

## School Nurse Licensure Requirements and Renewal Handout

### (a) Initial License.

- 1) Valid license to practice as a Registered Nurse in Massachusetts.
- 2) A bachelor's or master's degree in nursing.
- 3) A minimum of two full years of employment as a Registered Nurse in a child health, community health, or other relevant clinical nursing setting.
- 4) Completion of an orientation program (Level 1) based on the requirements for delivery of school health services as defined by the Department of Public Health.
- 5) Passing score on the Communication and Literacy Skills test (MTEL).

### **Level 1 includes completing these four (4) programs (can be taken in any order)**

- a. Professional School Nursing Practice in Massachusetts (2 day program)
- b. Medication Administration and Delegation in MA Schools (online program)
- c. Mandated Screening Training (includes BMI, Postural Screening, Vision and Hearing screening) (1 day program)
- d. SBIRT in Schools (1 day program)

Information about these courses can be found at [www.SHIELD-BU.org](http://www.SHIELD-BU.org)

### (b) Professional License.

- 1) Possession of an Initial license.
- 2) Three years of employment as a school nurse.
- 3) Completion of one of the following:
  - a. Achievement and maintenance of certification or licensure by a nationally recognized professional nursing association as a school nurse, community health nurse, or a pediatric/family/school nurse practitioner.
  - b. A master's degree program that may include credits earned in a master's degree program for the Initial license in community health, health education, nursing, or public health.

### **School Nurse DESE Educator License and National Certification Renewals**

School Nurses must renew their educator license and their national certification every 5 years, regardless if they have their Master's degree. In order for School Nurses to obtain a professional educator license, they must either have their Master's degree or National Certification. School Nurses can obtain the initial educator license and waive these requirements once, so that they have 10 years to either get the Master's or the National Certification. (Click on both links above to review details).

### **DESE Licensure Requirements Tool:**

<https://gateway.edu.state.ma.us/elar/licensurerehelp/LicenseRequirementsCriteriaPageControl.ser>