



# Multistate License (MSL) Information for Nurses Practicing in Schools

## What is the Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC)?

[Multistate License | Washington State Board of Nursing \(https://nursing.wa.gov/msl\)](https://nursing.wa.gov/msl)

- Washington State joined the NLC on July 24th, 2023. The NLC increases access to nursing care, while maintaining public protection at the state level.
- Under the NLC, nurses can practice in Washington state and other NLC states and territories, without getting additional licenses (*whether the practice is in person or telehealth*).
- The NLC license should be issued in the “home” state where the nurse has established their primary state of residency (e.g., where they have a driver’s license, voter registration, etc.).

## Why would a nurse need a multistate license?

- Nurses are required to be licensed in the state where the recipient of nursing practice is located at the time service is provided.
- A multistate license allows the nurse to practice in the home state and all compact states and territories with one license issued by the home state.
- This eliminates the costly and time-consuming process of obtaining single-state licenses in each state of practice.

## What are the implications for school nursing?

- All nurses practicing in Washington state must follow the [Washington Nurse Practice Act \(https://app.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=246-840\)](https://app.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=246-840) when providing care to patients in Washington.
- Field Trips [updated6212021nursingmemorandumandguidance-1.pdf \(ospi.k12.wa.us\)](#)
  - When practicing in other states, including those that are part of NLC, nurses must follow the nurse practice act (NPA) of the state that the student is in. It is your responsibility to ensure that you are following the correct NPA.
  - The student's location guides what NPA the nurse follows (e.g., student from Washington state travels to Idaho for a field trip. The nurse must understand and follow the Idaho Nurse Practice Act and may not be able to delegate medications). It is important to note that not all states allow delegation of medications or other skilled nursing tasks.
  - Reciprocal agreements vs Multistate licensure
    - Reciprocal agreements are situation agreements between the RN and the state where care is given. This sometimes occurs when practicing in states that are not part of the NLC (e.g., Oregon, California, Washington D.C.).
    - Multistate licensure only applies to states that are part of the NLC.

**What states are part of NLC?** [NLC\\_Map.pdf \(nursecompact.com\)](#)