

**DeKalb County Board of Education Summary
Contracted Special Education Nursing Services**

Contracted nursing services ensure student safety, legal compliance, and educational access for medically fragile students, while addressing staffing shortages.

Need for Contract	<p>Students with significant medical needs require licensed nurses beyond current district capacity. To ensure compliance with IDEA, Section 504, and state health mandates.</p> <p>Addresses gaps when district-employed nurses are unavailable or insufficient.</p> <p>Guarantees uninterrupted health services for medically fragile students.</p> <p>Reduces liability by ensuring qualified professionals manage complex medical procedures.</p>
Overview of Services	<p>One-on-one nursing for students with significant medical needs (e.g. tube feeding, tracheostomy care, and oxygen dependency).</p> <p>Delivery of physician prescribed medications and adherence to physician orders during the school day.</p> <p>Immediate care for medical emergencies and staff training on protocols.</p> <p>Accurate health records and adherence to state and federal regulations.</p> <p>Coordination with families, school staff, and healthcare providers to support student health and medical needs for access to instruction.</p>
Why are there School Nursing Shortages?	<p>Nationally, only 39% of public schools have a full-time nurse, and 35% have part-time coverage; 25% of schools have no nurse at all.</p> <p>Data from 2020–21 shows approximately 60.2% of schools had full-time nurses, with 81.9% having at least some nursing coverage.</p> <p>Resources: https://specialedshortages.org/about-the-shortage/ https://edcal.acsa.org/third-of-schools-dont-have-a-nurse</p>
Anticipated Medicaid Reimbursement Benefits	<p>Nursing services for students with IEPs are eligible for Medicaid reimbursement.</p> <p>Reimbursement reduces expense, making contracted services financially sustainable.</p> <p>Funding recovered can be reinvested into special education programs.</p>