

Policy Code: 5305 LICENSURE

The policy of the Board is to employ professional personnel who hold or are eligible to hold clear license in the employment areas. The board intends to comply fully with all licensure requirements of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, state law, and State Board of Education policies.

Establishing licensure is the responsibility of the individual.

A. Licensure and Other Qualification Requirements

1. Except as otherwise permitted by the State Board of Education or state law, a professional employee must hold at all times a valid North Carolina license appropriate to his or her position.
2. To the extent possible, all professional teaching assignments will be in the area of the professional employee's license except as may be otherwise allowed by state and federal law and State Board policy. In addition, all professional teachers employed to teach core academic subjects must be "highly qualified" as required by the State Board of Education. Core academic subjects include English, reading or language arts, mathematics, science, foreign languages, civics and government, economics, arts, history, and geography.
3. The board encourages entry into the teaching profession by skilled individuals from the private sector who meet state residency licensing requirements.
4. In extenuating circumstances when no other appropriately licensed professionals or persons who are eligible for a residency license are available to fill a position, the board may employ for up to one year an individual who holds an emergency license issued by the State Board of Education. An emergency license is not renewable.

B. Exceptions to Licensure Requirements

1. Adjunct CTE Instructors

An unlicensed individual who meets the adjunct hiring criteria established by the State Board of Education for a specific career and technical education (CTE) career cluster may be employed as an adjunct CTE instructor for up to 10 hours per week, provided the individual first completes preservice training and meets all other statutory requirements for serving as an adjunct instructor established by [G.S. 115C-157.1](#).

2. Adjunct Instructors in Core Academic Subjects, Fine and Performing Arts, and Foreign Languages

In accordance with [G.S. 115C-298.5](#), an unlicensed faculty member of a higher education institution who meets the adjunct hiring criteria established by the State Board of Education may be employed as a temporary adjunct instructor for specific core academic subjects, fine and performing arts, and foreign language courses in grades kindergarten through twelve provided the individual first completes preservice training and meets all other statutory and State Board of Education requirements.

In addition, an individual with a related bachelor's or graduate degree may be employed as a temporary adjunct instructor to teach high-school level courses in core academic subjects, fine and performing arts, and foreign

language in the individual's area of specialized knowledge or work experience provided the individual first completes preservice training required under [G.S. 115C-298.5\(a1\)](#).

3. Interim Principals

A retired former principal or assistant principal may be employed as an interim principal for the remainder of any school year, regardless of licensure status.

4. Service Members and their Spouses Relocating to North Carolina

A service member or the spouse of a service member who is under military orders to relocate to North Carolina, is in possession of a current educator's license from another jurisdiction, and meets any other conditions established by 50 U.S.C. 4025a or State Board of Education Policy LICN-001 will be considered to hold a valid North Carolina educator's license until the military orders expire or June 30th of the year in which the military orders expire, whichever is later.

C. Beginning Teacher Support Program

The superintendent or designee shall develop a plan and a comprehensive program for beginning teacher support. The plan must be approved by the board and kept on file for review. The superintendent or designee shall submit an annual report on the Beginning Teacher Support Program to the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) by October 1 of each year. The report must include evidence of demonstrated proficiency on the Beginning Teachers Support Program Standards and evidence of mentor success in meeting Mentor Standards. The school system will also participate in implementing a regionally-based annual peer review and support system.

Teachers with fewer than three years of teaching experience will be required to participate in the Beginning Teacher Support Program.

D. License Conversion

Teachers must meet all requirements of the State Board of Education in order to move from an initial professional license or residency license to a continuing professional license or to move from a continuing professional license to a lifetime license.

E. License Renewal

Licensure renewal is the responsibility of the individual, not of the school system. Any employee who allows a license to expire must have it reinstated prior to the beginning of the next school year. A teacher whose license has expired is subject to dismissal.

The school system may offer courses, workshops, and independent study activities to help school personnel meet license renewal requirements. Any renewal activity offered must be consistent with State Board of Education policy. In addition, the superintendent or designee shall develop a procedure to determine the appropriateness of any credit offered in advance of renewal activities. Decisions regarding the employment of teachers who fail to meet the required proficiency standard for renewal of a continuing professional license will be made in accordance with state law [G.S. 115C-296\(b\)](#) (4) and applicable State Board of Education requirements. The superintendent or designee shall determine the

professional development required of a teacher whose continuing license has reverted to an initial license and/or has expired due to performance issues. The superintendent or designee may authorize or direct principals to prescribe professional development to such employees in accordance with the employee's demonstrated deficiencies.

Although lifetime license holders do not have to complete continuing education credits to maintain licensure, the superintendent may require them to participate in professional development opportunities as a condition of employment.

F. Parental Notification

At the beginning of each school year, the school system will notify the parents or guardians of each student attending a Title I school or participating in a Title I program of their right to request the following information about qualifications of their child's teacher: whether the teacher has met NC licensing requirements for the subject or grade level they are teaching; whether the teacher has had any licensure requirements waived; whether the teacher is teaching in the field of his or her certification; and whether the child is provided services by a paraprofessional, and if so, the paraprofessional's qualifications.

The school system will give notice within 10 school days to the parents of children who, after four consecutive weeks, have been taught a core academic subject by a teacher who is not highly qualified.

G. Equitable Distribution of Teachers

The superintendent shall assess whether low-income, minority, learning disabled, and/or English learners are being taught by inexperienced, ineffective, or out-of-field teachers at higher rates than students who do not fall into these categories and shall develop a plan to address any such disparities. If DPI does not require such a plan of the LEA, the superintendent is not required to develop a plan under this subsection unless he or she determines that one is needed to address inequities within the school system.

Legal References: Elementary and Secondary Education Act, [20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.](#); [50 U.S.C. 4025a](#); [34 C.F.R. 200.55-57](#), [200.61](#); [G.S. art. 17E](#); [115C 157.1](#), [-270.15](#), [-270.20](#), [-270.21](#), [-284](#), [-295](#), [-298.5](#), [-325\(e\)\(1\)\(m\)](#) (applicable to career status teachers), [-325.4\(a\)\(12\)](#) (applicable to non-career status teachers), [-333](#), [-333.1](#); State Board of Education Policies [CTED-004](#), [DRIV-003](#), [DRIV-004](#), [EVAL-004](#), [EVAL-023](#), [EVAL-034](#), [LICN-001](#), [LICN-005](#), [LICN-021](#), [LICN-022](#), [TCED-016](#); *Beginning Teacher Support Program Handbook* (NCDPI) available at <https://sites.google.com/dpi.nc.gov/ncref/bt-support-program-resources>

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