

North Carolina Public School Employee Salary Manual 2026–27

Prepared By: School Business Services

Version Date: July 2026

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION VISION:

Every public school student in North Carolina will be empowered to accept academic challenges, prepared to pursue their chosen path after graduating high school, and encouraged to become lifelong learners with the capacity to engage in a globally-collaborative society.

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Definition of Terms

The following definitions apply throughout this document.

Administrative Intern: A student in an approved full-time master's degree program in School Administration, who is completing the required administrative internship at a school unit. Full-time students are not required to have a North Carolina educator's license while completing their internship.

Administrator: An individual employed by a public school unit (PSU) to work in an administrative position in a North Carolina public school unit. He or she must meet the employment and/or licensure criteria required by the State Board of Education for the specific administrative assignment. There are two types of administrators: school-based administrators and central office administrators:

- **School-Based Administrators:** Principal, school building principal and assistant principal
- **Central Office Administrators:** Superintendents, associate superintendents, assistant superintendents, supervisors, directors, coordinators, school business administrators, and finance officers.

Advanced Teaching Roles (ATR): Highly effective classroom teachers with significant teaching experience, who are excellent practitioners, and take on additional responsibilities to implement effective teacher strategies that align to required content standards, in accordance with G.S 115C-310.1.

Average Daily Membership (ADM): The sum of the number of days in membership for all students in an individual Public School Unit (PSU), divided by the number of school days in the term; usually a school month or school year.

Associate Superintendent: A person designated by a local board of education as next-in-line of authority to the superintendent. This person must hold a superintendent's license ('AS' or 'DS,' license area 00011) and either a principal's license ('AP' or 'DP', license area 00012) or a curriculum instructional specialist (supervisor) license at the advanced level ('S' or 'D', license area 00113).

Building Principal: An individual designated by a local board of education to serve as a principal in a school with fewer than seven but more than two full-time state-allotted teaching positions.

Certified Personnel: A person who is employed in a position which requires a license issued by the State Board of Education based on the completion of approved education program requirements, or is required to be paid on the legislated Teacher Salary Schedule.

Classification: A category assigned to a particular position on the basis of required qualifications, levels of responsibility, and work performed.

Finance Officer: A person appointed or designated by the LEA superintendent and approved by the State Board of Education, with the duties outlined in G.S.115C-436. See SBE policy [FINO-000](#) for qualifications and certification.

Full-Time Substitute Teacher: See Substitute Teacher.

Instructional Coach: A person employed in a peer-support role which involves direct interaction with teachers for the purpose of improving instructional practice. Instructional Coaches may be district- or building-based professionals.

Interim Teacher: A person employed when a vacancy in a teaching position occurs by separation from employment, leave without pay, workers' compensation, short-term disability or absence caused by an episode of violence in the school. An interim teacher may not be employed to replace a permanent employee who is using paid leave. If the interim teacher is licensed in the area of assignment, he/she is paid from the budget code from which the regular teacher being replaced is paid. Non-certified interim employees must be coded to object code 122. Certified interim employees should be coded to object code 121, with provisional licensing if the assignment is out-of-field.

National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS): The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) is an independent, nonprofit organization that administers the National Board Certification.

Non-Certified Personnel: Individuals in positions within a job classification that does not require a professional educator's license issued by the Office of Educator Preparation and Licensure, or professional certification prescribed by the State Board of Education.

Other Licensed Personnel: Certain positions require professional certification that is prescribed by the State Board of Education. These positions do not require an educator license issued by the Office of Educator Preparation and Licensure e.g., driver education instructors, occupational therapists, physical therapists etc.

Position: A specific, designated role assigned to an employee. Positions equate to the full-time equivalent individuals that can be assigned for the employment period represented by an allotment category with a specific purpose. The LEA pays whatever is required to hire certified teachers and other educators based on the State Salary Schedule, without being limited to a specific dollar amount.

Example: Teachers, School Building Administration (Principals) and Instructional Support Personnel. A classroom teacher position represents an employment period of 10 months. The number of full-time equivalent individuals that can be employed is limited to the number of months associated with the positions allotted by the state. For more information, see the Allotment Policy Manual.

Principal: A person who is designated by the governing board of a PSU as the head of a school. A principal must hold a principal's license ('P,' 'AP,' or 'DP,' licensure area 00012), unless exempt by law. There are no provisional licenses allowed for principals. See Building Principal. See Allotment Policy Manual PRC005 for information on requirements for an LEA to be eligible for funding for a principal position.

Provisional License: A temporary license issued to a person who does not fully meet the certification requirements for their position. Provisional licenses are generally granted to employees in hard-to-fill positions on the condition that they meet the certification requirements within a set number of years. Other conditions may apply.

School: An organizational subdivision of a school system consisting of a group of students composed of one or more grade groups, organized as one unit with an assigned principal or

person acting in the capacity of principal, which provides instruction of the type defined in the North Carolina Standard Course of Study. North Carolina public schools recognized by the State Board of Education are listed in the Educational Directory and Demographical Information Exchange ([EDDIE](#)).

School-Based Administrators: See Assistant Principal and/or Principal.

Student Services Personnel, also known as Instructional Support Personnel: A person in a position that provides specialized assistance to students. Individuals must hold an appropriate license for the area of assignment. Examples include school counselors, social workers, nurses, etc.

Substitute Teacher: A person who is employed to teach during the time that a permanent teacher is on paid leave.

