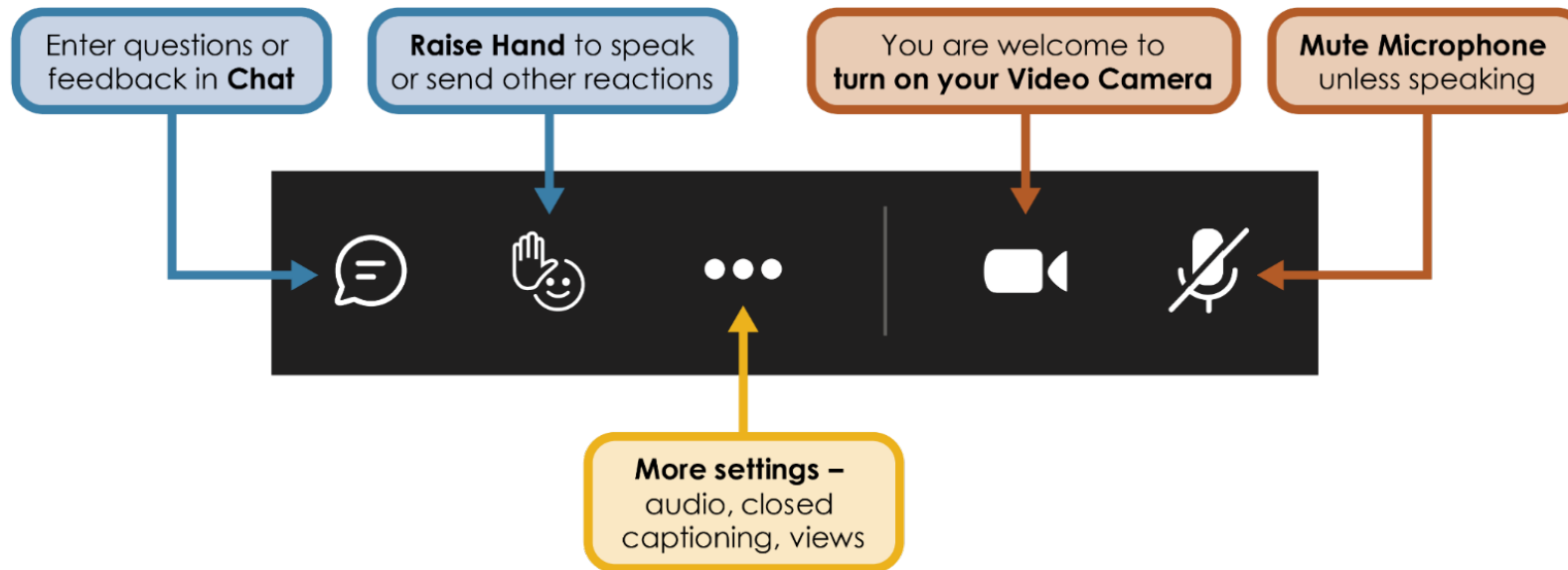




RN/LPN Licensing and Continuing Competency Rulemaking

Jessilyn Dagum, Policy Analyst

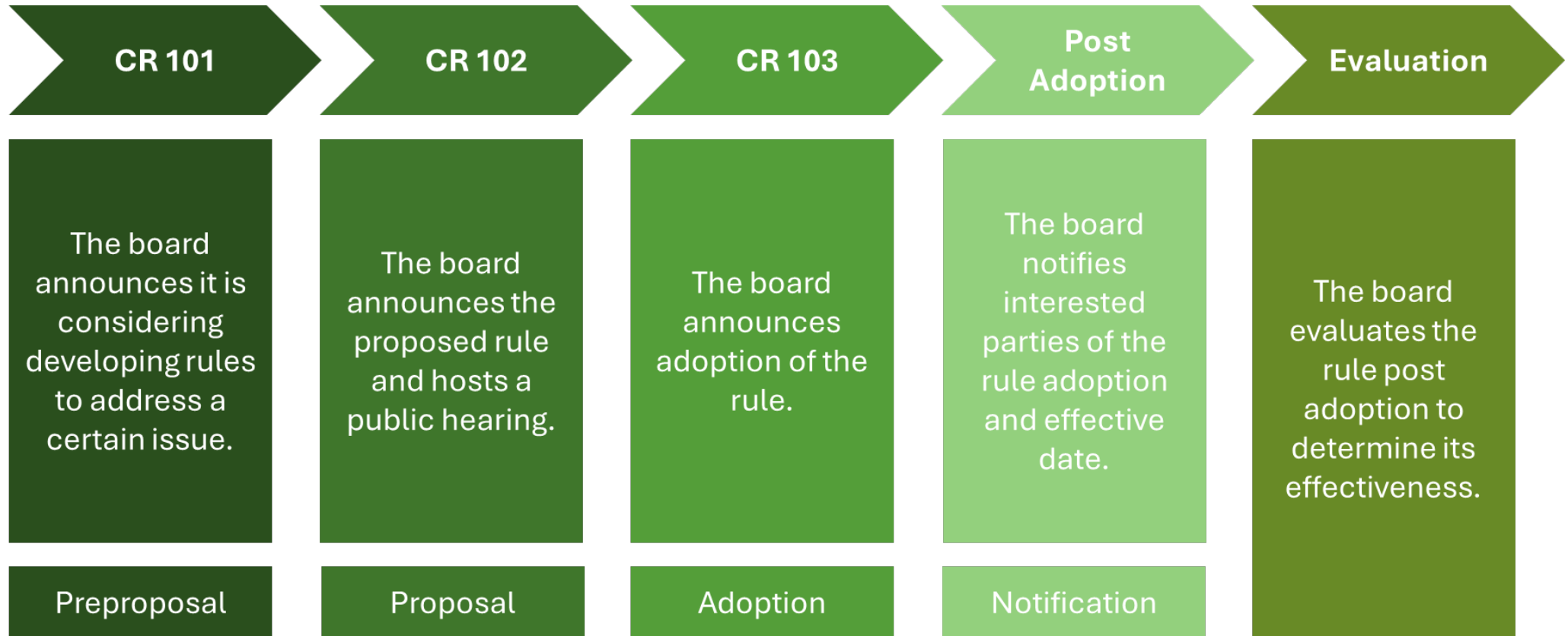
Zoom Features We Will Use Today



Meeting Reminders

- Be mindful and respectful of all those in attendance.
- Please raise your hand to speak and staff will call on you to share.
 - State your name before speaking.
 - Speak clearly and audibly.
 - Keep your mic muted unless asked to share.
- Please be mindful of the time and allow others the opportunity to speak.
- Please stay on topic.

Rulemaking Process



Chapter 246-840 Rewrite

Formal Rule Review

[RCW 43.70.041](#)

- Five-year formal review process of existing rules
- Assess existing rules to identify outdated or redundant sections
- Rewrite and reformat existing rules to reflect current best practices

Overview

- Clean up and restructure Chapter 246-840 WAC in phases
- Change the chapter title from “Practical and Registered Nursing” to reflect the board’s appropriate purview
- Change “commission” to “board”
- Correct outdated WAC references

Phased Approach

Phase 1

- RN/LPN Licensing, Continuing Competency

Phase 2

- Advanced Practice

Phase 3

- Nursing Education Programs, Nurse Technicians

Phase 4

- Practice Standards and Delegation

Phase 1: RN/LPN Licensing and CC Rules

The Washington State Board of Nursing (board) is considering amendments to WAC 246-840-015 through 246-840-260 to:

- 1. Clarify and update outdated language;**
- 2. Rewrite and reformat existing rules to reflect current best practices; and**
- 3. Restructure sections as necessary**

The purpose of this rulemaking is part of the board's 5-year formal rule review process in accordance with RCW 43.70.041. The board is conducting this review in a phased approach. This rulemaking is Phase 1 of the board's formal review process.

Specific Objectives

1

Simplify Barriers
for Multistate
Licensure
Applicants

2

Reduce Barriers
for Applicants
Educated Outside
the United States

3

Explore limiting
NCLEX Attempts
Before
Remediation

4

Incorporate
Legislative
Updates

Reduce Barriers for Applicants Educated Outside the United States

WAC 246-840-045

WAC 246-840-045

Initial licensure for registered nurses and practical nurses who graduate from an international school of nursing.

