

Licensure Policy Revisions – the Year in Review

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PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

State Board of Education | Department of Public Instruction

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Adding Teaching Area

1.20f Adding Teaching Area

Define clear license:

A clear teaching license is either a continuing professional license (CPL) or an initial professional license (IPL) with coursework requirements completed.

A teaching license may **not** be added to any of the following license types: Permit to Teach, Emergency, Limited, Provisional, Residency, CTE-restricted (except as allowed by the CTE Licensure Manual), or International Faculty.

A teaching license may not be added to an instructional support license or an administrative license unless the licensee also holds an IPL or CPL in a teaching area.

1.20f Adding Teaching Area

Clarify that individual must complete one of the following options to add an additional teaching area:

1. *completing an NCSBE-approved Educator Preparation Program in the additional area, or;*
2. *satisfying NCSBE-required exams for the additional area, or;*
3. *completing 24 semester hours in the subject area with a grade of C or better in each course, or;*
4. *earning a rating of at least "Advanced Low" proficiency on the ACTFL (American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages) Oral Proficiency Test, and, if available, the Writing Proficiency Test, or, if the language is American Sign Language (ASL), by earning a rating of at least "Advanced" proficiency on The National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID) Sign Language Proficiency Interview (SLPI) (World Languages content areas only).*

1.20f Adding Teaching Area

NOTE: For a teaching area that does not have a NCSBE-required exam, the individual must complete one of the above options to add-on the additional teaching area to the clear teaching license.

Lifetime License

2.10 Lifetime License

Provide clarity to the field around the renewal requirements prior to converting a Continuing Professional License (CPL) to a Lifetime License

An individual, who plans to convert his/her continuing professional license (CPL) to a lifetime license, will not be required to complete continuing education credits (CEUs) for the renewal period immediately preceding the conversion to a lifetime license. If the individual fails to meet the requirements to hold a lifetime license, the individual's license shall expire and the required CEUs must be completed in advance of reinstating the license.

*Note – although lifetime licenses do not require CEUs, PSUs have the discretion to require professional learning activities of lifetime license holders as a condition of employment.

February 2023

Policy Amendments Overview

- Formatting and reorganization throughout policy
- Initial Professional License (IPL) conversion to Continuing Professional License (CPL)
- Residency License (RL)
 - Adding the following sections:
 - 1.60a Renewing a Residency License
 - 1.60b Converting a Residency License
 - 1.60c Adding Residency Licenses for Currently Licensed Educators
 - 1.60d Residency Licenses Subsequent to a Previous Residency License or Lateral Entry License
 - 1.60e Professional Development Requirements for Residency License
- Emergency License (EL)
- Limited License (LL)



Section 1.20a & Section 1.20c

Converting an IPL to CPL

- Section 1.20a – eliminated Residency Licenses from this section – conversion of the Residency License will have its own section (Section 1.60b)
- Section 1.20c – eliminated language related to employment in the term of the license. Statute now links the term of the license to its issuance.



Section 1.20d

NC Educator License for Out-of-State Educators

Allowing out-of-state educators who fulfill initial licensure requirements in less than three years on an IPL to convert before the end of those three years

Out-of-state applicants who do not provide effectiveness data as part of their application for initial licensure in North Carolina shall only be eligible for an Initial Professional License or Limited License (see Section 1.20 (5) and Section 2.0). At the end of the term of the Initial Professional License (three years), a teacher may be eligible for a Continuing Professional License.

Sections 1.50 & 1.50a

Lateral Entry License (LEL)

Removing all policies related to lateral entry license as it has ceased, per legislation, effective June 30, 2022

Section 1.60

Qualifying for a Residency License

Clarifying that RLs are only issued at the A-level and may qualify for experience credit and graduate pay

Residency Licenses are only issued at the A-level and may be awarded experience credit and graduate pay in compliance with LICN-006.

Section 1.60

Qualifying for a Residency License

Clarifying that an individual who holds, or has held, an RL, is not eligible for a Permit to Teach or Emergency License

An individual who holds, or previously held, a Residency License is not eligible for ~~cannot hold~~ a Permit to Teach or Emergency License.

Section 1.60

Qualifying for a Residency License

Clarifying the requirements to be issued a RL for individuals who held a prior LEL for the same teaching area

Individuals who did not fulfill the requirements of a prior lateral entry license may be eligible to be issued a Residency License **in the same teaching area** provided that the following conditions are met:

1. pass the required NCSBE-required content exam(s), **and**;
2. meet eligibility requirements for a Residency License

Section 1.60

Qualifying for a Residency License

Clarifying that an individual who held a prior lateral or residency license may apply for a RL in a different teaching area without content testing upfront

Note: See Section 1.60d and note for individuals who held a prior Lateral Entry or Residency License and are applying for a RL in a different teaching area.

Section 1.60a

Renewing a RL

Clarifying the timeline for renewal for a Residency License

The ~~local~~ employing school system shall be responsible for verifying the candidate's enrollment in an approved EPP. A Residency License is issued for one year and renewable twice within three years of the effective date of the original Residency License at the recommendation of an employing North Carolina school system.

