

Rule Overview

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

Overview of Adopted Rule

Agency: Public Education Department

Rulemaking Action: Amendment

Date Adopted: June 11, 2026

Effective Date: June 23, 2026

Rule's Purpose: The adopted rule aligns 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 adopted amendment to New Mexico Administrative Code (NMAC) 6.63.2 aligns Public Education Department (PED) administrative rule with [Laws 2026, Chapter 40 \(House Bill 34\)](#), School Nurse Licensure Provisions. The amendment, in line with new statutory requirements, allows both level 2 and level 3 nurses to provide mentorship and evaluation for level 1 nurses. The amendment expands level 3 license eligibility to include all nurses with at least three years of registered nursing experience (school-based or otherwise). Finally, the amendment removes outdated language outlining how nursing competencies are evaluated.

No written or oral comments were received by PED during the public comment period. However, PED did make one change to clarify that school district superintendents and charter school head administrators are still responsible for verifying competencies for level 2 and level 3 school nurses.

Impact

Mentorship and evaluation. The adopted amendment allows both level 2 and level 3 school nurses to serve as mentors and evaluators of level 1 nurses. In accordance with Laws 2026, Chapter 40, the adopted amendment also offers new guidance for school districts and charter schools who employ level 1 school nurses but do not have level 2 or 3 nurses 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. The adopted amendment broadens eligibility to allow any individual with at least three years of registered nursing experience to apply for a level 3 school nursing license. This allows for registered nurses who have not previously worked in a school setting to become eligible for a school-based role.

Evaluation of competency. The amendment removes the requirement that 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 level 1 nurses will be verified by a designated level 2 or level 3 nurse, while level 2 and level 3 nursing competencies will be verified by district superintendents and charter school head administrators. Verification of competencies for all licensure levels will be based on the most current national scope and standards of nursing practice from the National Association of School Nurses.