(1) Registered nurse and practical nurse applicants educated in a jurisdiction which is not a member of the National Council of State Boards of Nursing and applying for initial licensure must:

(c) **Demonstrate English language proficiency by passing a commission approved English proficiency examination** at a commission designated standard, or provide evidence directly from the school of earning a high school diploma or college degree from a United States institution prior to commission approval to take the national licensing examination. Individuals from Canada (except for Quebec), United Kingdom, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Island, and U.S. Virgin Islands will have this requirement waived.



WAC 246-840-090

WAC 246-840-090

Licensure for nurses by interstate endorsement.

Registered nurse and practical nurse applicants for interstate endorsement may be issued a license without examination provided the applicant meets the following requirements:

(4) An applicant graduating from a nursing program outside the U.S. shall demonstrate English proficiency by:

(a) Passing a board-approved English proficiency test if the nursing education is not in one of the following countries: Canada (except for Quebec), United Kingdom, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, and U.S. Virgin Islands; or

(b) Completing 1,000 hours of employment as a licensed nurse in another state. The 1,000 hours of employment must be in the same licensed role as the nurse is applying for licensure in Washington state. Proof of employment must be submitted to the board; or

(c) Providing evidence directly from the program of earning a high school diploma or college degree from a United States institution.



Board Approved English Proficiency Exams

1. **Test of English as a Foreign Language ([TOEFL](#), IBT)**
 - Passing LPN score: 79 with a speaking score of 26 (institution code: 7292)
 - Passing RN score: 84 with a speaking score of 26 (institution code: 7292)
2. **International English Language Testing System ([IELTS](#), academic version)**
 - Passing LPN and RN score: 6.5 with a score of 6.0 in listening, reading, writing, and speaking.
3. **The Occupational English Test ([OET](#))**
 - Passing LPN and RN scores:
 - Minimum score of 300 in listening, reading and writing.
 - Minimum score of 280 in speaking.

4. **Michigan English Test ([MET](#))**
 - Passing LPN and RN scores:
 - Minimum score of 55 overall
 - Minimum score of 55 in speaking
5. **Canadian English Language Benchmark Assessment for Nurses (CELBAN)**
 - The minimum required scores for CELBAN are as follows:
 - Listening: CLB 9
 - Reading: CLB 8
 - Writing: CLB 7
 - Speaking: CLB 8

NCSBN Model Act and Rules

Model Act Article V Section 3 Licensure by Examination

c. For internationally educated applicants, in addition to any requirements in rule, successful passage of an English proficiency exam that includes the components of reading, speaking, writing, and listening, except for applicants from countries where English is the native language, and the nursing program where the applicant attended was taught in English, used English textbooks and clinical experiences were conducted in English.

Model Rules Chapter 5.4 Additional Requirements for Licensure by Examination of Internationally Educated Applicants

c. Passage of an English proficiency examination, if a graduate of a foreign prelicensure education program not taught in English or if English is not the individual's native language, that includes the components of reading, speaking, writing and listening



NCSBN 2023 Licensure Survey

- The compiled data is available as a complete report via the Member Board Profiles Custom Report Tool.
- 59 Jurisdictions were included in the report



