

Date: May 29, 2026

Prepared By: Conor L. Hicks, Policy Analyst I

Rule Citation: [NMAC 6.63.2: Licensure for School Nurses, Grades K-12](#)

Overview of Proposed Rule

Agency: Public Education Department

Rulemaking Action: Amendment

Date of Notice: April 21, 2026

Public Comment Period: April 21 to June 3, 2026

Rule's Purpose: The proposed rule would align nurse licensure rules with recently enacted state law concerning mentorship, evaluation, and licensure eligibility.

Summary of NMAC 6.63.2: Licensure for School Nurses, Grades K-12

The proposed amendment to New Mexico administrative code (NMAC) 6.63.2 would align Public Education Department (PED) administrative rule with [Laws 2026, Chapter 40 \(House Bill 34\)](#). The amendment, in line with new statutory requirements, would allow both level 2 and level 3 nurses to provide mentorship and evaluation for level 1 nurses. The proposed amendment would also expand level 3 license eligibility to include all nurses with at least three years of registered nursing experience (school-based or otherwise). Finally, the amendment would remove outdated language outlining how nursing competencies are evaluated.

Impact

Mentorship and evaluation. The proposed rule amendment would allow for both level 2 and level 3 school nurses to serve as mentors and evaluators of level 1 nurses. Current language only allows mentorship and evaluation by a level 3 school nurse. In accordance with Laws 2026, Chapter 40, the proposed amendment would also offer new guidance for school districts and charter schools who employ level 1 school nurses but do not have level 2 or 3 nurses able to fulfill the mentorship and evaluation requirements. In such an instance, the district or charter school must defer to the New Mexico Department of Health for guidance.

Level 3 licensure eligibility. Under current language, an individual must have at least three years of school nursing experience in New Mexico or a nurse licensure compact state. The proposed amendment would broaden eligibility to allow any individual with at least three years of registered nursing experience to apply for a level 3 school nursing license. This would allow for registered nurses who have not previously worked in a school setting to become eligible for a school-based role.

Evaluation of competency. The proposed amendment removes the requirement school district superintendents, charter school head administrators, or level 3 nurses verify required competencies for level 1 and level 2 nurses using a “highly objective statewide standard of evaluation.” Instead, nursing competencies for all licensure levels would be verified based on the most current national scope and standards of nursing practice from the National Association of School Nurses.