

Certification Examination For School Nurses

HANDBOOK FOR CANDIDATES



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EXAMINATION DATES

<https://nbcsn.org/certification/test-dates>

This handbook has necessary information about the certification exam for School Nurses. Please keep it for future reference. You are responsible for reading these instructions carefully. This handbook is subject to change.

CERTIFICATION

The National Board for Certification of School Nurses, Inc. (NBCSN) endorses the concept of voluntary certification by examination for all school nurses. Certification is one part of a process called credentialing. It focuses specifically on the individual and is an indication of current competence in a specialized area of practice. Board certification in school nursing is highly valued and provides formal recognition of school nursing knowledge and competence. The Nationally Certified School Nurse (NCSN) credential is a personal commitment to higher standards that inspire credibility and confidence.

NBCSN received its initial accreditation in May 2008 through the American Board of Nursing Specialties (ABNS). Since then, NBCSN has maintained accreditation through the American Board of Specialty Nursing Accreditation (ABSNC) every five years, most recently in 2023. ABSNC was launched in 2009 by ABNS to be the standard-setting body for specialty nursing certification programs and offers a stringent and comprehensive accreditation process. NBCSN demonstrated that it meets the 18 ABSNC standards of quality. This means that a nationally recognized accrediting body has determined the NCSN credential is based on a valid and reliable testing process and the structure in place to administer the examinations meet, and even exceed, the standards of the certification industry from a legal, regulatory and association management perspective.

Certification does not end with the successful completion of the examination. To keep the NCSN credential, NCSNs must, every five years, either document a minimum of continuing education credits in school health issues or, alternately, retake the examination. This demonstrates a commitment to continued competence.

MISSION

The mission of the National Board for Certification of School Nurses, Inc. (NBCSN) is to advance the quality of school health services (school nurse practice) by providing a rigorous national credentialing process, to validate competency based on professional standards.

VISION

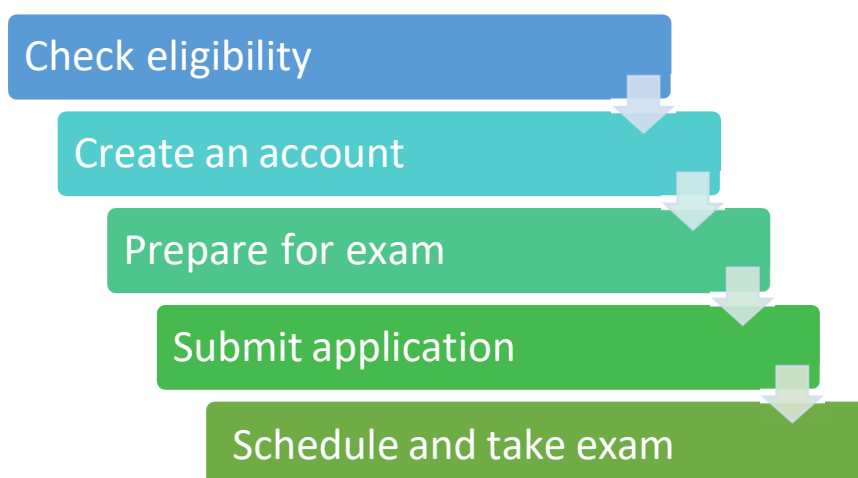
The vision of NBCSN is to have national certification by NBCSN widely recognized and highly valued by providers, employers, and the public as the standard of excellence for school health services.

PURPOSE

The purposes of the NBCSN are to:

1. Develop, administer, and evaluate a national certification process for school nurses that:
 - a. Provides recognition to those individuals who meet the eligibility requirements of the NBCSN and pass the National Certification Examination for School Nurses by awarding the credential of National Certified School Nurse (NCSN).
 - b. Establishes and measures the level of knowledge required for certification in school nursing.
 - c. Provides a standard of requisite knowledge required for certification, thereby assisting the employer, public, and members of the health professions in the assessment of school nurses.
2. Develop and evaluate additional mechanisms for professional competence assessment in school nursing.
3. Promote continued professional growth in the practice of school nursing.
4. Assist in the enhancement and communication of knowledge concerning professional testing and competency assessment of school nurses, and
5. Perform such other functions as may be deemed consistent with the foregoing.

