

the condition of education 2007



INDICATOR 35

Student Support Staff in Public Schools

The indicator and corresponding tables are taken directly from *The Condition of Education 2007*. 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 2007*, visit the NCES website (<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2007064>) or contact ED PUBs at 1-877-4ED-PUBS.

Suggested Citation:

U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics. (2007). *The Condition of Education 2007* (NCES 2007-064). Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office.

School Characteristics and Climate

Student Support Staff in Public Schools

In 2003–04, nearly all elementary and secondary schools had student support staff, with most employed full time.

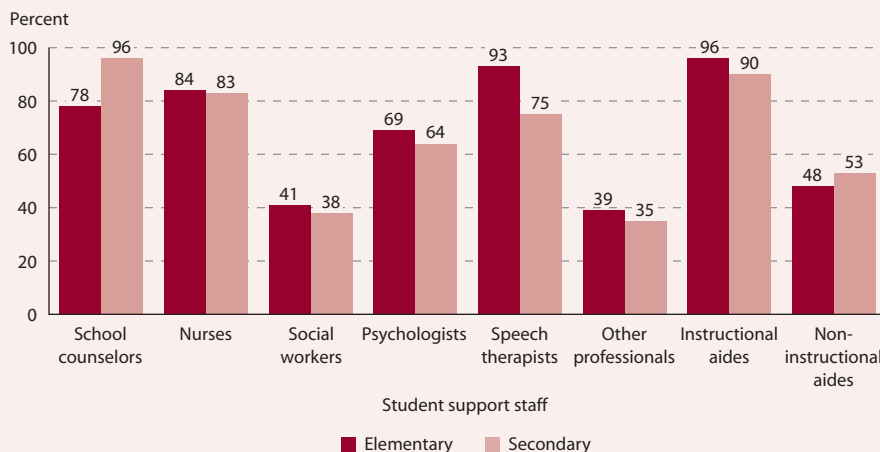
In addition to employing teachers, most schools employ staff who work directly with students and provide various support services. These student support staff, who include licensed or certified professionals (e.g., school counselors, social workers, and speech therapists) and teacher aides (e.g., special education, regular Title I, and library aides), constituted 27 percent of all public school staff in the 2003–04 school year (see supplemental table 35-1). This indicator examines the distribution of these staff in regular public schools in the 2003–04 school year.

About 857,000 support staff worked in elementary schools and 217,000 worked in secondary schools in 2003–04. Nearly all elementary and secondary schools reported having student support staff (99 and 100 percent, respectively), with a greater number employed full time than part time. In terms of licensed or certified professionals, over two-thirds of elementary and secondary schools reported having school counselors, having nurses, and having speech therapists. In terms of teacher aides, 80 percent of elementary schools and 81 percent of secondary schools reported having special education instructional aides. On

average, elementary schools had a lower number of students per all student support staff than secondary schools (33 vs. 62 percent). Elementary schools had a lower number of students per staff than secondary schools in each category of support staff except school counselors.

The number, percentage, and availability of student support staff varied by schools that were low poverty when compared with those schools that were high poverty (see supplemental table 35-2). A greater percentage of low-poverty schools than high-poverty schools had psychologists, had special education noninstructional aides, and had library instructional and noninstructional aides. In contrast, a greater percentage of high-poverty schools than low-poverty schools had regular Title I (61 vs. 16 percent) and ESL/bilingual (41 vs. 29 percent) instructional aides. With the exception of school counselors, the average number of students per licensed or certified professional (nurses, social workers, psychologists, speech therapists, and other professionals) was smaller in high-poverty schools than in low-poverty schools.

STUDENT SUPPORT STAFF: Percentage of regular public schools with various student support staff, by school level: School year 2003–04



NOTE: Data are for full- and part-time staff. 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. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), Schools and Staffing Survey (SASS), "Public School Data File," 2003–04.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Supplemental Note 3
Supplemental Tables 35-1,
35-2



Student Support Staff in Public Schools

Table 35-1. Number of regular public school teachers and student support staff, average number of students per staff, and percent of schools with such staff, by school level and type of school staff: School year 2003–04

