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

Overview of Adopted Rule

Agency: Public Education Department

Rulemaking Action: Repeal and Replace

Date of Adoption: January 15, 2026

Effective Date: January 27, 2026

Rule's Purpose: The adopted rule aligns nurse licensure rules with state law by updating the language for school nurse mentorship, evaluation, licensure requirements, and competencies.

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

The Public Education Department (PED) has adopted a repeal and replace of New Mexico Administrative Code (NMAC) 6.63.2 to update school nurse licensure requirements and align rule language with Laws 2025, Chapter 150 ([House Bill 195](#)). The adopted rule requires PED to update the language enumerating three types of school nurse licensures with a three-tier system. This tiered system of levels one, two, and three school nurses replaces the previous associate, professional, and supervisory school nurse licensure classifications. The rule replacement also establishes updated licensure requirements, competency expectations, mentorship provisions, and evaluation processes.

The rule requires 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 establishes pathways for advancement between licensure levels based on experience, demonstrated competencies, and qualifications, including national board certification for school nurses.

PED cites Section 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, Section 22-10A-24 NMSA 1978, and Section 61-3-24 NMSA 1978 as its authorizing statutes for establishing and revising school licensure requirements.

Impact

The repeal and replace of NMAC 6.63.2 impacts school districts and charter schools, as well as school nurses, by updating licensure classifications, competency requirements, mentorship expectations, and evaluation processes for school nurse licensure. In addition, the adopted rule specifies changes necessary to implement a tiered salary system for nurses as established in Laws 2025, Chapter 150 (House Bill 195). According to PED, the adopted changes to licensure requirements for school nurses do not immediately impact existing license holders.

Licensure Classifications and Requirements. The adopted rule creates 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 has defined education, experience, and competency requirements, including background clearance and maintenance of a valid registered nursing license.

Mentorship and Evaluation. The adopted rule requires a level one school nurse license holder to receive formal mentorship and evaluation for competency. Mentorship and evaluation must be conducted by a level three licensed school nurse when available, a level two school 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 adopted rule, in response to public comment, removes the detailed tiered competencies included in the proposed version of the rule. Instead, the adopted language states required competencies for all three license levels must reference and adhere to the most current national scope and standards set by the National Association of School Nurses.

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

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

NOTE: PED recently issued a [notice](#) that it is proposing an amendment to NMAC 6.63.2 to make updates in alignment with Laws 2026, Chapter 40 (House Bill 34). This law made additional changes to the School Personnel Act affecting school nurses. Given the date of the notice, LESC staff will provide a review of the proposed rule at its next LESC hearing in May. Public comment for the proposed amendment is open until June 3, 2026.