

Advancing Nursing Education Together

From Shared Curriculum to Statewide Impact

2026 Report on Impact, Outcomes, and Future Directions

What is NMNEC?

For more than fifteen years, the New Mexico Nursing Education Consortium (NMNEC) has demonstrated how statewide collaboration can transform nursing education and strengthen New Mexico's nursing workforce.

Established in 2010 through a voluntary collaboration among New Mexico public universities and community colleges that chose to work together to improve nursing education statewide, NMNEC was created to expand access to Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) education, address barriers to educational advancement, improve educational consistency and quality, and strengthen New Mexico's nursing workforce.

What began as an innovative shared prelicensure RN curriculum has evolved into a comprehensive collaborative infrastructure supporting nursing education through shared curriculum development, faculty expertise, program evaluation, educational innovation, and continuous quality improvement. Today, NMNEC enables nursing programs to work collectively while maintaining their individual institutional missions and responding to the unique needs of the communities they serve.

NMNEC's greatest strength extends well beyond its shared curriculum. The consortium has built a statewide collaborative network of faculty leaders, committees, shared governance, program evaluation, and continuous quality improvement that enables participating institutions to accomplish together what would be difficult—and in many cases impossible—for any one institution to achieve independently. This collaborative infrastructure has become one of NMNEC's defining strengths and a national model for nursing education collaboration.

Rather than requiring each institution to independently develop solutions to shared challenges, NMNEC creates a statewide framework that maximizes resources, reduces duplication of effort, supports innovation, strengthens accreditation efforts, and allows nursing programs to collectively respond to New Mexico's evolving healthcare workforce needs.

As New Mexico continues to address nursing workforce shortages, geographic disparities, and the need for expanded educational opportunities, NMNEC is positioned to build upon this successful foundation by strengthening educational pathways, fostering innovation, sustaining statewide collaboration, and ensuring the organizational infrastructure necessary to support nursing education for years to come.

Why NMNEC Matters

New Mexico's geographic diversity, rural communities, and healthcare workforce needs require innovative solutions that expand access to high-quality nursing education while using educational resources effectively.

Since its inception, NMNEC has operated on a simple but powerful principle: when nursing programs collaborate, New Mexico can create greater opportunities for students, faculty, educational institutions, healthcare partners, and communities than any one program could achieve independently.

The consortium was founded on four guiding priorities:

- Expand access to high-quality nursing education throughout New Mexico.
- Provide nursing students across New Mexico with a consistent, high-quality educational foundation through a shared ADN and BSN curriculum.
- Support seamless educational progression across nursing pathways.
- Prepare skilled, compassionate nurses who are ready to meet the healthcare needs of New Mexico's communities.

These priorities continue to guide NMNEC's work as the consortium expands educational pathways, develops new statewide solutions to address nursing workforce needs, and strengthens the collaborative infrastructure that supports nursing education across New Mexico.

NMNEC has become an important statewide partner in addressing New Mexico's nursing workforce challenges by supporting educational access, promoting academic progression, strengthening program quality, and preparing graduates to serve communities throughout the state.

A Proven Statewide Collaborative Model

NMNEC has grown into a nationally recognized statewide nursing education collaboration demonstrating the effectiveness of voluntary institutional partnerships.

The consortium currently includes:

- Three public universities
- Nine public community colleges
- Faculty leaders representing nursing programs throughout New Mexico
- Statewide committees dedicated to:
 - Curriculum development and maintenance
 - Program evaluation
 - Student success
 - Faculty development
 - Educational innovation

In 2024, NMNEC celebrated ten years of graduates from its shared curriculum model—a significant milestone demonstrating the long-term sustainability and success of statewide collaboration.

Through this work, participating programs benefit from:

- A continuously updated and maintained statewide concept-based curriculum
- Shared educational resources and teaching strategies
- Coordinated curriculum review and revision
- Statewide program evaluation and data analysis
- Faculty collaboration and professional development
- Support for accreditation and continuous quality improvement
- Collaborative scholarship, grant development, and educational innovation opportunities
- Committee coordination across participating programs and shared governance
- Shared communications, faculty onboarding, and educational resources

This shared infrastructure improves consistency, reduces duplication, strengthens educational quality, supports accreditation, and allows faculty to focus more time and energy on student learning and success. Just as importantly, it provides statewide coordination and collaborative support that would be difficult for individual institutions to sustain independently.

