



New Hampshire

Department of Education

Serving New Hampshire's Education Community

Technical Advisory

School Nurse; Certification

RSA 200.29
Ed 306.12

This Technical Advisory provides the New Hampshire Department of Education's communication regarding the School Nurse Certification rules, which were adopted by the State Board of Education on November 9, 2017, and became effective on November 14, 2017.

RSA 200:29, which was passed in the 2016-2017 legislative session and became effective August 20, 2016 provides that “[a] school nurse shall be a registered professional nurse currently licensed in New Hampshire and certified by the state board of education.” *RSA 200:29*. The law further provides that in order to become certified, an individual shall “[h]ave completed a board of nursing approved registered nursing program at the bachelor’s degree level or higher. . .” *RSA 200:29, II(a)(1)*. The law in its entirety can be accessed here and is also provided at the end of this technical advisory.

http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/bill_Status/billText.aspx?sy=2016&id=225&txtFormat=pdf&v=current

As required in RSA 200:29, the Department of Education drafted rules regarding the certification process. These rules went through the requisite process and have now been adopted by the State Board. In order to accommodate the requirement that each individual needs to have a bachelor’s degree, the rules are broken into three individual “paths” which lead to the required certification. The rules in their entirety are included at the end of this technical advisory, however, below is a brief summary of the requirements of each individual pathway.

Ed 504.07—School Nurse I: This pathway was designed to allow school nurses who were hired after July 1, 2016, who **do not** currently have the specific qualifications enumerated in RSA 200:29, to become certified by pursuing the required Bachelor of Science in nursing degree over the course of two, 3-year certification cycles. For this pathway, the fee for initial certification and for renewal is \$75.00.

Ed 504.08—School Nurse II: This pathway is a “grandfathering provision” which was designed to create an exemption from the certification requirements for school nurses who were employed prior to July 1, 2016. Regardless of the exemption, however, school nurses under this pathway will still be required to obtain a certification from the Department of Education. Because this pathway is an exemption to the certification requirement, there is no initial certification fee, however, there is a renewal fee of \$75.00.

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Ed 504.09—School Nurse III: Ed 504.09 for School Nurse III is the certification category for nurses *hired after July 1, 2016* and who **already have** the requisite degree and experience as required by RSA 200:29, II. Additionally, the School Nurse III requirements can be met by holding a current out-of-state school nurse certificate which meets the statutory requirements of RSA 200:29 or by having a National Certification of School Nurses (NCSN).

GENERAL INFORMATION

Certification, professional development, fee, and renewal requirements are detailed in the adopted School Nurse Certification rules which are: Ed 306.12, Ed 504.07, Ed 504.08, Ed 504.09, Ed 508.16, Ed 509.01, Ed 509.02 and Ed 512.07 and each can be found at:

<https://www.education.nh.gov/legislation/documents/306-12.pdf>

After the rule is certified and published by the Office of Legislative Services it can be found at:

http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rules/state_agencies/ed.html

In addition, initial certification requirements and school nurse applications are detailed in a memo on the NH Department of Education website at

<https://www.education.nh.gov/certification/index.htm>

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

The following have been identified as frequently asked questions since the rule's adoption on November 9, 2017:

Is there a deadline for submission of applications?

There is no established deadline, however, school nurses are required by law to hold a school nurse certificate through the NH Department of Education beginning on November 14, 2017. School nurses are encouraged to complete this process as soon as possible.

What is the difference between School Nurse II and School Nurse III, besides cost, for someone hired on or before July 1, 2016 who holds their BSN?

School nurses with three years of experience and a valid bachelor degree level nursing license (BSN) who were hired before July 1, 2016 qualify for both School Nurse II and School Nurse III. Such nurses can apply for either certification. Initial application for

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School Nurse II has no fee attached. After three years and meeting certification standards, such nurse could then apply for School Nurse III.

Our school nurses are employed by a hospital or other business entity and contracted to our school for health services. Do those nurses require certification through the Department of Education?

Contracted services do not require certification through the Department of Education.

Our nurse has an out of state license from a state that is a member of the Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC) allowing nurses to have one multistate license, with the ability to practice in both their home state and other compact states. The rules state that nurses must submit a valid NH license to practice nursing. Do you accept multistate licenses?

Yes. We accept a multistate license from a state that is a member of the NLC at the time of application.

If nurses hired on or before July 1, 2016 are exempt from certifications requirements, why are they required to apply for a certificate?

Nurses hired on or before July 1, 2016 are exempt from meeting the requirements for certification, however, they are required to hold a certificate and are not exempt from the professional development or renewal requirements.

Our nurse has 10 years of nursing experience, but it is not in pediatrics. Is this okay?

The rule states "...3 years current experience in pediatric nursing or other related nursing areas, including, but not limited to public health, community health, family mental health, emergency and primary care nursing."

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RSA 200:29 School Nurse Certification--

I. Each school board may appoint a school nurse to function in the school health program, and provide said nurse with proper facilities and equipment. A school nurse shall be a registered professional nurse currently licensed in New Hampshire and certified by the state board of education.

II. (a) An individual shall have the following entry level requirements to be certified as a school nurse:

(1) Have completed a board of nursing approved registered nursing program at the bachelor's degree level or higher under RSA 326-B; and

(2) Have 3 years current experience in pediatric nursing or other related nursing areas.

(b) An applicant for certification as a school nurse shall have the skills, competencies, and knowledge in the following areas:

(1) In the area of delivery of the school nursing services, the skills and abilities to:

(A) Assess student's health or situation through analysis of data collected and synthesize comprehensive data.

(B) Identify outcomes and develop plans for individual students or situations including strategies and alternatives.

(C) Implement interventions identified in the plan of care/action, coordinating care with school employees and evaluate outcome.

(D) Consult with administration to provide health education and employ strategies to promote health, wellness, and a safe environment.

(E) Systematically evaluate the progress for the quality of practice and effectiveness toward attainment of outcomes for promoting health and a safe environment.

(2) In the area of school nursing, the applicant shall demonstrate the knowledge and ability to:

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(A) Provide quality nursing practice in a school setting.

(B) Evaluate his or her nursing practices and continue professional development as required by a school district's professional development master plan.

(C) Collaborate with students, families, school staff, and others in the conduct of school nursing practices.

(D) Integrate ethical provisions and research findings into practice as a school nurse.

(3) In the area of accountability, knowledge, skills, and application in:

(A) Planning and delivering school nursing services factoring in safety, effectiveness, cost, and impact on nursing practice.

(B) Providing leadership in the profession and professional nursing practice setting.

(C) Managing school health services.

(D) Complying with professional nursing practice standards, guidelines, relevant statues, rules, and regulations.

III. The state board of education shall adopt rules, pursuant to RSA 541-A, relative to:

(a) The application process for certification under paragraph II.

(b) Form and content of any forms required under paragraph II.

(c) Application fees for certification under paragraph II.

(d) Further rulemaking necessary for the proper administration of certification under paragraph II.

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