2023 Licensure Survey

Generated: 3/13/2024 2:44:40 PM

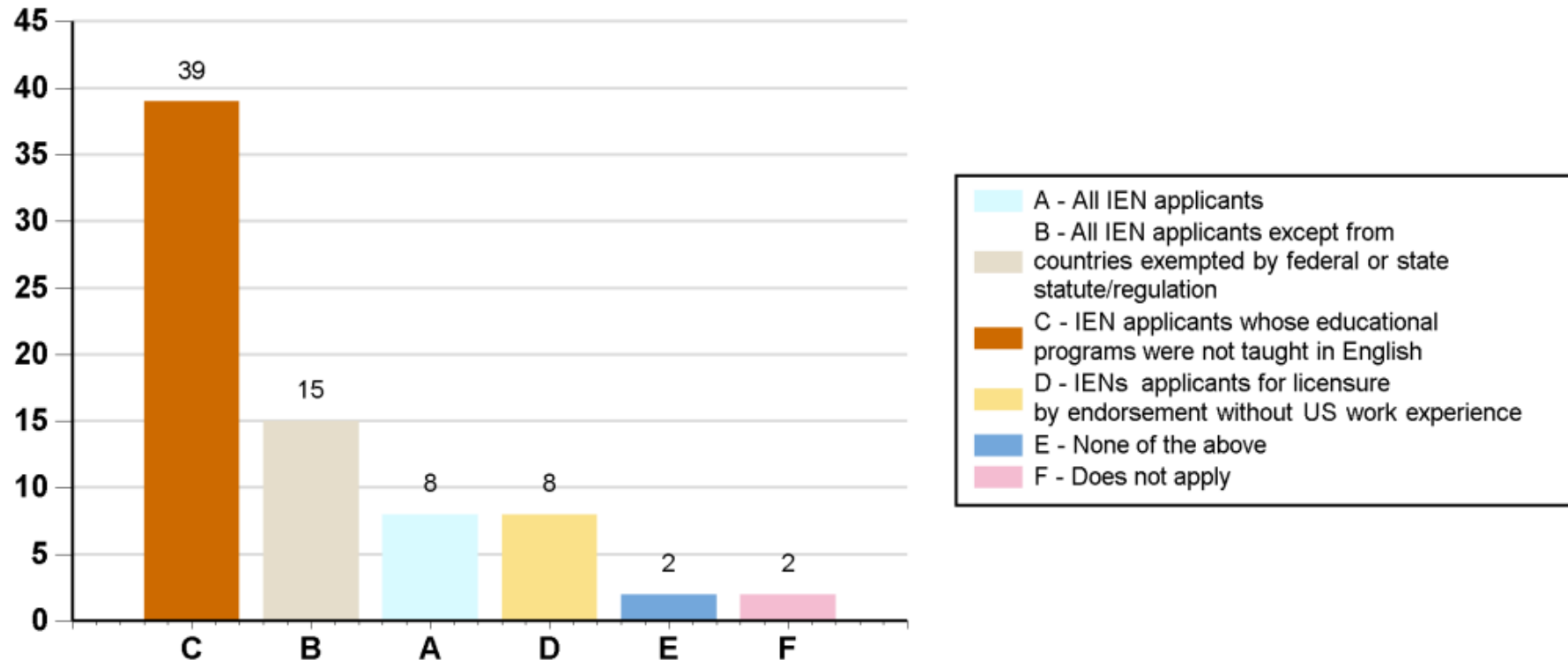
59 Jurisdictions Included in the report:

Alabama (AL)	Alaska (AK)	American Samoa (AS)	Arizona (AZ)	Arkansas (AR)
California-RN (CA-RN)	California-VN (CA-VN)	Colorado (CO)	Connecticut (CT)	Delaware (DE)
District of Columbia (DC)	Florida (FL)	Georgia (GA)	Guam (GU)	Hawaii (HI)
Idaho (ID)	Illinois (IL)	Indiana (IN)	Iowa (IA)	Kansas (KS)
Kentucky (KY)	Louisiana-PN (LA-PN)	Louisiana-RN (LA-RN)	Maine (ME)	Maryland (MD)
Massachusetts (MA)	Michigan (MI)	Minnesota (MN)	Mississippi (MS)	Missouri (MO)
Montana (MT)	Nebraska-AP (NE-APRN)	Nebraska (NE)	Nevada (NV)	New Hampshire (NH)
New Jersey (NJ)	New Mexico (NM)	New York (NY)	North Carolina (NC)	North Dakota (ND)
Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI)	Ohio (OH)	Oklahoma (OK)	Oregon (OR)	Pennsylvania (PA)
Rhode Island (RI)	South Carolina (SC)	South Dakota (SD)	Tennessee (TN)	Texas (TX)
Utah (UT)	Vermont (VT)	Virgin Islands (VI)	Virginia (VA)	Washington (WA)
West Virginia-PN (WV-PN)	West Virginia-RN (WV-RN)	Wisconsin (WI)	Wyoming (WY)	

0 Jurisdictions not included in the report due to non-response:



Q42. Do you require proof of passage of an English proficiency examination from any of the following internationally educated applicants (IENs)? (Check all that apply.)