Type of school staff	Number of staff				Average number of students per staff in schools with such staff ²	Percent of schools	
	Total	Full-time	Part-time	Per school ¹		With such staff ³	With full-time staff
Elementary							
All teachers	1,972,000	1,803,000	169,700	34.1	14	100	100
All student support staff	857,000	533,000	324,700	14.8	33	99	93
Licensed or certified professionals	301,900	139,400	162,500	5.2	92	98	76
School counselors	60,800	42,000	18,800	1.1	372	78	54
Nurses	54,400	25,800	28,600	0.9	449	84	41
Social workers	27,200	9,200	18,000	0.5	450	41	14
Psychologists	42,700	10,600	32,000	0.7	483	69	17
Speech therapists	68,100	31,400	36,800	1.2	392	93	44
Other professionals	48,700	20,400	28,300	0.8	237	39	17
Teacher aides	555,400	393,200	162,200	9.6	50	98	87
Instructional aides	458,700	329,700	128,900	7.9	63	94	82
Special education	207,600	160,500	47,000	3.6	113	80	67
Regular Title I	76,000	51,200	24,900	1.3	148	42	31
ESL/bilingual teacher	37,600	20,700	16,900	0.7	293	35	18
Library	27,800	18,000	9,800	0.5	449	43	29
Other	109,700	79,300	30,400	1.9	120	48	36
Noninstructional aides	96,700	63,500	33,300	1.7	289	48	33
Special education	38,800	31,500	7,300	0.7	722	21	17
Library	13,900	8,100	5,800	0.2	440	20	11
Other	44,100	23,900	20,100	0.8	178	25	15
Secondary							
All teachers	860,000	816,000	44,400	57.9	16	100	100
All student support staff	217,000	160,000	56,400	14.6	62	100	97
Licensed or certified professionals	96,700	64,800	31,900	6.5	139	99	94
School counselors	40,600	38,100	2,500	2.7	321	96	91
Nurses	14,400	8,700	5,700	1.0	809	83	50
Social workers	7,200	4,000	3,200	0.5	807	38	20
Psychologists	11,000	4,300	6,800	0.7	902	64	25
Speech therapists	12,500	3,500	9,000	0.8	873	75	21
Other professionals	10,900	6,200	4,700	0.7	489	35	20
Teacher aides	120,000	95,600	24,500	8.1	110	96	88
Instructional aides	93,600	75,300	18,300	6.3	143	90	81
Special education	64,400	54,200	10,200	4.3	178	81	72
Regular Title I	6,700	5,100	1,500	0.4	290	15	12
ESL/bilingual teacher	7,400	4,200	3,300	0.5	767	31	17
Library	7,500	5,900	1,500	0.5	790	40	33
Other	7,600	6,000	1,700	0.5	496	23	18
Noninstructional aides	26,400	20,200	6,200	1.8	509	53	44
Special education	12,200	10,200	2,000	0.8	1102	27	22
Library	5,500	4,100	1,400	0.4	780	27	21
Other	8,700	5,900	2,800	0.6	392	22	16

¹ Does not distinguish between full- and part-time status of staff.

² The average number of students per staff is based on student enrollment in schools with such staff and the total number of full- and part-time staff. This measure differs from pupil/teacher ratios that 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.

³ This measure is intended to reveal how many schools have access to staff; it does not distinguish between the full- and part-time status of 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. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), Schools and Staffing Survey (SASS), "Public School Data File," 2003–04.

Student Support Staff in Public Schools

Table 35-2. Number of regular public school teachers and student support staff, average number of students per staff, and percent of schools with such staff, by school poverty status and type of school staff: School year 2003–04

Type of school staff	Number of staff				Average number of students per staff in schools with such staff ²	Percent of schools	
	Total	Full-time	Part-time	Per school ¹		With such staff ³	With full-time staff
High-poverty							
All teachers	459,000	440,000	19,800	37.5	14	100	100
All student support staff	191,000	134,000	56,500	15.6	34	100	95
Licensed or certified professionals	65,800	36,800	28,900	5.4	99	99	83
School counselors	14,400	11,700	2,700	1.2	380	82	66
Nurses	11,800	6,300	5,500	1.0	491	85	46
Social workers	6,800	3,400	3,300	0.6	470	46	23
Psychologists	7,900	2,500	5,400	0.6	547	59	19
Speech therapists	13,700	6,900	6,800	1.1	448	90	46
Other professionals	11,200	6,000	5,200	0.9	260	41	21
Teacher aides	125,100	97,600	27,500	10.2	51	97	89
Instructional aides	109,800	88,200	21,600	9.0	59	96	87
Special education	38,200	32,700	5,500	3.1	147	81	70
Regular Title I	28,300	21,400	6,900	2.3	144	61	50
ESL/bilingual teacher	15,000	11,500	3,500	1.2	210	41	31
Library	4,900	3,600	1,300	0.4	509	36	27
Other	23,400	19,000	4,300	1.9	132	46	38
Noninstructional aides	15,400	9,400	5,900	1.3	427	43	30
Special education	5,000	4,200	800	0.4	1302	17	14
Library	1,900	1,200	700	0.2	555	15	10
Other	8,400	4,000	4,400	0.7	207	24	15
Low-poverty							
All teachers	673,000	612,000	61,100	45.9	15	100	100
All student support staff	230,000	142,000	87,200	15.6	43	100	95
Licensed or certified professionals	90,700	50,100	40,600	6.2	110	99	87
School counselors	24,200	20,400	3,800	1.6	346	77	62
Nurses	14,600	8,500	6,200	1.0	601	86	53
Social workers	7,800	3,100	4,700	0.5	620	46	18
Psychologists	13,100	4,400	8,700	0.9	634	80	26
Speech therapists	17,300	7,900	9,400	1.2	520	90	45
Other professionals	13,700	5,800	7,900	0.9	311	40	18
Teacher aides	138,900	92,300	46,600	9.5	71	97	86
Instructional aides	107,600	73,200	34,400	7.3	96	92	80
Special education	64,400	48,500	15,900	4.4	129	82	70
Regular Title I	5,800	3,300	2,600	0.4	250	16	11
ESL/bilingual teacher	5,400	1,900	3,500	0.4	587	29	11
Library	8,400	5,400	3,000	0.6	554	45	30
Other	23,600	14,100	9,500	1.6	165	42	29
Noninstructional aides	31,300	19,100	12,200	2.1	319	53	36
Special education	11,700	8,800	2,900	0.8	852	25	19
Library	5,100	3,200	1,900	0.3	627	28	18
Other	14,500	7,200	7,400	1.0	207	27	14