Section 1.60a

Renewing a RL

Clarifying requirements to renew a Residency License

In order to renew a Residency License for the second or the third year, the PSU LEA must verify

1. the license holder earned at least six months of teaching experience taught at least six calendar months during the prior school year, and;
2. continued enrollment enrollment in with an EPP, and;
3. remained employed employment as a teacher in an a PSU LEA, and;
4. the license holder completed 10 days of required professional development (in the first year of the residency license) as described in Section 1.60e of this policy.

Section 1.60a

Renewing a RL

Clarifying requirements to reinstate a Residency License

If an individual fails to renew the Residency License for either the second or third year, the current Residency License will expire. Within three years of the effective date of the original Residency License, a Residency License may be reinstated at the request of an employing PSU LEA if the following conditions two and three above are met.:

(conditions two and three are enroll in an EPP and employment in PSU)

Section 1.60b

Converting a Residency License

Clarifying that a Residency License may only be converted to an IPL or CPL if all requirements for conversion have been met

Individuals must complete all requirements, ~~pass including~~ NCSBE-required licensure ~~tests testing requirements~~, and receive the recommendation of an EPP to convert the Residency License to ~~the-an~~ Initial or Continuing Professional License within three years of the effective date of the Residency License.

Section 1.60b

Converting a Residency License

Clarifying the requirements to convert an expired RL to an IPL or CPL

Once the Residency License expires, the license may be converted to an IPL or CPL upon the recommendation of the SBE-approved EPP and completion of current licensure requirements, including testing, at the time of the conversion request.

Section 1.60b

Converting a Residency License

Clarifying the requirements to clear additional Residency License areas

Teachers assigned to multiple subject areas shall be issued a Residency License for one licensure area and may add the additional Residency License area at the request of the employing school system. The additional Residency License areas may be cleared in accordance with the requirements found in Section 1.60 this Section of LICN-001, including required testing. Note: The primary All Residency licensure area-areas must be cleared through an EPP before any additional areas can be cleared.

Section 1.60b

Converting a Residency License

Clarifying timeline for conversion of a RL to an IPL or CPL

All requirements to convert a Residency License to either an IPL or CPL must be completed before the expiration of the second renewal of the Residency License.

Section 1.60d

Residency Licenses Subsequent to a Previous Residency or Lateral Entry License

Reiterate the requirement for individuals with an expired lateral entry license must meet testing requirements in order to be issued a residency license in the same teaching area

Individuals who did not fulfill the requirements of a prior lateral entry license may be eligible to be issued a Residency License **in the same teaching area** provided that the following conditions are met:

1. pass the required NCSBE-required content exam(s), **and**;
2. meet eligibility requirements for a Residency License

Section 1.60d

Residency Licenses Subsequent to a Previous Residency or Lateral Entry License

Reiterate requirements for individuals requesting a RL in a different teaching area

Individuals who did not clear a prior lateral entry license, or a Residency License (RL), may apply for a RL **in a different teaching area** (as defined in Section 1.10) provided that the following conditions are met:

1. _____ meets all of the following requirements as stated in GS 115C-269 and G.S. 115C-270 .15 270.20(5) and GS 115C-269-15(b); and
2. _____ a. completes 24 hours of coursework in the requested licensure area, **or**;
_____ b. passes the NCSBE required content area examination(s) for the requested licensure area.

Section 1.60d

Residency Licenses Subsequent to a Previous Residency or Lateral Entry License

Allows for current year waiver if the candidate was issued a RL without appropriate content testing

Note: Effective July 1, 2022, any application for a Residency License (RL), for which a RL was issued or requested without meeting applicable content testing requirement(s), shall have until June 30, 2023, to satisfy testing requirements or the RL is not eligible for renewal. This provision only applies to the 2022-2023 fiscal year.

Section 1.80

Permit to Teach

Removes condition that an applicant cannot apply for a permit to teach if he/she qualifies for another type of license and clarifies that the permit to teach is valid only until June 30th of the school year in which it was requested

~~Effective July 1, 2016, at~~ At the request of the employing LEA, NCDPI may issue a permit to teach for a teaching assignment at the A-00 pay level to persons who hold at least a baccalaureate degree and have never been issued a North Carolina license ~~but who do not qualify for a license under any other approach~~. The permit to teach shall be valid ~~for one year until June 30 of the fiscal year for which it was requested~~ and may not be ~~extended or renewed~~. ~~When an LEA requests a permit to teach, the LEA must document that no appropriately licensed professionals or persons who are eligible for a residency or lateral entry license are available to accept the position.~~

Section 1.90

Emergency License

Clarifying the term of the Emergency License

~~Beginning with the 2017-2018 academic year, At the request of the employing LEA,~~ NCDPI may issue Emergency Licenses for a teaching assignment ~~at the request of the LEA or charter school.~~ The Emergency License is a one-year nonrenewable license, which shall be valid until June 30th of the fiscal year in which it was requested, issued to an individual who:

1. holds a baccalaureate degree with 18 hours of coursework relevant to the requested licensure area but has not completed a recognized educator preparation program, and;
2. does not qualify for a Residency License.

