



NCSBN
Leading Regulatory Excellence

***NCSBN Historical Timeline: 1978–1985: Establishing the Mission-driven Organization* Video Transcript**

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Before the National Council of State Boards of Nursing, there was an idea, a mission championed by a task force of dedicated individuals. A mission to focus on the regulation and licensing of nurses to ensure safe and competent nursing care. A mission to protect the public. In its earliest days, this mission was sustained by the time and donations of a community of nurses dedicated to the organization, and the launch of a new autonomous body committed to public protection and patient safety.

On June 6th, 1978, the National Council of State Boards of Nursing or NCSBN was founded. The first NCSBN delegate assembly was called to order, and the organization was off and running. Articles of incorporation, bylaws, and standing rules were adopted, and the officers of the first board of directors were elected.

Ready or not, NCSBN began defining and fulfilling their mission as a strong innovative organization, dedicated to patient safety and public protection. Fueled by passion and focus, funded by member fees, examination fees, and two generation grants from the W. K. Kellogg Foundation, NCSBN began its evolution into the successful, self-sustaining organization it is today. An organization through which boards of nursing can act and counsel together on matters of common interest and the interest of the public they serve.

As voting membership expanded, NCSBN's impact and contributions to nursing increase beyond exams and scoring models, into collaborative research, position papers, and outreach to the nursing community. A nursing disciplinary database to verify nurse licensure, discipline, and practice privileges was implemented. A model Nurse Practice Act to facilitate the creation of safe and consistent state laws and parameters to protect both patients and nurses was designed and published.

In just five years, NCSBN evolved into a self-sustaining organization, innovating and conducting examinations, publishing position papers on continued competence, and gathering national data on registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, and licensed vocational nurses.

In the beginning, the nursing profession needed consistent, robust, and unbiased regulation, and a committed mission-driven organization to protect the public. And so, the National Council of State Boards of Nursing was created.