



PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION | Mark Johnson, *Superintendent of Public Instruction*

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MEMORANDUM

To: LEA Administrators
From: Dr. Maria Pitre-Martin *MPM*
Dr. Thomas Tomberlin *TT*
Date: July 20, 2018
Subject: LICN-001, General Licensure Requirements

At its July 2018 meeting, the State Board of Education approved changes to LICN-001 (General Licensure Requirements). Please find a copy of the SBE-approved version of the policy as an attachment to this email. We encourage you to read the entire policy, focusing on the most recent revisions (underlined and in red font). The purpose of this memo is to communicate the policy changes that have the greatest impact on LEA and charter school practices.

Section 1.20

Effective July 1, 2018, all licensure exam scores must be sent directly to NCDPI. Only scores reported through the official testing vendors (Pearson or Praxis) may be used to satisfy licensure requirements. Both testing vendors allow examinees to select states for score reporting. If the examinee selects a North Carolina Educator Preparation Program, the score is automatically reported to NCDPI.

NCDPI recognizes that some examinees might wish to report only passing exam scores to the state. Examinees may choose to view their scores before submitting to NCDPI, but both testing vendors charge a \$50 fee to send a score report after the test administration. NCDPI will not accept printed score reports from licensure applicants – all qualifying licensure exam scores must be reported by the approved testing vendors.

Beginning with the 2018-19 school year, teachers will be deemed proficient if they achieve a rating of proficient or better on all five standards of NCEES. Teachers who are evaluated on an abbreviated plan must have both Standards 1 and 4 rated at proficient or higher to be deemed proficient. Teachers in the renewal year of their continuing professional license (CPL) must be rated proficient or better on their most recent summative evaluation in order to renew the license at the CPL level.

Section 1.55

A provisional license in school counseling may be granted to an educator who is enrolled in an accredited school counseling preparation program and has completed 24 semester hours toward the completion of that program. Previously, only 18 semester hours were required to obtain a provisional license in school counseling. Given the late passage of this policy and recognizing that many LEAs have already requested provisional licenses for their school counselors, NCDPI will delay the requirement until October 1, 2018. All applications for a provisional license in school counseling received on or after October 1, 2018 must meet the 24-semester-hour requirement.

Section 1.80 – 1.81

The SBE approved policies related to residency licenses that are in effect as of July 1, 2018. Residency licenses will replace the current lateral entry process, which ends on June 30, 2019. Section 1.81 allows currently licensed teachers to apply for a residency license if they meet the requirements listed in Section 1.80. NCDPI has created two flow charts (please find these charts as attachments to this email) to illustrate the path to a CPL for both traditionally prepared and residency educators.

Section 1.90

The license of any initially licensed teacher who did not meet the yearly licensure examination requirement (attempt all tests in the first year of teaching, pass all tests in the second year of teaching, or—for lateral entry teachers—pass all tests in the third year of teaching) will expire effective June 30, 2018. Teachers have until August 15, 2018 to fulfill the yearly testing requirements of their initial license.

At the July 5, 2018, State Board of Education meeting, the board approved a policy that will allow any teacher (including lateral entry teachers) whose license expired on June 30, 2018 as a **result of failure to pass the required licensure exam(s)**, to receive a Permit to Teach for the 2018-2019 school year. **This Permit to Teach is available only to teachers whose employing LEA verifies that they are “effective” teachers.** LEAs should develop local processes that define effectiveness for this purpose and communicate those processes to the affected teachers.

Please bear in mind that current State Board of Education policy dictates that teachers on a Permit to Teach are paid at the A-00 salary level. LEAs should communicate to any teacher that is being recommended for a permit to teach that he/she will be paid at the A-00 salary level (with state funds). Teachers on a Permit to Teach who formerly held an Initial Professional License (IPL) will be reinstated to an IPL once all licensure exams are passed. Teachers will then return to the appropriate step on the salary schedule according to license type and years of experience.

Please note that lateral entry teachers who have not completed coursework within the three-year term of their license are not eligible for a Permit to Teach under this policy. Those teachers must apply to the Extenuating Circumstances Committee to request an extension for completing coursework requirements.

Prior to the start of the 2018-19 school year, NCDPI will furnish each LEA and charter school with a list of teachers whose licenses expired, or will expire, by June 30, 2018. LEAs will be responsible for identifying teachers whom the LEA deems effective and for whom it requests a Permit to Teach. LEAs will see a list of their permitted teachers on the Licensure and Salary (LicSal) page (<https://licsalweb.dpi.state.nc.us/>). LEAs will be responsible for ensuring that permitted teachers are paid at the appropriate salary level (A-00) regardless of years of experience.

NCDPI will deliver teacher rosters to the LEAs and charter school via the HR Secure Shell (<https://www.rep.dpi.state.nc.us/hrsupport/>). **The completed spreadsheet must not be sent to NCDPI via email; NCDPI will accept only requests that are submitted through the HR secure shell.** HR

Directors who need assistance accessing the HR secure shell may contact educatoreffectiveness@dpi.nc.gov.

We appreciate your attention to these important policy changes. If you have any questions or comments, please contact the Office of School Research, Data, and Reporting at 919-807-3429 or educatoreffectiveness@dpi.nc.gov.

SCHOOL RESEARCH, DATA, AND REPORTING

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