

Becoming A School Nurse

Are you looking for a challenging and highly rewarding nursing career, one in which you can make a significant difference in the lives of children and families? As a school nurse, you will manage a wide range of health and social support needs for children and families. Develop a career that is both challenging and meaningful – as a school nurse.



Steps to a School Nursing Career

1 Obtain a High School Diploma or High School Equivalency (HSE) Credential such as a GED.

2 Earn a College Degree in Nursing

A nursing degree from an accredited college or university is required to obtain a registered nurse license. An Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) is the minimum requirement to obtain WA State RN licensure. A Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) is encouraged and required for some nursing positions, including some school nurse positions.

Nurses interested in advancing their education have options, including RN-to-BSN, RN-to-MSN, LPN-to-BSN, accelerated BSN or MSN, and Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) programs. Access a list of [WA State Approved Nursing Programs](#).

3 Become a Washington State Registered Nurse (RN)

To become a registered nurse, graduate nurses must pass the NCLEX exam. Applications for the exam are submitted to [Washington State Board of Nursing WABON](#).

- **Registered nurses relocating to WA State from another US state. Contact WABON for current information**
- **Registered nurses educated outside of the United States have additional requirements.** A language proficiency exam and transcript review must be completed prior to submitting a license application.
- **Registered nurses with an inactive license. Nurses whose license has been inactive or lapsed for > 3 years may be interested in returning to active status.** See [Nurse Refresher Programs](#).

4 Finding Open School Nurse Positions

Open school nursing positions are posted on school district employment web pages. School Nurse Corps (SNC) Administrators at each Educational Service District (ESD) are aware of open positions in their respective service areas.

When interviewing, a professional portfolio is encouraged that showcases a resume, educational preparation, certifications, work experiences, capabilities, ongoing professional development, and community service.

5 Consider Obtaining Washington State Educational Staff Associate (ESA) Certification

Registered nurses who provide health services to students in Washington State may be eligible for Educational Staff Associate (ESA) certification. ESA certification preparation introduces nurses to the education environment and laws related to health services management. ESA certification is awarded by the [Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction \(OSPI\)](#) and governed by the [Washington State Professional Educator Standards Board \(PESB\)](#).

Many Washington State school districts recognize ESA certification and include it as a condition of employment, hiring ESA nurses into certificated positions.

Learn more today!

Scan the QR code or visit www.healthystudentsachieve.org

