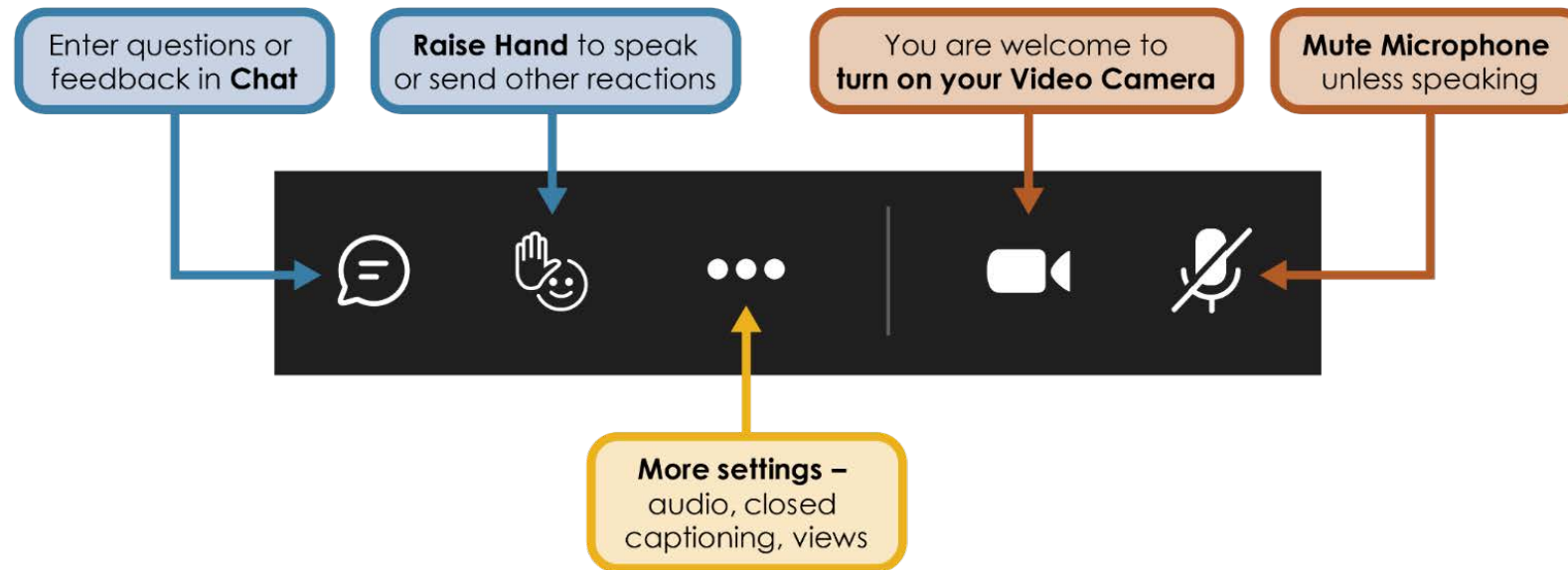




# RN/LPN Licensing and Continuing Competency Rulemaking

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# 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.

# 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 Clarify and update outdated language;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



# Discussion Questions

1. Should the board maintain or remove the English Proficiency Exam (EPE) requirement for applicants educated outside the US?
2. If the board chooses to maintain the English Proficiency Exam requirement (for both single-state and multistate licensure), should the board align with the national standard (NCSBN model rules)?
3. How can we make this requirement more accessible?

## **Suggestions we heard:**

- Lower passing scores
- Passage of the NCLEX
- Allow for “super scoring” – to retake only those elements of the exam that did not meet the passing score
- RN Refresher Program as an alternative exception
- 1,000+ work hours in another health profession rule in another US state or US territory.
- Offer a restricted license

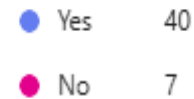


5. Is there **value and safety** in maintaining the English proficiency exam requirement?

[More details](#)

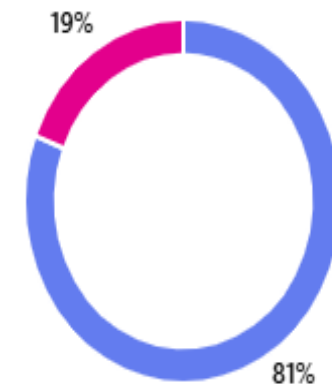
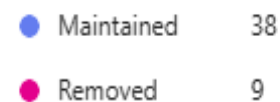
# Survey Results

- 48 response
- Participants were asked why the requirement should be maintained or removed.
- If it is to be maintained, then how?



6. Should the English proficiency exam requirement be maintained or removed for licensure applicants educated outside the United States?

[More details](#)





# Summary of Feedback

## Specific Objectives:

### *English Proficiency*

- Maintain the English proficiency requirement and align with the NCSBN Model Rule language
- Explore alternative options and pathways to demonstrate English proficiency within the rule requirements

### *NCLEX Attempts*

- Limit NCLEX attempts before remediation to 4 attempts.
- An applicant who fails to pass the examination after four attempts will not be eligible to retest unless the applicant completes an NCLEX prep course.

## Additional feedback:

- Explore organizing the requirements by “LPN” and “RN” for clarity
- Use consistent terminology and phrasing throughout the WAC
- Reference relevant WACs and RCWs
- Assure language reflects current practices and technology





# Discussion Questions

1. What do you find confusing or unclear about this WAC?
2. Are there any barriers or challenges with the current language?
3. How could the language be improved?



# Review Draft Language

# Next Steps

- Next Rule Workshop: April 4, 2025, at 12:00 PM
- Review the workshop materials before the next rule workshop
- Subscribe to the board's GovDelivery messaging system for the latest rulemaking announcements.

**Questions?** Email [WABONRules@doh.wa.gov](mailto:WABONRules@doh.wa.gov)