



## National Board for Certification of School Nurses

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### What is School Nurse Certification?

The Accreditation Board for Nursing Specialty Certification (ABNSC), the accrediting body for the National Board for Certification of School Nurses (NBCSN), defines certification as the formal recognition of the specialized knowledge, skills, and experience demonstrated by the achievement of standards identified by a nursing specialty to promote optimal health outcomes.

There are two types of school nurse certification. One type is issued by state departments of education, or university systems, and is often required for nurses to work in schools in those states. The other type is a voluntary certification, as described above by ABSNC, in which candidates sit for an examination to test predetermined standards for knowledge, skills, and or competencies. Successful candidates receive a time-limited credential which can be renewed periodically through continuing education. The second is the type of certification that is available through the NBCSN.

The National Association of School Nurses (NASN) states in its position statement *Education, Licensure, and Certification of School Nurses* that "the public benefits from the certification of nurses by way of improved client safety, increased nurse knowledge and skills, and focused nurse professional development throughout their career."

Some people certify for personal satisfaction, others certify for professional reasons. Some sit for the exam because their employer (or conditions of employment require it). As you can see from the quote below, the NCSN designation fulfills all the above purposes. According to Selekman and Wolfe in the preface to their 2010 text *School Nursing Certification Review*:

"certification for school nurses is a mark of distinction and accomplishment. **It benefits the individual school nurse** by confirming attainment of a distinct body of knowledge for the specialty practice of school nursing. **It benefits the global practice of nursing in the school setting** by articulating the scope of practice and excellence within it. **It benefits the public, including the employer and community partners**, by recognizing those nurses who have competence beyond the novice level. Most importantly, **it benefits the child**, whose health is enhanced by the breadth of knowledge and expertise the school nurse can bring to school health services."

**Have you considered school nurse certification?** The spring test window is quickly approaching. Applications must be in by January 27, 2017. If you need more time to prepare, the summer test window is July 10-July 29, 2017, and the fall test window is November 6-November 18, 2017. <http://www.nbcsn.org/examination#dates>.

All the information you need is on our [website](#), however, if you need any further information you can contact us at [certification@nbcsn.org](mailto:certification@nbcsn.org).

We encourage you to seriously consider national certification for yourself, your school community, and the children you serve.

**National Board of Certification of School Nurses**  
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