NMNEC by the Numbers

NMNEC's collaborative model has produced measurable educational and workforce outcomes by creating shared infrastructure, expanding educational access, supporting student success, and strengthening New Mexico's nursing workforce pipeline.

Statewide Reach

NMNEC supports collaboration among:

- **12 participating public nursing programs**
 - 3 public universities
 - 9 public community colleges

Through statewide faculty engagement and shared governance structures, NMNEC supports nursing programs in addressing common challenges while allowing institutions to maintain their unique missions and community focus.

Students Supported Through NMNEC Programs

NMNEC programs continue to support approximately 1,600 nursing students annually.

Students enrolled in NMNEC nursing courses on April 1:

Year	Total Students
2022	1,695
2023	1,558
2024	1,574
2025	1,593

In 2025:

- **883 BSN students (55.4%)** were enrolled in nursing courses.
- **270 ADN-BSN co-enrolled students (16.9%)** were progressing through a pathway toward baccalaureate education.
- **440 ADN students (27.6%)** were enrolled in associate degree nursing pathways.

Graduates Prepared to Enter the Nursing Workforce

Each year, NMNEC programs prepare hundreds of graduates to enter New Mexico's nursing workforce.

NMNEC graduates:

Academic Year	Total Graduates
2021–2022	794
2022–2023	833
2023–2024	843
2024–2025	774

From 2021–2022 through 2024–2025, NMNEC programs produced more than **3,200 nursing graduates**.

The 2024–2025 graduating class included:

- **314 BSN graduates (47.2%)**
- **102 ADN-BSN co-enrolled graduates (15.3%)**
- **249 ADN graduates (37.4%)**

NCLEX-RN Success Demonstrates Educational Effectiveness

NMNEC graduates continue to demonstrate strong outcomes on the national nursing licensure examination.

NMNEC NCLEX-RN First-Time Pass Rates:

Year	First-Time Pass Rate
2022	79.44%

Year	First-Time Pass Rate
2023	87.12%
2024	90.28%

In 2024:

- **Overall NMNEC first-time NCLEX-RN pass rate:** 90.28%
- **BSN graduates:** 93.53%
- **ADN-BSN co-enrolled graduates:** 93.81%
- **ADN graduates:** 84.82%

The continued improvement in NCLEX outcomes reflects the strength of NMNEC's shared curriculum, collaborative faculty expertise, continuous program evaluation, and collective commitment to student success.

Supporting New Mexico's Future Nursing Workforce

NMNEC's collaborative model not only expands access to nursing education but also supports development of a nursing workforce prepared to serve communities throughout New Mexico.

Student survey responses provide encouraging indicators of graduates' commitment to New Mexico, interest in rural healthcare, and plans for continued professional growth. These findings represent responding students from the 2024–2025 NMNEC student surveys. Although response rates varied, the findings have remained consistent with previous years.

Graduate Intent and Workforce Commitment

Among responding NMNEC students:

- **Commitment to Practice in New Mexico**
 - More than three-quarters indicated an intention to work as a registered nurse in New Mexico after graduation.
- **Interest in Rural Practice**
 - Nearly 70% expressed interest in working in a rural community after graduation.
- **Commitment to Continued Professional Growth**
 - More than half indicated plans to pursue graduate nursing education (MSN or doctoral level).

These findings reinforce NMNEC's role in developing a strong nursing workforce pipeline by expanding access to education, supporting continued professional advancement, and preparing nurses to serve communities throughout New Mexico.

Expanding Pathways into Nursing

Creating accessible pathways into nursing education has been central to NMNEC's mission since its founding.

The consortium's original shared prelicensure RN curriculum expanded opportunities for students to complete high-quality nursing education within their home communities while creating seamless pathways toward baccalaureate education. This collaborative approach has helped reduce barriers for students while allowing institutions to share expertise, resources, and innovation.

Building on this success, NMNEC is leading the **Statewide LPN Curriculum Project**, extending the collaborative model to practical nursing education. This initiative represents the next phase of NMNEC's commitment to expanding accessible pathways into nursing careers across New Mexico. The project builds on NMNEC's proven collaborative model and extends its benefits to practical nursing education.

The Statewide LPN Curriculum Project seeks to:

- Expand access to practical nursing education throughout New Mexico.
- Develop a shared, high-quality statewide LPN curriculum.
- Support consistency while allowing programs flexibility to address local workforce needs.
- Create stronger educational pathways from LPN preparation into RN education.
- Increase opportunities for students in rural and underserved communities to enter and advance within the nursing profession.

