

# SUCCESSFUL SCHOOL SAFETY

HB 40  
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## Reality

School nurses are necessary parts of every school safety plan. Without our frontline nurses in our schools every day, we risk missing the physical and mental symptoms that could indicate a much larger problem. As a part of the strategic team for school safety, nurses provide a holistic approach to student health that alleviates the need for additional staff, while supporting the school, the school resource officer, safety plans, and the student.

## The Ask

- **Add the definition of "School Nurse" (found in [53E-1-102](#)) to be included in the definitions within the School Security Act ([53-22-101](#)) and possibly for inclusion in the Task Force Membership ([53-22-104.1](#)).**
- **\$2 million in dedicated ongoing funding for the hiring and training of Utah School Nurses, with a built in annual increase of funding tied to WPU increases as a minimum.**

## The Outcomes

Schools are safer when they have a nurse in every school. Restoring funding to our school nursing staff allows them to play a crucial role in maintaining and enhancing the health and safety of students and staff. Here's how they contribute to a safer school environment:



### Emergency Response

Immediate Medical Care, Crisis Response and Preparedness



### Health Monitoring

Support for Students with Health Needs, Prevention of Crises



### Mental Health Support

Nurses are the first to raise the red flag of mental health struggles



### Early Intervention

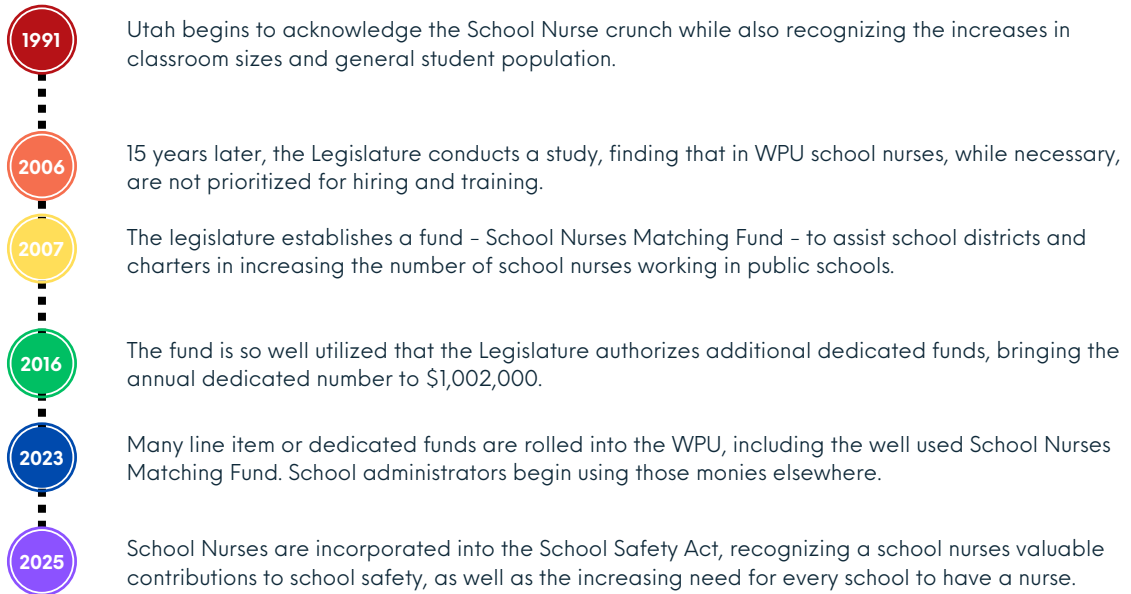
Behaviors can be stopped and our nurses have the tools.



### Injury Prevention

Our nurses are able to make changes before a problem is discovered.

## Timeline



## Conclusion

Only 1% of our students have access to the nationally recommended student to nurse ratio. Only 12% of our students have access to the state suggested ratio. Since 2014, 20 pieces of legislation have passed expanding the responsibilities and roles of school nurses with zero funding attached to that expansion. This problem is now over 3 decades old. It is time to incorporate our on the ground first responders into the School Safety Act and create the best environment for our children and their future.

