



DIGGING INTO SCHOOL NURSE SHORTAGE



We are learning St. Louis Public Schools is not the only school district in our area short on school nurses. The Hazelwood School District is in the same boat as well. The district there plans to fill four school nurse openings, hopefully, very soon. We do know that Parkway, Wentzville, Francis Howell and Rockwood have nurses in every one of their school buildings.

<https://mms.tveyes.com/Transcript.asp?StationID=1880&DateTime=11%2F2%2F2020+5%3A39%3A28+AM&Term=Hazelwood+School&PlayClip=TRUE>

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'We're on the right path': Local school district adjusts to school nurse shortage



ST. LOUIS (KMOV.com) -- School districts are slowly letting more students back inside the classroom but there is a school nurse shortage. News 4 learned Missouri doesn't require a school nurse in every building. The area's largest school district, St. Louis Public Schools (SLPS), are short of nurses. With well over 21,000 students enrolled, there are concerns since coronavirus cases are [still on the rise](#). In some cases, one nurse is responsible for multiple schools.

SLPS Deputy Superintendent of Student Support Services Micheal Brown oversees the nursing staff. Even before the pandemic, Brown said the district was short in having nurses in each school. Now, they're three to four nurses short and hopes to find qualified people before all students are back inside the classroom. Right now, he says there is enough nurses for the number of schools open with hybrid learning.

The National Association of School Nurses revealed at least a quarter of all schools don't hire a school nurse at all. Since 2016, the American Academy of Pediatrics has recommended at least one registered nurse in every school a standard some districts are failing to meet.

"Across the country there's not a nurse in every school, so there is someone trained to take on those situations if they were to arise," Brown said. "If there's an emergency then 911 is called of course. We're looking to have a full time nurse in every school as we reopen."

Dr. Brown says the district is aggressively looking for applicants and are interviewing multiple candidates weekly.

The following districts have nurses in every school building: Hazelwood, Parkway, Wentzville, Francis Howell and Rockwood schools. The Hazelwood School District is looking to hire four more nurses to expand their nursing staff.

https://www.kmov.com/news/were-on-the-right-path-local-school-district-adjusts-to-school-nurse-shortage/article_e9442410-1d02-11eb-ba35-ab4ad8e9464c.html

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