



# Onevoice

**Special Update**

**ACTION NEEDED**

**By Wednesday Night**

JANUARY 2, 2007

The Health and Safety Committee of the Virginia PTA supports the school nurse initiative of the Virginia Association of School Nurses (VASN). Greater parental and school support is needed as well. Legislators have asked for this important input at the upcoming 2007 Session Public Hearings on the Governors Proposed Amendments to the 2006-2008 Budget.

Many parents assume there is a school nurse in every school in their county/city. This year in Virginia we finally have at least one nurse in each of the 132 school divisions.

The statewide ratio is one nurse per 1457 students. However there are great disparities between localities. In Northern Virginia, Alexandria has 1 nurse per 863 students but Fairfax County has 1 nurse per 3827 students. One school nurse has a case load of approximately 5500 students!

The National Association of School Nurses and Healthy People 2010 recommend 1 nurse per 750 students and 1 nurse per 250 special education students by 2010. The Virginia Association of School Nurses recommends 1 registered nurse in every building at a ratio not to exceed 1 nurse per 750 students.

Healthy children learn more because they are better able to concentrate and miss fewer days at school. A school nurse in every building also ensures the availability of a medical professional in the case of an emergency or for health assessment during the school day.

**ACTION** – Please distribute the following information to your members, your school principal, and interested community members. Also PLEASE POST IN YOUR TEACHERS LOUNGE AND COPY ROOM AREA IF POSSIBLE.

The Virginia PTA supports an increase in the number of nurses in our public schools. Currently their numbers are wholly inadequate. *One school nurse may have a caseload that exceeds 5,000 students!*

We have an opportunity to lend our support and our collective voices to this critically important issue.

The 2007 Session Public Hearings on the Governors Proposed Amendments to the 2006-2008 Budget is coming up. These hearings provide us an opportunity to speak out on this issue.

**Fairfax District PTA hopes that you will lend your voice to these important hearings.**

Lisa Moore, Virginia PTA Board of Managers member and Fairfax District Director, will testify at the 2007 Session Public Hearings to a panel of legislators for the Governor's Proposed Amendments to the 2006-2008 Budget. It is important to also have parents and school administrators present. If you are able to attend, please contact Lisa at [FairfaxDD@vapta.org](mailto:FairfaxDD@vapta.org). *Moreover, expressions of support carry tremendous weight when presented to the committee. Please encourage your members and school officials to affirm their support for an increase in the number of nurses in schools via email to Lisa. Your emails, and your voice, will be presented on behalf of the Fairfax District PTA and our 90,000 members. Emails should include constituent's names, addresses, and phone numbers.*

**The 2007 Session Public Hearings on the Governors Proposed Amendments to the 2006-2008 Budget** will take place on Thursday, January 4, 2007 - 12:00 noon at the Northern Virginia Community College.- Waddell Theater Loudoun