Section 2.00

Limited License

Allows for an applicant who held an expired lateral entry license to be issued a limited license

3. Lateral Entry Licensee

a. Holds a lateral entry license, but failed to fulfill examination requirements under GS 115C-270.15 after three years of licensure. The individual would have been issued a continuing professional license but for the failure to fulfill examination requirements set by the State Board of Education.

North Carolina License Categories

- Permit to Teach – Established by SBE policy (LICN-001, Section 1.80) July 1, 2016. Rationale – provide a means of licensure and employment for individuals who held a baccalaureate degree but did not qualify for a lateral entry license. May now be used in conjunction with Emergency License to meet requirements to hold a Residency License.
- Emergency License – Established by NC Session Law 2017-189, July 27, 2017. Rationale – provide a means of licensure and employment for individuals who hold a baccalaureate degree but do not qualify for a Residency License.

North Carolina License Categories

- Limited License – Established by Session Law 2019-212 Section 8.(b). Rationale - allows an educator to hold a three-year, non-renewable license if otherwise would have qualified for a Continuing Professional License but failed to achieve the prescribed minimum score on the SBE required examination.



Number and Percentage of Active Licenses by Subject Area and Unique Licensees (Licenses, n=354,222; Licensees, n=178,205)

License Area	Number	Percentage of all Licenses	Percentage of Licensees
Elementary	75,360	21.3%	42.3%
Exceptional Children	59,602	16.8%	33.4%
ELA/English	52,290	14.8%	29.3%
Mathematics	24,543	6.9%	13.8%
Science	22,861	6.5%	12.8%
Social Studies	29,865	8.4%	16.8%
World Languages	5,289	1.5%	3.0%
Health/Physical Education	11,903	3.4%	6.7%
CTE	14,967	4.2%	8.4%

Routes to Licensure for CPL and Initial Licensees

Continuing Professional License	224,459	Number	Percentage
Traditional Preparation Route		127,674	56.9%
Alternative Route (Lateral Entry/Residency)		20,767	9.3%
Out of State		67,606	30.1%
Career and Technical Education		5,741	2.6%
Teach for America		227	0.1%
Other		2,444	1.1%
Non-Continuing Professional License	39,117	Number	Percentage
Traditional Preparation Route		10,885	27.8%
Alternative Route		7,459	19.1%
Out of State		11,192	28.6%
Career and Technical Education		749	1.9%
International Faculty		4,045	10.3%
Permit to Teach/Emergency License		3,660	9.4%
Limited License		1,049	2.7%

Potential Impact of Pathways Model

- Presumably, the new licensure structure in the Pathways Model would eliminate the need for all existing licensure categories.
- Teachers would enter the profession at whatever level their demonstrated skill indicated.
- Teachers would progress through the new license structure as they met the competencies for the next licensure level.
- Teachers would have multiple avenues for demonstrating their competencies; currently there is only one – standardized testing.



June 2023

LICN-001

- Federal Provision: H.R. 7939 (Veterans Auto and Education Improvement Act of 2022)

Federal Provision

Federal Provision Pursuant to H.R. 7939 – Veterans Auto and Education Improvement Act of 2022, service members or the spouse of a service member who are under military orders to relocate to North Carolina and are in possession of a current educator’s license from another jurisdiction, shall be considered to hold a valid NC educator’s license for the duration of such military orders. The following conditions shall apply to this provision:

- the applicant provides a copy of the military orders and documentation of marital status (if applicable) to the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction;
- the applicant’s license from another jurisdiction (and all other jurisdictions in which the application holds a current license) is current and in good standing;
- the license has been actively used (for employment as an educator) during the two years immediately preceding the relocation.
- the license from the other jurisdiction is appropriate for the position in which the service member or spouse of the service member will be employed.

North Carolina Educator Licensure

The military-connected applicant is not issued a NC educator's license under this provision, but the valid out-of-state license allows the educator to be paid on the teacher salary schedule. The provision will remain in effect until the military orders expire or June 30th of that same year, whichever is later.

If a military-connected applicant wishes to obtain a North Carolina educator's license after the terms of this provision expire, the applicant must meet all State Board of Education licensure requirements in effect at the time of application.

LICN-003

Summary

- Foundations of Reading Test 090 would retire on July 31, 2023. Foundations of Reading Test 190, updated reading subtest, is currently an option.
- Remove PLT from secondary licensure areas to align with edTPA and PPAT being the assessments to fulfill the pedagogy test requirement
- Update to Special Education Tests
 - 5545 => 5547
 - 5543 & 5354 => 5355 (*The 5355: Special Education Foundational Knowledge test was designed to replace the test for core knowledge and applications. The National Advisory Committee for the tests—a panel of Special Education teachers and teacher educators--after reviewing the standards and the redesigned test’s composition, concluded that the test’s content was also aligned with expected knowledge for candidates seeking mild/moderate licenses.)*

Questions

