

# the condition of education 2004



## INDICATOR 28

# Student Support Staff in Public Schools

The indicator and corresponding tables are taken directly from *The Condition of Education 2004*. Therefore, the page numbers may not be sequential.

Additional information about the survey data and supplementary notes can be found in the full report. For a copy of *The Condition of Education 2004* visit the NCES web site (<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2004077>) or contact ED PUBs at 1-877-4ED-PUBS.

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# Other School Resources

## Student Support Staff in Public Schools

*The most common student support staff in public elementary and secondary schools are school counselors, speech therapists, school nurses, and special education aides, each of which are found in 79 percent or more of schools.*

In addition to teachers, most public schools have staff who work directly with students and provide various support services. Student support staff, including licensed or certified professionals (e.g., school counselors, social workers, and speech therapists) as well as instructional and noninstructional aides, constituted 16 percent of the nation's public school staff in 1999 (NCES 2003–060, table 82). This indicator examines the distribution of these staff in regular public schools in the 1999–2000 school year.

At the elementary and secondary level, both the number and availability of full- and part-time student support staff vary widely (see supplemental table 28-1). Public elementary schools had an average of 3.4 special education aides, 1.3 regular Title I aides, 1.2 speech therapists, 1.1 counselors, 0.9 nurses, 0.7 bilingual/ESL teacher aides, and 0.5 social workers per school in the 1999–2000 school year. However, public elementary schools were most likely to have a speech therapist (in 96 percent of schools), followed by a special education aide, nurse, and counselor (in 84, 81, and 79 percent of schools, respectively).

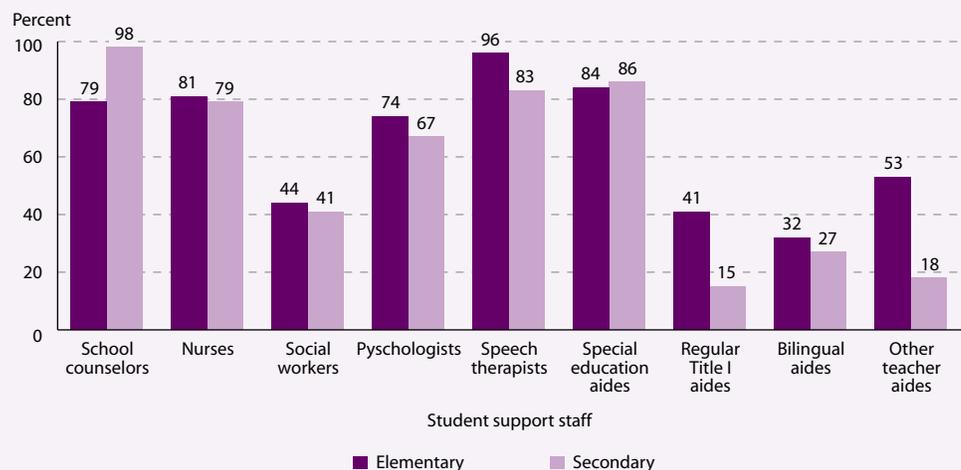
In public secondary schools, there was an average of 3.6 special education aides, 2.6 counselors, 0.9 speech therapists, 0.9 nurses, 0.5 social workers, and 0.5 bilingual/ESL teacher aides working full and part time per school. Public secondary schools were mostly likely to have a counselor (in 98 percent of schools), followed by a special education aide, speech therapist, and nurse (in 86, 83, and 79 percent of schools, respectively).

High-poverty schools had higher average numbers of speech therapists, regular Title I aides, and bilingual aides per school than low-poverty schools, while low-poverty schools had higher average numbers of counselors, psychologists, and special education aides than high-poverty schools (see supplemental table 28-2). However, for most types of support staff, both full- and part-time, high-poverty schools had a lower average number of students per staff member than low-poverty schools. The opposite was true only for the average number of students per counselor: high-poverty schools had a higher number of students per counselor. There was no measurable difference between the average number of students per special education aide in high- and low-poverty schools.

NOTE: Data are for full- and part-time staff. Data for combined elementary and secondary schools and ungraded schools are excluded. Regular public schools do not include alternative, special education, special program emphasis, or vocational/technical schools.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, NCES, Schools and Staffing Survey (SASS), 1999–2000, "Public School Survey" and "Public Charter School Survey."