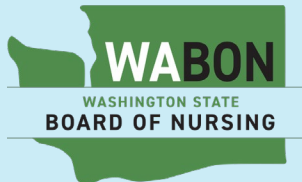
Responses	Jurisdictions	Number of Boards	Percentage of Boards Responding
All IEN applicants	AS, GU, IN, MI, MS, RI, UT, WV-PN	8	14%
All IEN applicants except from countries exempted by federal or state statute/regulation	AK, AR, IA, MD, MO, NC, NH, NV, OH, OK, VA, VT, WA , WV-RN, WY	15	26%
IEN applicants whose educational programs were not taught in English	AK, AL, AZ, CA-RN, CO, CT, DC, DE, FL, GA, HI, IA, ID, IL, KS, KY, LA-RN, MA, MD, ME, MI, MN, MO, ND, NE, NE-APRN, NH, NJ, NM, OR, PA, SC, SD, TN, TX, VI, VT, WI, WY	39	67%
IENs applicants for licensure by endorsement without US work experience	GA, MD, NE, NE-APRN, NJ, NV, OK, WA	8	14%
None of the above	LA-PN, MT	2	3%
Does not apply	CA-VN, CNMI	2	3%



Uniform Licensure Requirements for a Multistate License

An applicant for licensure in a state that is part of the eNLC will need to meet the following uniform licensure requirements:

3. Has passed an English proficiency examination (applies to graduates of an international education program not taught in English or if English is not the individual's native language)



Uniform Licensure Requirements for a Multistate License



Requirements:

An applicant for licensure in a state that is part of the eNLC will need to meet the following uniform licensure requirements:

1. Meets the requirements for licensure in the home state (state of residency);
2. a. Has graduated from a board-approved education program; or
b. Has graduated from an international education program (approved by the authorized accrediting body in the applicable country and verified by an independent credentials review agency);
3. Has passed an English proficiency examination (applies to graduates of an international education program not taught in English or if English is not the individual's native language);
4. Has passed an NCLEX-RN® or NCLEX-PN® Examination or predecessor exam;
5. Is eligible for or holds an active, unencumbered license (i.e., without active discipline);
6. Has submitted to state and federal fingerprint-based criminal background checks;
7. Has not been convicted or found guilty, or has entered into an agreed disposition, of a felony offense under applicable state or federal criminal law;
8. Has no misdemeanor convictions related to the practice of nursing (determined on a case-by-case basis);
9. Is not currently a participant in an alternative program;
10. Is required to self-disclose current participation in an alternative program; and
11. Has a valid United States Social Security number.

Recommendation

For RN/LPN Licensure (at a minimum):

Align with Model Rules Chapter 5.4 Additional Requirements for Licensure by Examination of Internationally Educated Applicants

c. Passage of an English proficiency examination, if a graduate of a foreign prelicensure education program not taught in English or if English is not the individual's native language, that includes the components of reading, speaking, writing and listening

For Multistate RN Licensure (at a minimum):

Align with the Uniform Licensure Requirements #3: Has passed an English proficiency examination (applies to graduates of an international education program not taught in English or if English is not the individual's native language);



Discussion

Upcoming Rule Workshops

- **February 10 from 5 - 6 PM (Evening): Licensure Requirements for Applicants Educated Outside the U.S.**
- February 13 from 5 - 6 PM (Evening): Limiting NCLEX Attempts Before Remediation
- February 21 from 1 - 2:30 PM: Review WAC 246-840-015 through 260
- February 25 from 3:30 - 5 PM: Review WAC 246-840-015 through 260
- February 27 from 3 - 4:30 PM: Review WAC 246-840-015 through 260
- March 4 from 3 - 4:30 PM: Review WAC 246-840-015 through 260

Next Steps

- Subscribe to the board's GovDelivery messaging system for the latest rulemaking announcements.
- Review the workshop materials prior to the next rule workshop

Questions? Email WABONRules@doh.wa.gov