



Rural Hospital & High School Nursing Assistant Partnership

“Rural Hospital & High School Nursing Assistant Partnership (RH & HS NAP)” is an innovative pilot project ([ESSB 5582](#)) designed to partner rural hospitals with Nursing Assistant (NA) training programs for high school students.

The overall purpose is to address workforce shortages by supporting student access and development in:

- NA education
- Entry into the healthcare workforce
- Advancement into nursing or other healthcare career pathways

Why participate as a hospital?

WABON is supporting new partnerships to reduce barriers to participation, help navigate questions about teen training and employment, and connect enthusiastic rural partners in new ways. Regional facilitation can reduce local workload and assist in responding to challenging issues.

- Establish or strengthen partnerships between the Washington Board of Nursing and existing NA programs.
- Facilitate connections and resources.
- Expand opportunities for student learning experiences in a variety of clinical settings.
- Increase employment opportunities for students as part of a nursing career pathway

Partners include

- Rural hospitals
- Relevant employer and exclusive bargaining unit partnerships
- Nursing assistant-certified training programs
- Department of Health / WABON
- Department of Labor and Industries

RH & HS NAP Myths:

- Students do NOT need to be 18 years of age to be trained in a hospital facility if they are in a state-certified training program.
- Not all hospitals require insurance to employ teens under 18 years.
Questions about teen employment – see the [Teen at Work flyer](#).

Questions or comments?

If you have a NA program or are considering starting one, please contact us at the following emails.

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