THE CERTIFICATION EXAM PROCESS OVERVIEW



ELIGIBILITY

Current RN license in the US	
BSN (or other country's equivalent)	
1000 hrs practice as a school nurse	
Pay fee of \$380 up to 2 weeks before application deadline, \$400 last 2 weeks of application window	
OR current NCSN certification	

To confirm eligibility, you must:

1. Submit a copy of your license as a registered nurse (RN) in one of the United States.
2. Submit a copy of your diploma or transcript (unofficial is acceptable) showing:
 - a. 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 through a certified evaluation service).
 - OR
 - b. A master's degree in education with a concentration in school nursing or health services from an NBCSN approved, accredited institution. Contact info@nbcsn.org for information about specific programs (not every program will qualify).
 - OR
 - c. Current certification by NBCSN as an NCSN.
3. Meet the clinical practice requirements of working in school nursing a minimum of 1,000 hours in the three years prior to taking the test. 1,000 hours is roughly equivalent to the hours worked by a full-time school nurse who works at least 6 hours/day for a school year of 180 days documented by a note on letterhead from your supervisor or district official. See below for more information about clinical practice requirements.
4. Complete the online application to take the Certification Examination for School Nurses.
5. Pay the required fee.

CLINICAL PRACTICE REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTIFICATION

Eligible Clinical Practice in school nursing means employed or contracted (including self-employed) to provide a **direct** or **indirect** professional contribution to the health and education of students and their families in public or private school settings and includes continuing professional responsibility and accountability for the outcomes of these actions.

1000 hours is roughly equivalent to the hours worked by a full-time school nurse who works at least 6 hours/day for a school year of 180 days, documented by a note on letterhead from your supervisor or district official. See below for more information about clinical practice requirements.

- **Direct clinical practice** in school nursing uses the nursing process in a school setting with a student, group of students, families, or school community.
- **Indirect clinical practice** includes:
 - Clinical supervision of school nurses, education and clinical supervision of baccalaureate/master's nursing students in school health, including providing NCPD **OR**
 - Administration of school health services, research, consultation or other engagement in the field of school nursing that contributes to the specialty's body of knowledge or enhances the quality of school nursing practice.
- **Not eligible** as clinical practice in school nursing includes:
 - One-to-one nursing as the nurse's sole responsibility within a school;
 - Employment in the direct sales, marketing or distribution of school nursing-related products or services in pharmaceutical, technology or other school health-related industries;
 - Community health screenings;
 - Work in a camp setting;
 - Jobs unrelated to school nursing.

I. Additional Eligibility Requirements

1. Baccalaureate degrees must be granted from programs, which are accredited by national, regional, or state accrediting boards of higher education through the Council for Higher Education Accreditation, or listed as an accredited program by the U.S. Department of Education.
2. Registered nurses enrolled in Master's Programs (RN-MSN) that do not confer bachelor's degrees may not apply to take the NCSN Examination until completion of the graduate program.
3. Candidates with foreign educational degrees must submit validated transcripts with both

general academic and professional licensure evaluation reports from an accredited foreign educational credential evaluation service indicating the degree is equivalent to an accredited program in the United States, such as those with memberships in the National Association of Credential Evaluation Services (NACES).

APPEALS OF ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- If you are found ineligible to sit for the exam but believe you meet eligibility requirements, you may petition the NBCSN President by submitting a letter of appeal with supporting documentation to info@nbcnsn.org.
- Any documentation requested by NBCSN members or management company staff will be at your expense.
- Appeals must include:
 - a transcript of your baccalaureate degree with all courses listed,
 - a transcript of other courses taken,
 - a current resume, and
 - a current job description.
- No letters of reference shall be accepted.
- NBCSN will notify you about your appeal within 30 days of receipt of all requested documentation.
- The NBCSN Appeals committee makes all decisions on eligibility appeals.
- The Appeals Committee decision is final.

