

Date: December 19, 2025

Prepared By: Sarai Ortiz

Rule Citation: 6.63.2 NMAC: Nurse Licensure Classification

Overview of Proposed Rule

Agency: Public Education Department (PED)

Rulemaking Action: Repeal and replace

Date of Notice: December 9, 2025

Public Comment Period: Tuesday, December 9, 2025, to Monday, January 12, 2026

Rule's Purpose: The proposed rule amendment would align nurse licensure with the law by updating the language for school nurse mentorship, evaluation, licensure requirements, and competencies.

Summary of 6.63.2 NMAC: Nurse Licensure Classification

The Public Education Department (PED) gave notice that it proposed repealing and replacing 6.63.2 New Mexico Administrative Code (NMAC) to update school nurse licensure requirements and align rule language with Laws 2025, Chapter 150 ([House Bill 195](#)). The proposed repeal and replace of the rule would require PED to update the language enumerating three types of school nurse licensures with a three-tier system, replacing the existing associate, professional, and supervisory school nurse licensure classifications with a three-tiered system consisting of level one, level two, and level three school nurse licensure. The proposed replacement would also establish updated licensure requirements, competency expectations, mentorship provisions, and evaluation processes at each licensure level.

The proposed rule would require level one school nurses to participate in a formal mentorship program and undergo annual competency evaluations, with mentorship and evaluation responsibilities assigned to level three or level two school nurses, or an alternative mentor when higher-level nurses are not available. The rule would also establish pathways for advancement between licensure levels based on experience, demonstrated competencies, and qualifications, including national board certification for school nurses.

PED cites Sections 9-24-8 NMSA 1978, Section 22-2-1 NMSA 1978, Section 22-2-2 NMSA 1978, Section 22-10A-8.2 NMSA 1978, Section 22-10A-10.1 NMSA 1978, Section 22-10A-11.11 NMSA 1978, Section 22-10A-17 NMSA 1978, and Section 22-10A-24 NMSA 1978 as its authorizing statutes for establishing and revising school licensure requirements.

If adopted, the rule would go into effect January 27, 2026.

Impact

The proposed repeal and replace of 6.63.2 NMAC would impact school districts and charter schools, as well as school nurses, by establishing updated licensure classifications, competency requirements, mentorship expectations, and evaluation processes for school nurse licensure. In addition, the proposed rule specifies changes necessary to implement a tiered salary system for nurses as established in Laws 2025, Chapter 150 ([House Bill 195](#)).

Licensure Classifications and Requirements. The proposed rule would create school nurse licensure tiers to reflect Laws 2025, Chapter 150 ([HB 195](#)) by replacing associate, professional, and supervisory nurse titles with level one, level two, and level three licensure, similar to the state's teacher licensure system. Each licensure level would have defined education, experience, and competency requirements, including background clearance and maintenance of a valid registered nurse license. The proposed rule does not appear to impact current license

holders as it indicates an effective date of January 27, 2026, and does not include requirements for current license holders.

Mentorship and Evaluation. The proposed rule would require a level one school nurse licensure to receive formal mentorship and evaluation for competency. Mentorship and evaluation would be conducted by a level three licensed school nurse when available, a level two nurse when a level three nurse is not employed by the school district or charter school, or an alternative mentor identified by school administration if necessary. Level two and level three school nurses would also be subject to evaluations for essential competencies enumerated in administrative rule.

Competencies. The proposed rule would create a tiered system that reflects the requirements and competencies of a level one, level two, and level three school nurse, which can then be matched to associated salary levels with increasing salary for nurses further along in the tiered system.

Severability. The proposed rule also adds a severability clause, which would preserve the validity, legality, and enforceability of the remaining provisions if any section of the rule is found to be invalid or unenforceable.