

MaryEllen Hatfield School Nursing Certification Scholarship Award

The MaryEllen Hatfield School Nursing Certification Scholarship Awards are a memorial to MaryEllen Hatfield, South Carolina's School Health Nurse Consultant from 1980 until her retirement in 1997. MaryEllen was passionate about her work on behalf of children. It is SCASN's goal to validate the knowledge and expertise of the school nurse beyond basic RN licensure through board certification. School Nurse Board Certification demonstrates expertise, commitment, and excellence in patient care.

A board certified school nurse is a professional who chooses to take the extra step in their education to prove their competence and dedication to their students. The MaryEllen Hatfield School Nursing Certification Scholarship will encourage school nurses to seek higher educational levels and to remind us all to ask the question, "Is this in the best interest of the children?"

Scholarship awards will be provided as funds are available. The scholarships will reimburse one SCASN member per testing period who shows they have passed the NBCSN exam; as well as paying recertification fees for SCASN members who are actively participating as a Committee Chair or Board Member of SCASN.

To be considered for reimbursement after passing the NBCSN exam the school nurse must be an active member of SCASN in good standing and provide proof that they have passed the exam. The Board will determine which candidates will be awarded the scholarship.

A check made payable to the award recipient will be issued by SCASN. Scholarship recipients will be formally recognized at the SCASN Annual School Nurse Conference. Conference attendance is not required in order to receive the scholarship award.

MaryEllen Hatfield School Nursing Certification Scholarship Award

Application Due: **May 1st**

Email to: scasn@scasn.org

Subject: MaryEllen Hatfield Award

Name: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

SCASN Member Number: _____

NBCSN Certification Number: _____

ELIGIBILITY TO TAKE THE NCSN EXAM

Eligible candidates must

1. Submit a copy of their license as a registered nurse (RN) in one of the United States.
2. Submit an academic transcript or proof of current certification, demonstrating attainment of one of the following:
 - A bachelor's degree or higher in nursing* or the equivalent in other countries (Applicants who completed their education outside of the U.S. must submit verification of their international credentials obtained through a certified evaluation service.)
 1. OR
 - A master's degree in education with a concentration in school nursing or school health services from an NBCSN approved, accredited institution. Contact info@nbcsn.org with information about specific programs (not every program will qualify).
 1. OR
 - Current certification by NBCSN as an NCSN.

* According to the School Nursing Scope and Standards of Practice 3rd ed. "Because of the broad scope of the specialty practice and the complexity of issues addressed within a school community setting by the school nurse requiring advanced skills, which include the ability to practice independently, supervise others, and delegate care, NASN recommends a BSN degree from an accredited college or university, as well as state certification in those states requiring

or recommending state school nurse licensure/certification". National Association of School Nurses and American Nurses Association (2017). *School nursing scope and standards of practice*. Silver Spring, MD, American Nurses Association.

1. Meet the clinical practice requirements of a minimum of 1,000 hours that have been worked within the three years prior to taking the test. 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.
2. Complete the online application to take the certification examination for school nurses.
3. Pay the required fee.

For more information go to <https://www.nbcsn.org/>

Recertification:

All NCSNs are required to renew their certification in order to demonstrate that they have kept current with new practices, methodologies, equipment, medications, and terminology in the specialty of school nursing. School Nurse certification is granted for a period of five (5) years at which time the certificant must either retake and pass the Certification Examination for School Nurses or meet current continuing education and recertification requirements.

Continuing competence is defined as: the ongoing commitment of a registered nurse to integrate and apply the knowledge, skills, and judgment with the attitudes, values, and beliefs required to practice safely, effectively, and ethically in a designated role, patient population and/or setting.

NBCSN conducts a job analysis every 5 years to confirm that the Nationally Certified School Nurse credential and examination correctly reflect the most current and up-to-date school nursing practice. Recertification is required every 5 years.