ADMINISTRATION

The NBCSN sponsors the Certification Program. Administration of the Certification Examination for school nurses is by:

Association Headquarters

1120 Route 73, Suite 200 Mt. Laurel, NJ 08054

Direct any questions concerning the exam to:

Association Headquarters at 833.276.0986 or info@nbcnsn.org.

EXAMINATION PREPARATION

Please see the [Exam Prep page](#) on the NBCSN website for information on available examination preparation materials. There is no requirement to purchase or use any of the recommended materials.

Please note: the suggestions on the NBCSN website are not exhaustive, and review will not guarantee success for every candidate. NBCSN only publishes the revised *School Nursing Certification Review* book (2025), and two practice tests, and recommends the [NurseBuilders](#) programs. NBCSN does not endorse any specific study guide or program. No study materials can guarantee that you will pass the NCSN exam.

IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING EXAM CONTENT

This review book was published in 2025. Because healthcare, school nursing practice, clinical guidelines, and certification standards continue to evolve, some information may be updated after publication.

Candidates preparing for the Nationally Certified School Nurse (NCSN) examination should refer to the most current NBCSN Exam Content Outline and exam updates available on the NBCSN website. The NCSN exam is developed and updated based on the job task analyses and current school nursing practice standards. NBCSN implemented updates to the Exam Content Outline beginning with the Summer 2025 examination and continues to provide guidance regarding exam content and testing expectations.

For the most current information regarding content covered on the NCSN examination, please visit: <https://nbcsn.org/certification/updated-exam-content>

Candidates are also encouraged to review the current Candidate Handbook (<https://nbcsn.org/certification/ncsn-handbook>) and Exam Preparation resources (<https://nbcsn.org/exam-prep>) available through NBCSN before testing.

While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information contained in this publication, candidates should rely on the most current NBCSN resources when preparing for the examination.

ATTAINMENT OF CERTIFICATION

After you pass the NCSN exam, you will receive a certificate from NBCSN and you may use the registered credential “NCSN” after your name. The recommended format listing initials after your name is:

- Highest degree, (highest degree in nursing if different from highest degree), nursing license, national credential, state or other credential, e.g.:

Sally Schoolnurse, MSN, RN, NCSN, CSN

Sally Schoolnurse, MEd, BSN, RN, NCSN

NBCSN maintains a registry of NCSNs and they may be reported in its publications.

School nurse certification is valid for five years. To retain certification, you must meet current continuing education requirements or retake and pass the Certification Examination for School Nurses.

REVOCATION OF CERTIFICATION

Certification may be revoked for any of the following reasons:

- Falsification of an application, credentials, or documentation pertaining thereof,
- Revocation of current Registered Nurse license.
- Misrepresentation of certification status.

NBCSN may report any misrepresentation to the appropriate state board of nursing.

NBCSN provides the appeal mechanism for challenging revocation of Board Certification. It is your responsibility to begin this process by directing any questions, complaints or concerns in writing, to the NBCSN President within 30 days of the incident.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Complete the online application at www.nbcsn.org.

Read and follow the directions on the application and in this **Handbook for Candidates**.

FEES

Pay the application fee for the exam. As of April 1, 2026 (Visa, MasterCard, and American Express accepted), the fee is:

- \$380 Early Bird rate (from date application window opens until two (2) weeks prior to

application deadline)

- \$400 Regular rate (during the last two weeks of the application window)
- \$50 Late fee is assessed to any application submitted after deadline in addition to the regular fee.

EXAM APPLICATION TRANSFER POLICY

NBCSN recognizes that circumstances may arise that prevent a candidate from testing during their originally scheduled exam cycle. The following policy outlines eligibility, limitations, and responsibilities related to transferring an exam application to a different exam cycle.

Transfer Eligibility and Timing

- A candidate may request **one (1) transfer** from their originally scheduled exam cycle to another exam cycle **within two (2) exam cycles** at no cost.
- To qualify for a no-fee transfer, the candidate must notify the exam vendor **within the vendor's published deadlines**.
- All transfers must be to an exam window occurring **within two (2) exam cycles** of the candidate's original exam window.
- Transfers beyond two (2) exam cycles from the original exam window are **not permitted** under this policy.

