



# HOUSE BILL 433: Registered Nurses in Schools.

2025-2026 General Assembly

<b>Committee:</b>	House Education - K-12. If favorable, re-refer to Health. If favorable, re-refer to Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	<b>Date:</b>	April 29, 2025
<b>Introduced by:</b>	Reps. Gillespie, White, Cotham, Reeder	<b>Prepared by:</b>	Hillary Woodard Staff Attorney
<b>Analysis of:</b>	PCS to First Edition H433-CSCH-13		

**OVERVIEW:** *House Bill 433 would provide that a licensed registered nurse with at least two years of experience in a hospital or health clinic would be required to be paid on the certified school nurse pay scale.*

*The PCS for House Bill 433 would clarify that the State Board of Education would not be authorized to require a four-year degree to be hired or contracted for as a school nurse and would make technical and clarifying changes.*

**CURRENT LAW:** The State Board of Education (State Board) has the authority to certify all applicants for professional positions, including school nurses, in all public elementary and high schools of North Carolina. See Article 21 of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes. The State Board is also authorized to establish the qualifications and training required to be hired or contracted for as a certified school nurse. However, the State Board is not authorized to require or impose a requirement that would require a school nurse to obtain a four-year degree as a condition of employment. G.S. 115C-315(d2).

School nurses can obtain a national certification in the specialty of school nursing. This national certification requires, among other qualifications, documentation of hours of employment as a school nurse, a baccalaureate degree or higher in nursing, and an additional exam. If a school nurse is a nationally certified school nurse, that nurse is paid on the classroom teacher's master's degree ("M") salary schedule according to their years of experience. School nurses who are not nationally certified are paid on the noncertified nurse salary schedule. The State Board's [2024-2025 Salary Manual](#), as of April 10, 2025, states that all school nurses employed since July 1, 1998, must be nationally certified either at the time of employment or within three years of employment.

**BILL ANALYSIS:** The PCS would clarify that the State Board could not impose a four-year degree requirement in order to be hired or contracted for as a school nurse. In addition, the PCS would require that a school nurse be paid under the certified nurse pay scale as established by the State Board if the nurse is a registered nurse licensed under Article 9A of Chapter 90 of the General Statutes and has at least two years of experience serving in a hospital or health clinic.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Effective when it becomes law and applies to school nurses who are hired or contracted for as a school nurse on or after that date.

Kara McCraw  
Director



\* H 4 3 3 - S M C H - 2 1 C S C H - 1 3 - V - 7 \*

Legislative Analysis  
Division  
919-733-2578