

Public Notice

Education

State Board of Education

Notice of Action on Petition for Rulemaking

State Board of Examiners and Certification

Substitute Credential for Positions Not Requiring Instructional Certificates

School Nurse

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-7.5 and 14.3

Petitioner: Rosemary Catton, R.N., Executive Director, New Jersey State School Nurses Association.

Take notice that on May 5, 2025, the State Board of Education (State Board) received a petition for rulemaking from the above petitioner, requesting the State Board amend N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-7.5 and 14.3 to allow holders of a multistate registered professional nurse license issued by a state board of nursing that participates in the Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC) to qualify for a substitute school nurse/non-instructional credential or an educational services certificate with a school nurse endorsement.

The petitioner sought to amend N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-7.5(a) and 14.3(b)1, which require candidates to hold a New Jersey registered professional nurse license issued by the New Jersey State Board of Nursing, to expand eligibility to holders of a multistate registered professional nurse license issued by a state board of nursing that participates in the NLC. The petitioner indicated that the NLC allows nurses with a license in one state to practice in other participating states without needing a separate license in each state. New Jersey joined the NLC on November 15, 2021.

The petitioner stated that holders of a multistate registered professional nurse license can practice in all settings in New Jersey, except for schools, because the Department of Education (Department) does not recognize the NLC as meeting their eligibility guidelines for registered professional nurse licensure in New Jersey.

A notice acknowledging receipt of the petition was published in the June 16, 2025, New Jersey Register at 57 N.J.R. 1338(b). A notice of action stating additional time was needed to deliberate about this petition because the Department needed to consult with the New Jersey Board of Nursing, which is within the Department of Law and Public Safety, Division of Consumer Affairs, to determine the potential impact of the requested change was published in the New Jersey Register on August 4, 2025, at 57 N.J.R. 1723(a).

The Department met with the New Jersey Board of Nursing to discuss the petition, as well as the policies and processes related to the multistate registered professional nurse license. The New Jersey Board of Nursing reassured the Department that standards for nurse licensure must be uniform across NLC member states. New Jersey, as an NLC member state, fully recognizes a multistate nursing license issued by another NLC member state; therefore, any holder of a multistate nursing license is permitted to serve as a registered professional nurse in New Jersey.

The New Jersey Board of Nursing also confirmed that the NLC has a discipline reporting process that can result in an encumbrance on a multistate license or deactivation. The Department will be able to use the publicly available national nurse licensure verification system — Nursys.com — to verify a candidate's multistate license and whether the candidate's license is encumbered and/or deactivated.

After further deliberations, and pursuant to N.J.A.C. 1:30-4.2(a)3, the Department of Education hereby grants the petitioner's request to allow holders of a multistate registered professional nurse license to qualify for a substitute school nurse/non-instructional credential or an educational services certificate with a school nurse endorsement. The Department also will propose the amendment at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.4, which was not included in the petitioner's request, to apply it to the school nurse/non-instructional endorsement. The Department will adjust the requested change as follows:

- Include a reference to P.L. 2019, c. 172, which is the law authorizing New Jersey’s participation in the NLC;
- Include “valid” before “multistate registered professional nurse license” to ensure holders of the multistate license are in good standing, as is currently required for holders of the New Jersey registered professional nurse license; and
- Refer to licenses issued by “the licensing board of a state that is a member of” the NLC rather than “a state board of nursing that participates in” the NLC. “Licensing board” is the term used by the NLC and at N.J.S.A. 45:11A-9.

Within 90 days, the Department will initiate a rulemaking before the State Board of Education. Amendments adding a valid multistate registered professional nurse license to qualify for a substitute school nurse/non-instructional credential or an educational services certificate with a school nurse or school nurse/non-instructional endorsement will not be effective until the State Board of Education adopts the rulemaking and a notice of adoption appears in the New Jersey Register.