Transfer Limits and Fees

- **First Transfer:** No transfer fee is assessed.
- **Second Transfer:** A transfer fee will be assessed. The amount of the fee is \$50.
- **Third Transfer:** No additional transfers are permitted. The candidate must submit a new exam application and pay the full application fee. Any previously paid exam fees will be forfeited to NBCSN.

Candidate Responsibilities

- Candidates are solely responsible for cancelling or rescheduling their exam appointment directly with the exam vendor, in accordance with the vendor's policies and deadlines.
- Failure to cancel or reschedule an exam appointment within the vendor's required timeframe may result in additional vendor-imposed fees or forfeiture of exam fees.
- NBCSN is not responsible for fees or penalties assessed by the exam vendor due to a candidate's failure to comply with vendor policies.

Extenuating Circumstances

This transfer policy does not apply in cases of documented extenuating circumstances. Extenuating circumstances may include, but are not limited to:

- Hospitalization or serious illness
- Death of an immediate family member
- Natural disasters
- Other extraordinary events as determined by NBCSN

Requests for exceptions due to extenuating circumstances must be submitted **in writing** and include appropriate supporting documentation. All exception requests are subject to review and approval by NBCSN, and approval is not guaranteed.

TESTING APPOINTMENT CHANGE AND WITHDRAWAL POLICY

I. Changing Test Appointment Within the Testing Window

1. If it is **24 hours or more prior** to your scheduled appointment you may reschedule your exam with PSI. Please contact [PSI](#), or reschedule your appointment through your exam application (click on “Exam Appointments” at the bottom of your application.)
2. If you are **less than 24 hours prior** to end of your testing window or test date, you are unable to reschedule your exam. You must appear and sit for the exam or all fees will be forfeited.

II. Withdrawal from Exam

3. If it is **24 hours or more prior** to your scheduled appointment or end of the testing window, you may withdraw your test appointment for a \$75 fee. To do so, you must complete two steps:
 - a. Contact [PSI](#) and cancel your original appointment. Or you can cancel through your NCSN exam application (click on “Exam Appointments” at the bottom of your application.)
 - b. Withdraw your application by logging into your NBCSN account and completing the withdrawal request found in your original application. \$75 of your exam fee is non-refundable.
4. If you are **less than 24 hours prior** to end of your testing window or test date, you are unable to withdraw from the exam. You must appear and sit for the exam or all fees will be forfeited.

III. Late for Testing Appointment/No Show

Your entire testing fee is forfeited if you are more than 15 minutes late for a test appointment or fail to appear for an appointment.

IV. Exam Retake

If you need to retake the NBCSN exam, you may reapply after the end of your current testing window for any future exam time.

EXAMINATION ADMINISTRATION

The Certification Examination for School Nurses is administered during one-month testing periods (spring, summer, and fall) on a daily basis, Monday through Sunday, excluding holidays, at computer-based testing facilities managed by PSI, the NBCSN testing vendor.

PSI has several hundred testing sites in the United States, as well as Canada and overseas. Scheduling is on a first-come, first-serve basis. You will not be able to schedule your exam appointment until you have received an **Authorization To Test** (ATT) notification.

Testing is also available through **Remote Proctoring**—see information below.

SCHEDULING YOUR EXAMINATION APPOINTMENT

Once NBCSN has processed your application and determined you have met all eligibility requirements, NBCSN will notify you via email with your **Authorization to Test** (ATT). Your ATT email will include all the information you need to schedule your testing date and location within your testing window. You cannot schedule your exam until you receive this ATT communication. If you have not received your ATT within one week of submitting your application, contact NBCSN at 833.276.0986 or info@nbcnsn.org.

Log in to your NBCSN account to schedule your testing appointment.

Appointment times are available on a first-come, first-serve basis. We recommend you schedule your appointment as soon as you receive your ATT email to maximize your chance of testing at your preferred location and on your preferred date. It is your responsibility to schedule your exam appointment.