**STUDENT SUPPORT STAFF: Percentage of regular public schools with various student support staff, by school level: 1999–2000**



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Supplemental Note 3

Supplemental Tables 28-1, 28-2

NCES 2003–060

## Student Support Staff in Public Schools

**Table 28-1. Average number of teachers and student support staff, the percentage of schools with such staff, the percentage of schools with both full- and part-time staff, the ratio of such staff to all students, and the total number of full- and part-time staff in regular public schools, by school level and type of staff: 1999–2000**

Type of school staff	Average total number per school <sup>1</sup>	Percent of schools with such staff <sup>2</sup>	Percent of schools with both full- and part-time staff	Average number of students per staff in schools with such staff <sup>3</sup>	Total	Full-time total	Part-time total
<b>Elementary, regular public</b>							
<b>Teachers</b>	<b>32.1</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>1,843,000</b>	<b>1,698,700</b>	<b>144,300</b>
Licensed or certified professionals							
School counselors	1.1	79	6	362	62,700	38,200	24,500
Nurses	0.9	81	2	455	51,400	19,900	31,500
Social workers	0.5	44	1	450	28,800	6,700	22,200
Psychologists	0.8	74	1	471	46,400	6,700	39,700
Speech therapists	1.2	96	7	406	66,600	22,200	44,400
Other professionals	1.0	45	4	247	55,000	21,500	33,500
Aides							
Teacher aides							
Special education aides	3.4	84	12	126	195,100	152,000	43,000
Regular Title I aides	1.3	41	4	145	76,300	48,600	27,700
Bilingual/ESL teacher aides	0.7	32	2	283	37,700	16,500	21,200
Other teacher aides	1.9	53	4	130	111,000	76,100	34,900
Health and other noninstructional aides							
	0.6	31	2	293	33,500	16,500	16,900
<b>Secondary, regular public</b>							
<b>Teachers</b>	<b>52.5</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>892,300</b>	<b>841,500</b>	<b>50,800</b>
Licensed or certified professionals							
School counselors	2.6	98	10	307	44,200	39,400	4,800
Nurses	0.9	79	3	733	15,800	7,600	8,100
Social workers	0.5	41	2	748	9,000	3,500	5,500
Psychologists	0.8	67	2	812	13,000	3,400	9,600
Speech therapists	0.9	83	1	785	15,300	2,400	12,900
Other professionals	0.9	43	4	429	15,900	8,000	7,900
Aides							
Teacher aides							
Special education aides	3.6	86	9	199	61,900	49,300	12,600
Regular Title I aides	0.3	15	1	364	5,700	3,700	2,000
Bilingual/ESL teacher aides	0.5	27	1	666	7,800	4,300	3,500
Other teacher aides	0.4	18	1	334	7,000	4,700	2,300
Health and other noninstructional aides							
	0.5	25	1	588	7,700	4,700	3,000

<sup>1</sup>Does not distinguish between full- and part-time status of staff.

<sup>2</sup>This measure is intended to reveal how many schools have any access to such staff; it does not distinguish between the full- and part-time status of such staff.

<sup>3</sup>The average number of students per staff is based on the total number of full- and part-time staff. These differ from pupil/teacher ratios which are based on the total number of full-time-equivalent teachers. Student enrollment data used to calculate this ratio are for schools with such staff.

NOTE: Regular public schools do not include alternative, special education, special program emphasis, or vocational/technical schools. Data for combined elementary and secondary schools and for ungraded schools are excluded. See *supplemental note 3* for information on the Schools and Staff Survey (SASS). Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, NCES, Schools and Staffing Survey (SASS), 1999–2000, “Public School Survey” and “Public Charter School Survey.”

## Student Support Staff in Public Schools

**Table 28-2. Average number of teachers and student support staff, the percentage of schools with such staff, the percentage of schools with both full- and part-time staff, the ratio of such staff to all students, and the total number of full- and part-time staff in regular public schools, by school poverty status and type of staff: 1999–2000**

