
NBCSN Certification and Recertification Presentation

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Certification Requirements

- Current RN license
- BSN
- 1000 hours of practice as a school nurse - A school year made up of 180 days at 7 hrs a day is 1260 hours.
- Pay fee of \$370 up to 2 weeks before the application deadline, \$390 last 2 weeks of application window

Certification Documentation Needed

- Proof of **license as a registered nurse** (RN) in one of the United States.
- **Academic transcript** or proof of current certification, demonstrating one of the following:
 - A **bachelor's degree or higher in nursing** or the equivalent in other countries (If you completed your education outside of the U.S., you must submit verification of your international credentials obtained through a certified evaluation service.) We'll discuss why a BSN is required later.
 - A **master's degree in education** with a concentration in school nursing or school health services from an NBCSN approved, accredited institution. **Contact info@nbcnsn.org with information about specific programs (not every program will qualify) .**
- **Note on letterhead from your supervisor** or district official confirming the clinical practice requirement of a minimum of 1,000 hours worked within the three years prior to taking the test. 1000 hours is roughly equivalent to a full-time school nurse working at least 6 hours/day for a school year of 180 days. [See below](#) for more information about clinical practice requirements.
- **Complete** the online application.
- **Pay** the required fee.

Recertification Requirements

- Current RN license
- 2000 clinical hours
 - 750 hours must have been worked in the last three years of certification window
- 75 contact hours and/or professional activity credits
- Pay fee of \$370 up to 2 weeks before the application deadline, \$390 last 2 weeks of application window
- Pay the required fee

OR

- Take and pass the NCSN exam

CEU's - Does this count?!

- All NASN CE sessions
- State SN organization CE
- Government entity (CDC, NIH, state DOE, etc) as long as it pertains to school health, public health and pediatrics.
 - NESNC and SNSI
- Courses must be from an accredited organization

RULE OF THUMB: As long as it pertains to your practice as a school nurse it will most likely count!

Does anything else count?

[Nursing Continuing Professional Development](#)

[Other Approved Activities](#)

[NCSN Recertification Handbook](#)



Some words of wisdom...

- Document certificates as you get them!
- Use NCSN as your database for State of Maine DOE certification
- Space your PD out over the 5 years. Do about 15-20 a year
- Do extra! 75 is required but why not do 90 just in case some are not accepted
- Unsure if what you are doing qualifies? Email lignore@sanford.org or info@nbcsn.org

Where Can I Find Free and Low-Cost CE/Education?

- [NASN](#)
- [NEUSHA](#)
- [Nurse.com](#)
- [Nursebuilders.net](#)
- State Affiliates
- Online Courses
- College and Universities

A CE course must be at least 1.0 CE

What Is Not Accepted?

- CPR, First Aid, BBP training, state certification and screening courses
- Basic computer skills
- School inservice programs
- On-the-job training
- Refresher courses to update knowledge
- Self-improvement courses
- Liberal arts courses
- Courses designed for lay people

Why is a BSN required?

NBCSN endorses the NASN and ANA recommendations for school nurse practice. According to the School Nursing Scope and Standards of Practice 4th ed. (p.27):

“Educational preparation for school nurse varies, however, the broad scope of the specialty practice of school nursing, and the complexity of issues addressed within a school community setting by the school nurse require advanced skills. These include the ability to practice independently, supervise others, apply community health concepts, manage programs, and delegate care. Therefore, the NASN recommends, and the ANA has consistently affirmed, that the minimal educational preparation for a school nurse be a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing (BSN) from an accredited college or university. BSNs are significantly better prepared in 12 out of 16 practice areas related to quality and safety including evidence-based practice (EBP), data analysis, and project implementation; therefore, could improve and safeguard the quality of patient care.”

National Association of School Nurses (2022). *School nursing scope and standards of practice*. National Association of School Nurses.