TESTING CENTER INSTRUCTIONS

Plan to arrive at your exam site 30 minutes prior to your appointment time. It is highly recommended that you become familiar with the location of the testing site prior to the testing date. Please plan for weather, traffic, parking, and any security requirements that are specific to the testing location. Failure to arrive at your appointment on time may cause cancellation of your appointment.

You must present a current government issued photo identification that has your SIGNATURE. These are three acceptable forms of identification:

- Driver's license
- Passport
- Military ID

The name you use to register for the exam must *exactly match the name on your ID*. If the testing center administrator questions your identification, you may be asked for additional proof of identity.

SPECIAL TEST CENTERS, EXCLUDING UNITED STATES AND PARTS OF CANADA

It may be possible to set up a special testing center to take an exam in a country other than the US or Canada. Send a request for special testing to info@nbcson.org or by calling 833.276.0986. All requests must be received eight (8) weeks prior to the beginning of the testing window.

REMOTE PROCTORING

NBCSN offers remote proctoring as an option for testing but should only be utilized if taking the exam at a testing facility is not possible. While NBCSN is happy to provide this testing option, it is highly recommended that candidates take the exam at a testing facility. Remote proctoring is offered to provide a testing option if a testing facility is not within a reasonable distance for the candidate.

Please note that we are unable to reschedule exams in the event of technical difficulties, issues accessing the exam, or complications related to using a work or school issued computer. In such cases, your application fee will be forfeited, and you will be required to submit a new application and payment to test again.

Please also note: If another person enters the room, speaks to you, or otherwise interrupts your testing session, your exam will be terminated immediately by the remote proctor. In these cases, your application fee will be forfeited, and you will be required to submit a new application and payment in order to test again.

Is Remote Proctoring Right for Me?

Honest answer, most likely, it is not. Things to consider before choosing remote proctoring:

- Do I meet the technical requirements? [Please see the PSI website for more information.](#)
- Am I comfortable with troubleshooting should a technical issue occur?
- Can I ensure that no one will enter the room, speak to me, or call out to me while I am testing?
- Do I accept that if I have issues, (technical or otherwise) and I am unable to take the exam, I will have to reapply and re-pay the registration fee?

If you answered “No” to any of these questions, then the remote proctor experience may not be for you. NBCSN recommends you choose a testing facility.

If you have answered “Yes” to all questions, please visit the [PSI webpage](#) for further information. Be sure to read the webpage and additional documentation in its entirety.

You will need a camera, microphone, a quiet and well-lit room, and a clean area if you wish to utilize this testing solution.

[PSI Remote Proctoring Information](#)

PSI Exam Tutorial

Before your scheduled exam date, you are required to complete the PSI Exam Tutorial. The tutorial is included in the booking confirmation email you receive from PSI after scheduling your exam.

You MUST complete the tutorial at least 24 hours before your scheduled testing time, using:

- The same device you intend to use for your exam, and
- The same location where you intend to take your exam.

Completing the tutorial in advance allows you to confirm that your device, internet connection, and testing environment meet PSI's requirements before exam day.

IMPORTANT: If you do not complete the tutorial before your exam and your device is determined to be unsupported or you are unable to launch your exam, you will not be eligible to reschedule your exam, and your exam fee will be forfeited.

Use of a Work Computer for Testing

Taking PSI exams on a work computer is highly discouraged and not advised due to potential firewall restrictions, administrative permission issues, and blocked software installations. PSI requires a secure browser that may conflict with corporate VPNs, security policies, and active background programs. **If it is found that a work computer is the reason you are unable to test or to complete the exam, you will not be refunded and you will be required to re-register when you wish to re-test.**

Please note: If you attempt to test remotely using an unsupported device, a work computer that does not have the necessary permissions, or experience technical issues that prevent you from launching or completing your exam, **you will not be permitted to retest without submitting a new application and paying the exam fee again.**

If the Remote Proctor terminates your exam for any irregularity, you will not be permitted to retest.