By strengthening progression from LPN education through RN and advanced nursing education pathways, NMNEC continues to support a nursing workforce that reflects and serves the diverse communities of New Mexico.

Sustaining the Future

As NMNEC continues to grow, sustaining statewide collaboration requires dedicated organizational infrastructure, leadership, and long-term support.

To provide this foundation, the consortium established **NMNEC Support**, a professional New Mexico 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. NMNEC Support was created to provide the administrative, operational, and financial infrastructure necessary to sustain and advance NMNEC's collaborative work.

In 2026, NMNEC also entered into a fiscal sponsorship with the New Mexico Community Foundation (NMCF), providing financial stewardship and philanthropic infrastructure to support charitable giving, grant management, and long-term organizational sustainability. Together, NMNEC Support and its partnership with the New Mexico Community Foundation position the consortium to diversify funding, strengthen partnerships, and invest in the future of nursing education across New Mexico.

NMNEC Support strengthens the consortium by supporting:

- Committee coordination across participating programs
- Shared curriculum maintenance
- Faculty collaboration
- Program evaluation and data management
- Technology and communication systems
- Faculty onboarding and member engagement
- Grant development and fiscal stewardship
- Development of new statewide educational initiatives
- Organizational sustainability and statewide coordination

This organizational structure enables participating nursing programs to remain focused on educating students while providing the dedicated infrastructure needed to maintain curriculum quality, statewide collaboration, and continuous improvement.

During a statewide strategic planning retreat in July 2026, NMNEC leadership identified priorities for the consortium's next chapter. The retreat reaffirmed that preserving statewide collaboration, strengthening organizational capacity, maintaining dedicated staffing, and ensuring long-term financial sustainability are essential to NMNEC's continued success.

The consortium's long-term sustainability strategy includes diversifying financial support through grants, legislative investment, membership support, strategic partnerships, philanthropy, and other opportunities that will ensure NMNEC remains a stable statewide resource for nursing education.

The value of this collaborative approach has already been recognized through external support, including a **\$20,000 award from the New Mexico Board of Nursing** supporting NMNEC's continued work to strengthen nursing education across New Mexico.

Partnership Opportunity

NMNEC offers a proven, cost-effective statewide model for strengthening nursing education and workforce development.

The continued success and expansion of this collaborative model depend on sustained partnerships among policymakers, healthcare organizations, educational institutions, philanthropic organizations, workforce development partners, and other stakeholders committed to strengthening New Mexico's healthcare workforce.

Through continued collaboration with higher education, healthcare employers, the New Mexico Board of Nursing, workforce organizations, and community partners, NMNEC is well positioned to continue serving as a statewide leader in nursing education innovation and workforce development.

Investment in NMNEC supports:

- Maintenance of essential statewide nursing education infrastructure



New Mexico Nursing Education Consortium (NMNEC)

- Expansion of accessible educational pathways
- Continued curriculum innovation and quality improvement
- Faculty collaboration and professional development
- Data-driven evaluation of student and program outcomes
- Development of new initiatives addressing emerging workforce needs
- Long-term sustainability of New Mexico's statewide nursing education collaborative

By supporting NMNEC, partners are investing in a sustainable statewide approach that expands opportunity for students, strengthens nursing education, and helps ensure New Mexico communities have access to a highly prepared nursing workforce.

Looking Forward

NMNEC's success demonstrates that statewide collaboration is one of the most effective strategies for addressing New Mexico's nursing education and workforce needs.

By working together, participating programs have created stronger, more accessible pathways into nursing education that support student success, promote consistent preparation across ADN and BSN programs, and help prepare graduates to meet the healthcare needs of communities throughout the state.

Looking ahead, NMNEC will continue to strengthen statewide collaboration, expand educational pathways, foster innovation, respond to emerging workforce needs, and build the sustainable organizational capacity necessary to support nursing education for future generations.

NMNEC is far more than a shared curriculum - it is New Mexico's collaborative nursing education infrastructure. It is a statewide community of educators, leaders, institutions, healthcare partners, and stakeholders who share a common commitment to preparing the next generation of nurses for New Mexico.

The consortium's greatest strength lies in the collaborative culture built over more than fifteen years through shared leadership, trust, innovation, and an unwavering commitment to educational excellence.

Through continued investment in collaboration, strengthened statewide partnerships, consistent communication, and sustainable organizational support, NMNEC is well positioned to continue transforming nursing education and addressing New Mexico's nursing workforce needs for many years to come.