¹ Does not distinguish between full- and part-time status of staff.

² The average number of students per staff is based on student enrollment in schools with such staff and the total number of full- and part-time staff. This measure differs from pupil/teacher ratios that 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.

³ This measure is intended to reveal how many schools have access to staff; it does not distinguish between the full- and part-time status of 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 approved for free or reduced-price lunches; *low-poverty* schools are those where less than 15 percent of students are approved for free or reduced-price lunches. Data for combined elementary and secondary schools and for ungraded schools are excluded. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), Schools and Staffing Survey (SASS), "Public School Data File," 2003–04.

Student Support Staff in Public Schools

Table S35-1. Standard errors for the number of regular public school teachers and student support staff, average number of students per staff, and percent of schools with such staff, by school level and type of school staff: School year 2003–04

Type of school staff	Number of staff				Average number of students per staff in schools with such staff	Percent of schools	
	Total	Full-time	Part-time	Per school		With such staff	With full-time staff
Elementary							
All teachers	21,570	20,230	4,520	0.28	0.1	†	†
All student support staff	13,070	9,630	7,360	0.17	0.4	0.2	0.6
Licensed or certified professionals	4,260	3,180	3,150	0.05	1.0	0.2	0.8
School counselors	980	870	720	0.01	4.8	0.7	0.9
Nurses	790	630	680	0.01	5.2	0.7	0.9
Social workers	720	490	700	0.01	8.8	0.8	0.6
Psychologists	660	500	640	0.01	5.8	0.7	0.7
Speech therapists	990	910	990	0.01	4.5	0.5	1.2
Other professionals	1,940	1,440	1,220	0.03	7.4	1.0	0.8
Teacher aides	9,910	7,640	5,780	0.14	0.7	0.3	0.7
Instructional aides	8,700	7,070	4,800	0.13	1.3	0.5	0.8
Special education	4,790	4,100	2,880	0.08	2.2	0.8	1.0
Regular Title I	3,120	2,380	1,650	0.05	5.1	0.9	0.8
ESL/bilingual teacher	1,540	1,270	990	0.02	8.5	0.9	0.8
Library	660	600	580	0.01	8.2	0.9	0.9
Other	4,500	3,620	2,400	0.07	3.6	1.1	0.9
Noninstructional aides	3,230	2,720	2,090	0.05	9.4	1.0	0.9
Special education	2,040	1,870	730	0.03	38.0	0.8	0.7
Library	930	860	430	0.02	24.0	0.8	0.6
Other	2,060	1,530	1,720	0.03	7.0	0.9	0.7
Secondary							
All teachers	23,160	22,390	1,610	0.84	0.2	†	†
All student support staff	6,290	4,410	2,960	0.23	0.7	0.1	0.6
Licensed or certified professionals	2,350	1,820	1,020	0.09	2.1	0.3	0.7
School counselors	1,250	1,160	210	0.05	4.1	0.6	0.8
Nurses	340	270	240	0.02	17.0	1.0	1.2
Social workers	240	200	160	0.02	17.7	1.0	0.8
Psychologists	380	220	310	0.02	19.6	1.2	1.2
Speech therapists	360	190	330	0.02	19.7	1.1	1.0
Other professionals	510	380	310	0.03	18.7	1.2	0.9
Teacher aides	4,190	2,850	2,320	0.17	1.8	0.7	1.0
Instructional aides	3,770	2,600	2,070	0.17	4.0	0.7	1.1
Special education	2,610	1,940	1,410	0.12	3.4	1.0	1.1
Regular Title I	680	580	310	0.04	22.5	0.9	0.7
ESL/bilingual teacher	590	360	430	0.03	30.0	1.3	1.0
Library	270	230	130	0.02	19.4	1.1	1.1
Other	460	390	200	0.03	27.2	0.9	0.8
Noninstructional aides	1,050	880	560	0.07	18.8	1.1	1.1
Special education	680	640	220	0.05	64.6	1.0	0.8
Library	260	230	140	0.01	28.1	1.1	1.0
Other	550	380	450	0.04	18.7	0.8	0.7