ADA AND OTHER ACCOMMODATIONS

Special testing arrangements will be made for individuals with special needs. There is a section on the application where you can request accommodations for special needs and provide details on your requirements.

You will be asked to enter your requested accommodations, and an explanation for your request. You can upload your documentation, then click **Submit Accommodations Request**. **You must make any requests for accommodations before scheduling your test.**

Please note that PSI cannot provide a reader/translator for remote proctoring.

ABOUT THE COMPUTER BASED TESTING FORMAT

The NCSN exam has been computer-based since 2007. The computer screen displays the questions one at a time. You may change the answers to any question at any time during the testing session. None of the answers are submitted until you complete the exam by choosing "SUBMIT" on the last screen of the examination. After that time, you cannot change any answers.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

The NBCSN provides a mechanism for answering your questions and responding to your comments or challenges. It is your responsibility to initiate this process in writing within 30 days of receiving your examination results or within 30 days of the incident, whichever is sooner. Direct questions/comments to the NBCSN except for those about the administration of the examination or the testing site which should be referred to PSI.

RULES FOR THE EXAMINATION

1. Simple calculators are permitted, but calculators must be small (handheld or smaller), noiseless, cordless, and tapeless, and must have no printing capability, expansion capability, or alphanumeric keyboards or displays. A calculator is also available on the computer screen. Calculators included in cell phones and other electronic devices are not allowed.
2. Electronic devices, including but not limited to, cell phones, pagers, Bluetooth type devices, MP3 players such as iPods, cameras, voice recorders, laptop computers and tablets cannot be used during the exam and must be turned off.
3. No papers, books or reference materials may be taken into or removed from the examination room.
4. No questions concerning exam content may be asked during the testing period. Carefully read the directions that are on the computer screen at the beginning of the exam session.
5. Leaving the testing room is not allowed during your test, with the sole exception of going to the restroom.
6. Food or beverages cannot be brought into the test center unless prior permission has been granted due to a medical need (see **ADA...** page 14).

REPORT OF RESULTS

At the close of your exam you will receive an unofficial pass/fail result. You will receive official results within 2–7 days following your exam and your account will be updated at this time. When you receive your notification letter from NBCSN it will contain a link and information regarding how to access your score report letter from PSI. Whether you pass or fail the exam, we encourage you to access this letter as it will provide you with more detailed information as to how you performed on each section of the exam.

RE-EXAMINATION

Eligible candidates may take the Certification Examination for School Nurses as often as desired upon filing a new application and payment of fees. There is no limit to the number of times you may take the exam. Candidate who apply within one year from their exam will have a \$100 discount towards the retake of the exam. This discount is embedded in the candidate's account and will not be seen until the application is complete.

RECERTIFICATION

To maintain NCSN status, you must recertify by examination or continuing education every five years. Information about the requirements for recertification can be found on the NBCSN website at <https://nbcsn.org/recertification> and in the Recertification Handbook

It is the responsibility of the NCSN to keep their contact information up-to-date with NBCSN (address, telephone and email) in order to receive the reminder notices sent out in advance of a candidate's recertification date and to avoid an additional fee for submitting a late application.

CONFIDENTIALITY

1. NBCSN will release test scores ONLY to the individual candidate.
2. If you have previously authorized release to a State or other jurisdiction, for state certification purposes, they will only receive notification of your Pass/Fail status.
3. Refer any questions concerning test results to NBCSN.
4. The NBCSN maintains a registry of Nationally Certified School Nurses and may report them in its publications.
5. The NBCSN will provide a letter to your employer regarding your Pass/Fail status, per your written request.