Type of school staff	Average total number per school <sup>1</sup>	Percent of schools with such staff <sup>2</sup>	Percent of schools with both full- and part-time staff	Average number of students per staff in schools with such staff <sup>3</sup>	Total	Full-time total	Part-time total
<b>High poverty, regular public</b>							
<b>Teachers</b>	<b>34.9</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>408,600</b>	<b>390,100</b>	<b>18,500</b>
Licensed or certified professionals							
School counselors	1.3	81	6	356	14,800	10,600	4,200
Nurses	0.9	81	3	477	11,100	4,700	6,300
Social workers	0.6	48	3	487	7,000	2,200	4,800
Psychologists	0.8	68	2	522	9,100	1,800	7,400
Speech therapists	1.2	94	6	448	13,500	4,000	9,500
Other professionals	0.9	43	4	298	10,500	5,100	5,400
Aides							
Teacher aides							
Special education aides	3.0	79	5	148	35,400	30,100	5,200
Regular Title I aides	2.3	62	4	142	27,100	19,200	7,800
Bilingual/ESL teacher aides	1.3	38	3	195	15,200	7,800	7,400
Other teacher aides	1.8	52	2	150	20,500	16,200	4,300
Health and other noninstructional aides							
	0.6	30	2	308	7,500	4,900	2,500
<b>Low poverty, regular public</b>							
<b>Teachers</b>	<b>44.7</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>756,400</b>	<b>696,100</b>	<b>60,300</b>
Licensed or certified professionals							
School counselors	1.7	80	8	320	31,200	24,800	6,400
Nurses	0.9	82	2	591	16,700	8,300	8,400
Social workers	0.6	46	2	576	9,900	3,100	6,800
Psychologists	0.9	82	3	588	16,800	3,700	13,100
Speech therapists	1.1	92	7	550	19,500	6,100	13,400
Other professionals	1.1	47	5	311	19,300	8,600	10,700
Aides							
Teacher aides							
Special education aides	3.9	86	14	149	69,800	52,300	17,500
Regular Title I aides	0.4	14	1	219	6,600	3,400	3,200
Bilingual/ESL teacher aides	0.4	26	1	542	6,600	2,000	4,600
Other teacher aides	1.4	40	5	158	25,000	13,300	11,700
Health and other noninstructional aides							
	0.7	33	2	372	11,700	4,900	6,800

<sup>1</sup>Does not distinguish between full- and part-time status of staff.

<sup>2</sup>This measure is intended to reveal how many schools have any access to such staff; it does not distinguish between the full- and part-time status of such staff.

<sup>3</sup>The average number of students per staff is based on the total number of full- and part-time staff. These differ from pupil/teacher ratios which are based on the total number of full-time-equivalent teachers. Student enrollment data used to calculate this ratio are for schools with such staff.

NOTE: Regular public schools do not include alternative, special education, special program emphasis, or vocational/technical schools. High-poverty schools are those where at least 75 percent of students are eligible for free or reduced-price lunch; low-poverty schools are those where less than 15 percent of students are eligible for free or reduced-price lunch. Data for combined elementary and secondary schools and for ungraded schools are excluded. See *supplemental note 3* for information on the Schools and Staff Survey (SASS). Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, NCES, Schools and Staffing Survey (SASS), 1999–2000, “Public School Survey” and “Public Charter School Survey.”

## Student Support Staff in Public Schools

**Table S28. Standard errors for the percentage of regular public schools with various student support staff, by school level: 1999–2000**

School level	School counselors	Nurses	Social workers	Psycho- logists	Speech therapists	Special education aides	Regular Title I aides	Bilingual aides	Other teacher aides
Elementary	0.9	0.8	1.0	0.9	0.4	0.8	1.0	1.0	1.0
Secondary	0.4	0.9	1.0	1.0	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.8

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, NCES, Schools and Staffing Survey (SASS), 1999–2000, “Public School Survey” and “Public Charter School Survey.”

## Student Support Staff in Public Schools

**Table S28-1. Standard errors for the average number of teachers and student support staff, the percentage of schools with such staff, the percentage of schools with both full- and part-time staff, the ratio of such staff to all students, and the total number of full- and part-time staff in regular public schools, by school level and type of staff: 1999–2000**