† Not applicable.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), Schools and Staffing Survey (SASS), "Public School Data File," 2003–04.

Student Support Staff in Public Schools

Table S35-2. Standard errors for the number of regular public school teachers and student support staff, average number of students per staff, and percent of schools with such staff, by school poverty status and type of school staff: School year 2003–04

Type of school staff	Number of staff				Average number of students per staff in schools with such staff	Percent of schools	
	Total	Full-time	Part-time	Per school		With such staff	With full-time staff
High-poverty							
All teachers	19,770	19,200	1,500	0.85	0.2	†	†
All student support staff	9,430	7,140	3,820	0.41	0.7	0.1	1.1
Licensed or certified professionals	3,040	2,130	1,500	0.1	2.3	0.5	1.7
School counselors	860	780	280	0.05	11.0	1.8	2.2
Nurses	500	370	350	0.02	13.1	1.4	2.0
Social workers	460	330	300	0.03	21.1	1.9	1.5
Psychologists	400	230	330	0.02	19.3	1.9	1.6
Speech therapists	610	450	460	0.03	13.3	1.2	2.3
Other professionals	1,150	910	510	0.08	17.6	2.5	2.0
Teacher aides	6,760	5,440	2,920	0.3	1.3	0.8	1.5
Instructional aides	5,740	4,790	2,250	0.3	2.1	0.9	1.6
Special education	2,420	2,150	980	0.15	5.7	1.9	2.3
Regular Title I	1,940	1,650	930	0.13	7.1	1.8	1.7
ESL/bilingual teacher	1,390	1,230	560	0.10	14.2	2.1	2.1
Library	410	320	250	0.03	22.9	2.3	2.0
Other	1,680	1,400	790	0.12	7.8	2.2	2.1
Noninstructional aides	1,710	1,080	1,230	0.1	42.8	2.5	2.5
Special education	560	530	190	0.04	135.7	1.6	1.5
Library	210	160	130	0.02	41.3	1.6	1.2
Other	1,360	700	1,140	0.10	26.1	2.2	2.0
Low-poverty							
All teachers	19,830	18,470	2,740	0.82	0.2	†	†
All student support staff	7,630	5,370	3,710	0.30	1.0	0.2	1.0
Licensed or certified professionals	2,760	2,010	1,740	0.1	2.1	0.3	1.6
School counselors	780	690	360	0.04	7.2	1.8	1.8
Nurses	550	430	370	0.02	15.4	1.3	1.9
Social workers	350	240	330	0.02	18.0	1.7	1.3
Psychologists	500	330	430	0.02	16.6	1.6	1.8
Speech therapists	630	500	520	0.02	15.7	0.9	2.2
Other professionals	960	660	610	0.06	16.5	2.0	1.5
Teacher aides	5,340	3,750	2,780	0.2	2.1	0.5	1.2
Instructional aides	4,620	3,390	2,220	0.2	3.9	0.8	1.5
Special education	2,650	2,220	1,330	0.14	4.0	1.3	1.6
Regular Title I	680	480	470	0.05	24.1	1.4	1.3
ESL/bilingual teacher	420	240	340	0.03	33.0	1.8	1.4
Library	520	370	390	0.03	24.8	2.0	1.7
Other	2,070	1,400	1,390	0.12	12.8	2.0	1.9
Noninstructional aides	2,270	1,550	1,530	0.2	22.6	2.0	1.8
Special education	1,050	890	550	0.07	75.0	1.7	1.5
Library	330	260	210	0.02	27.6	1.9	1.5
Other	1,700	1,090	1,250	0.12	20.4	1.8	1.2

† Not applicable.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), Schools and Staffing Survey (SASS), "Public School Data File," 2003–04.