CONTENT OF EXAMINATION

1. The Certification Examination for School Nurses is a computer-based exam composed of a maximum of 200 multiple choice, objective questions with a total testing time of four (4) hours.
2. Content Outline, on the next page, describes the contents for the exam.
3. The exam questions are developed through a rigorous process of item writing and item review from individuals with expertise in school nursing and school health issues and are evaluated on a regular basis for construction, accuracy, and appropriateness by the NBCSN.
4. The NBCSN, with the advice and assistance of PSI, prepares the examination.
5. The Certification Examination for School Nurses will be weighted as listed in the content outline tables below:

CONTENT OUTLINE

	Domain	# of Items
I	Health Appraisal and Nursing Process	52
II	Health Promotion/Disease Prevention	41
III	School Health Practice Considerations	32
IV	Professional Responsibility	50
N/A	Pre-Test Items (non-scored)	25

I. HEALTH APPRAISAL and NURSING PROCESS

- A. *Physical Health*
- B. *Psychosocial Health*
- C. *Mental and Behavioral Health*
- D. *Growth and Development*
- E. *Review of Systems*
- F. *Emergency Care*
- G. *Acute and Chronic Conditions*
- H. *Communicable Diseases*

II. HEALTH PROMOTION/DISEASE PREVENTION

- A. *Immunizations*
- B. *Risk Reduction*
- C. *Infection Prevention*
- D. *Health Education for Students, Families, Staff, and Stakeholders*
- E. *Community Health Needs, Resources, and Partnerships*
- F. *Cultural Considerations*
- G. *Environmental Concerns*
- H. *Safety Education*
- I. *Emergency Response Planning*

III. SCHOOL HEALTH PRACTICE CONSIDERATIONS

- A. *Abuse and Neglect (e.g., identification, mandated reporting)*
- B. *Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation*
- C. *Substance Use, Abuse, and Addiction*
- D. *Medical and Assistive Technology*
- E. *Homelessness/Poverty (e.g., McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, food insecurity)*
- F. *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (Individualized Education Plan)*
- G. *Americans with Disabilities Act (Section 504 Plan)*
- H. *Individualized Healthcare Plans and Emergency Action Plans*
- I. *Resources/Referrals*

IV. PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

- A. *Code of Ethics (ANA/NASN)*
- B. *Nurse Practice Act/Licensure/Certification/Scope and Standards of Practice*
- C. *Supervision, Delegation, and Evaluation of Licensed and Unlicensed Staff*
- D. *Leadership (e.g., mentoring, orienting, advocating)*
- E. *Student Health Record Management*
- F. *Medication Protocols and Procedures*
- G. *Treatment Protocols and Procedures*
- H. *Confidentiality (e.g., HIPPA, FERPA)*
- I. *Local Policy, State, and Federal Laws*
- J. *Data Collection, Analysis, and Reporting*
- K. *Research and Evidence-Based Practice*

SAMPLE EXAMINATION QUESTIONS

In the following questions, choose the ONE best answer:

1. In the school setting, a student with a seizure disorder should:
 - a. wear a helmet for protection.
 - b. have a seizure action plan on file.
 - c. sit near the teacher for close supervision.
 - d. have a medic alert tag for field trips.

2. When writing a Health Plan for a student with seizures, which of the following need NOT be considered?
 - a. Altered health maintenance related to knowledge deficit of benefits of compliance to prescribed regimen.
 - b. Potential for self-esteem disturbance related to chronic condition.
 - c. Potential for aspiration related to seizure activity.
 - d. Potential for infection related to chronic conditions.

3. A doctor has faxed the nurse the medical information about a student's newly diagnosed seizure condition. To manage this student's care at school, the nurse should first:
 - a. talk with the teacher about the student's need for classroom safety.
 - b. talk with the campus administrator about the student needing additional services.
 - c. talk with the parent to determine how the family and student are coping with the condition.
 - d. talk with the PE teacher about changes in the student's activity level.

4. There has been an accident on the playground. When the nurse arrives, a 10-year-old student is observed to be holding their front tooth. The nurse asks the teacher to call the parent because the child must be transported to a dentist immediately. The nurse then should:
 - a. clean off the tooth by rubbing and rinsing with normal saline.
 - b. protect the tooth by wrapping in a gauze pad or tissue.
 - c. rinse the tooth with water while holding it by the crown.
 - d. drop in milk solution while holding the tooth by the crown.

5. The nurse suspects a medication protocol in the district is not best practice. Which of the following is the least appropriate method for investigation?