Type of school staff	Average total number per school	Percent of schools with such staff	Percent of schools with both full- and part-time staff	Average number of students per staff in schools with such staff	Total	Full-time total	Part-time total
<b>Elementary, regular public</b>							
<b>Teachers</b>	<b>0.34</b>	†	<b>0.9</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>19,290</b>	<b>19,350</b>	<b>3,620</b>
Licensed or certified professionals							
School counselors	0.02	0.9	0.4	6.6	1,150	1,030	800
Nurses	0.01	0.8	0.2	7.5	690	690	690
Social workers	0.01	1.0	0.2	14.6	800	460	690
Psychologists	0.01	0.9	0.2	7.9	690	400	690
Speech therapists	0.01	0.4	0.4	5.2	630	690	690
Other professionals	0.03	1.0	0.3	8.9	1,780	1,260	1,260
Aides							
Teacher aides							
Special education aides	0.08	0.8	0.5	2.8	4,360	4,080	2,180
Regular Title I aides	0.05	1.0	0.3	6.5	3,100	2,410	2,070
Bilingual/ESL teacher aides	0.04	1.0	0.3	17.0	2,180	1,380	1,720
Other teacher aides	0.06	1.0	0.4	4.4	3,620	3,220	2,010
Health and other noninstructional aides							
	0.03	1.0	0.3	15.8	1,720	1,260	1,210
<b>Secondary, regular public</b>							
<b>Teachers</b>	<b>0.73</b>	†	<b>0.7</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>12,370</b>	<b>12,240</b>	<b>1,600</b>
Licensed or certified professionals							
School counselors	0.04	0.4	0.6	4.7	680	700	200
Nurses	0.01	0.9	0.2	14.4	240	240	220
Social workers	0.02	1.0	0.2	28.2	270	200	200
Psychologists	0.01	1.0	0.2	17.2	240	170	220
Speech therapists	0.01	0.8	0.1	12.6	190	140	200
Other professionals	0.03	1.0	0.4	18.1	580	480	340
Aides							
Teacher aides							
Special education aides	0.08	0.8	0.5	4.4	1,380	1,260	760
Regular Title I aides	0.03	0.8	0.2	36.3	420	360	240
Bilingual/ESL teacher aides	0.02	0.9	0.2	35.1	390	310	240
Other teacher aides	0.03	0.8	0.2	26.4	440	340	270
Health and other noninstructional aides							
	0.03	0.9	0.2	38.8	490	410	220

†Not applicable.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, NCES, Schools and Staffing Survey (SASS), 1999–2000, “Public School Survey” and “Public Charter School Survey.”

## Student Support Staff in Public Schools

**Table S28-2. Standard errors for the average number of teachers and student support staff, the percentage of schools with such staff, the percentage of schools with both full- and part-time staff, the ratio of such staff to all students, and the total number of full- and part-time staff in regular public schools, by school poverty status and type of staff: 1999–2000**

Type of school staff	Average total number per school	Percent of schools with such staff	Percent of schools with both full- and part-time staff	Average number of students per staff in schools with such staff	Total	Full-time total	Part-time total
<b>High poverty, regular public</b>							
<b>Teachers</b>	<b>0.63</b>	†	<b>2.1</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>7,390</b>	<b>7,350</b>	<b>1,110</b>
Licensed or certified professionals							
School counselors	0.05	1.7	0.8	13.5	560	490	290
Nurses	0.02	1.5	0.6	15.1	260	270	220
Social workers	0.03	1.8	0.5	27.3	320	220	260
Psychologists	0.02	1.6	0.6	20.3	280	160	290
Speech therapists	0.02	1.0	0.7	12.1	260	260	280
Other professionals	0.05	1.7	0.7	20.3	560	470	360
Aides							
Teacher aides							
Special education aides	0.17	1.5	0.7	8.5	2,040	2,070	690
Regular Title I aides	0.15	2.1	0.8	10.4	1,790	1,580	1,020
Bilingual/ESL teacher aides	0.14	2.0	0.9	21.8	1,590	850	1,350
Other teacher aides	0.10	1.8	0.4	9.7	1,190	1,110	570
Health and other noninstructional aides							
	0.05	1.9	0.5	26.8	570	560	330
<b>Low poverty, regular public</b>							
<b>Teachers</b>	<b>0.55</b>	†	<b>1.4</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>9,360</b>	<b>9,370</b>	<b>1,950</b>
Licensed or certified professionals							
School counselors	0.04	1.3	0.7	6.6	640	630	380
Nurses	0.02	1.1	0.3	14.3	290	230	290
Social workers	0.02	1.2	0.4	22.9	300	210	230
Psychologists	0.02	1.0	0.5	12.2	290	230	270
Speech therapists	0.01	0.6	0.7	10.5	250	290	300
Other professionals	0.05	1.3	0.6	17.2	910	640	630
Aides							
Teacher aides							
Special education aides	0.09	1.0	0.9	3.4	1,580	1,650	1,290
Regular Title I aides	0.04	1.1	0.3	33.6	720	470	550
Bilingual/ESL teacher aides	0.02	1.1	0.3	28.4	320	160	290
Other teacher aides	0.07	1.4	0.7	8.2	1,180	1,020	880
Health and other noninstructional aides							
	0.04	1.2	0.3	22.7	660	390	590

†Not applicable.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, NCES, Schools and Staffing Survey (SASS), 1999–2000, "Public School Survey" and "Public Charter School Survey."