term is defined in § 54.1-3401, to (i)
252 carry with him and use supplies, including a reasonable and appropriate short-term supply of
253 carbohydrates, an insulin pump, and equipment for immediate treatment of high and low blood glucose
254 levels, and (ii) self-check his own blood glucose levels on a school bus, on school property, and at a
255 school-sponsored activity.

256 B. A local school board employee who is a registered nurse, licensed practical nurse, or certified
257 nurse aide and who has been trained in the administration of insulin, including the use and insertion of
258 insulin pumps, and the administration of glucagon may assist a student who is diagnosed with diabetes
259 and who carries an insulin pump with the insertion or reinsertion of the pump or any of its parts. For
260 the purposes of this subsection, "employee" has the same meaning as in subsection *E D* of § 22.1-274.
261 Prescriber authorization and parental consent shall be obtained for any such employee to assist with the
262 insertion or reinsertion of the pump or any of its parts. Nothing in this section shall require any
263 employee to assist with the insertion or reinsertion of the pump or any of its parts.