- a. Contact the state's school nurse consultant.
- b. Conduct a literature review.
- c. Ask a colleague in a neighboring district.
- d. Survey the state's regulations, legislation, and guidelines.

6. The health department conducts vision and hearing screening as a contracted service to the school district. The students' vision and hearing screening records are:

- a. subject to the privacy accorded by the Family Education Rights Privacy Act (FERPA) and belong to the school district.
- b. subject to the privacy accorded by Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and belong to the health department.
- c. subject to the privacy accorded by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and belong to the school district.
- d. considered mandated health information and not subject to privacy rules.

7. A Methicillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) outbreak in the school is best combated by:

- a. isolation of infected students.
- b. frequent hand washing.
- c. notifying health department.
- d. closing the school for decontamination

8. A nine-year-old student with Type I Diabetes presents to the school nurse to report that their blood sugar is high and they need to self-administer a correction dose of insulin. They have an individualized health care plan in place with parental signature, as well as signed written orders for short acting insulin daily at lunch and "as needed" for blood glucose readings >150 from their health care provider. Their meter reads 242 and the prescriber's order for determining the correction dose is:

Blood Glucose - 150

50

They have their insulin pen and asks the nurse to double check that they have dialed in the correct number of units. It is 10am and his scheduled lunchtime is at noon.

The appropriate correction dose of insulin to administer would be:

- a. 2 units of Lantus insulin.
- b. 3 units of Lantus insulin.
- c. 2 units of Novalog insulin.
- d. 3 units of Novalog insulin.

9. A 6th grade student has transferred into the district during the absence of the school nurse. Upon return, the nurse finds a written health care plan with parent signature, orders from the physician for an Epipen to be administered “as needed” for severe allergy reactions to nut products, and an unexpired auto- injectable epinephrine 0.15mg. pen in the mailbox. After introducing herself to the student and noting that the student is of normal height and weight for her age, the most appropriate next action for the school nurse would be to:

- a. make copies of all paperwork and distribute to all staff and volunteers who may have contact with the student.
- b. call the ordering physician to clarify the correct dose of the epinephrine.
- c. call the parent to obtain an additional “back up” dose of medication to be used for field trips.
- d. take a photo of the child and attach to the health care plan to assist appropriate staff in identifying this at-risk students.

10. During a health lesson, the school nurse is talking to middle school students about the importance of building strong bones now to prevent fractures and osteoporosis. Which of the following is MOST important to include to encourage development of healthy bones?

- a. Bone growth doubles during ages 9-18, so iron requirements double.
- b. Calcium rich foods, sunlight and weight-bearing exercise build strong bones.
- c. During adolescence, increased protein intake is essential for growth.
- d. When fractures occur in children, bone density screening is recommended to detect rickets or osteoporosis.

11. A 13-year-old boy has become a frequent visitor complaining of severe headaches. Upon their most recent visit, the nurse notices bruises on his neck and petechiae around his eyes, and suspects that he may be involved in the “choking game”. The nurse’s first course of action should be to:

- a. refer to the counselor for suicide assessment.
- b. visit with the principal to determine if other students have talked about this dangerous activity.
- c. call his parents to warn them about her suspicions and to increase their vigilance.
- d. talk to the student about their activities during time spent alone.

12. A 5-year-old student is brought to the school nurse by a teacher. The teacher states the student fell off of the monkey bars and landed on right arm. The child is crying and complaining of pain around the right elbow. The nurse notes swelling at the site. After applying ice to the arm, the nurse should

- a. put the arm in a sling and send the student back to class.
- b. call 911 then notify the parent(s)/guardian.
- c. notify the parent(s)/guardian and recommend immediate follow-up with the primary care provider.
- d. notify the parent(s)/guardian and recommend follow-up with the primary care provider at the end of the day.

V. Correct Answers to Sample Questions:

1.b; 2.d; 3.c; 4.d; 5.c; 6.a; 7.b; 8.c; 9.b; 10.b; 11.d; 12.c

For more sample questions see the [Exam Prep](#) section of the NBCSN website