A *full-time substitute* is employed to teach for a regular teacher when that teacher is absent and on paid leave. They may serve a single classroom, a school, or more than one school. Full-time substitutes must work at least 30 hours per week and are expected to be employed at least six consecutive months. They earn the same benefits as other employees and are paid the same rates as regular substitutes.

Supervisor, Director, and Coordinator: A person designated by a local board of education to work throughout the unit to provide leadership in improving programs and quality of instruction and must hold a license appropriate to the area of assignment.

Superintendent: An individual appointed by a local board of education in accordance with G.S.115C-271 to serve as the chief educational authority of an LEA. Their eligibility for the appointment must be filed with the State Board of Education per SBE policy SCNT-000.

Teacher: An individual who is employed to carry out the duties and responsibilities of the instructional process in a school and holds a license appropriate to the area of assignment, where required by law.

1 DPI Contacts and General Information

1.1 School Business Services

1.1.1 Purpose and Mission

School Business Services is part of the Division of Financial and Business Services. Salary-related responsibilities include:

- Communicating legislation, State Board of Education policy, and Department of Public Instruction (DPI) procedures;
- Certifying educator salaries;
- Auditing educator and non-certified salaries and other payments;
- Responding to inquiries from customers; and
- Providing meaningful information to agency management, the State Board of Education, the NC General Assembly, the Governor's Office, and public school units.

1.1.2 Contact Information

Department of Public Instruction

School Business Services

6336 Mail Service Center

Raleigh, NC 27699-6336

SchoolFinancialReporting@dpi.nc.gov

1.1.3 Licensure and Salary Information Center (LicSal)

[LicSal](#) is the DPI licensure and salary authorization system. It is used to calculate days of employment, days used, salary audit exceptions, and other salary items for certified staff. An NCID and password are required to access the system. SBS utilizes EDDIE to determine who should have rights to access LicSal, as well as who at an LEA can approve LicSal access requests for their PSU. Only individuals designated as LicSal Administrators in EDDIE are authorized to submit requests for LicSal and Licensure Online using the Request for DPI Application Access form. PSUs may list up to two LicSal administrators in the EDDIE system. Due to security concerns, users may not submit their own access requests—they must be done by a LicSal admin listed in EDDIE.

The Office of Educator Preparation and Licensure will create the Licensure Online accounts, and a link will be sent via email to the individuals listed on the application form. This email will include a temporary password and instructions for updating it. Please contact [School Financial Reporting](#) if you have questions about this process. LicSal is solely for the use of Local Education Agencies (LEAs), Charter Schools, and Institutes of Higher Education.

1.1.4 References

[Department of Public Instruction \(DPI\) Financial and Business Services](#)

[NC Public Schools Uniform Chart of Accounts](#)

[Attachment "A"](#) lists budget codes and required certification areas for each position.

State Salary Schedules

The [Office of Educator Preparation and Licensure](#)

[Licensure and Salary Information Center \(LicSal\)](#)

[Educator's Online Licensure System](#)

1.1.5 Other Useful DPI Manuals

Information not covered in the Salary Manual may be addressed in detail in the subject-specific manuals below. Please view the manuals linked below for further clarification. The Salary Manual works in tandem with the manuals for each of these divisions.

[Allotment Policy Manual](#)

[The Benefits and Employment Policy Manual](#)

[NCDPI Online Licensure Verification System](#)

2 Changes and Legislation Impacting the 2026–27 Fiscal Year

This section is provided for information and historic purposes only and is **not policy**.

2.1 2026-27 Fiscal Year

2.1.1 Relevant Session Law

- [S.L. 2026-41](#)
- [S.L. 2026-42](#)

2.1.2 Teachers and Instructional Support

- Experience step increase for teachers and instructional support.
- Range of step on the teacher bachelor scale - \$2,940 to \$7,250 / 18% to 3.8%
- Modification to 115C-296.2 related to teachers eligible to receive the 12% NBPTS differential, modification adds teachers in advanced teaching roles.
- Salary schedule reporting requirement to be submitted to the Office of the State Auditor

2.1.3 Principal and Assistant Principal Salaries

2.1.3.1 *Principal Salary Schedule*

- Change to the principal salary schedule
 - Effective July 1 2026 3% increase to the schedule
- Change to the principal salary schedule
 - January 1 to June 2027
 - Technical Corrections SL2026-42 Section 2.4
 - All principals shall be paid on the Base pay. Principals who are eligible to be paid on the “Met” or “Exceeded” schedule shall receive half the difference of the Base pay and the Met or Exceeded schedule, respectively by January 31st, 2026.

2.1.3.2 *Assistant Principal Salary Schedule*

Step increase consistent with the teacher schedule.

2.1.4 LEA Employees Not Paid from the Certified Salary Schedule (Non-Certified Personnel Salaries and Central Office)

2026–27: 3% increase

2.1.5 Benefits

The State employer's contribution rate for retirement and related benefits is

Retirement: 26.10%; Health benefit: \$8,925

2.1.6 Bonuses

2.1.6.1 *Teacher, instructional support and assistant principals*

0-15 years	\$500
16+ years	\$1,000

Step as of October 1, 2026

2.1.6.2 *Principals, noncertified, central office (tech correct SL2026-42 section 8.1)*

Greater than or equal to \$65,000	\$1,000
Less than \$65,000	\$1,750

2.1.6.3 *Local School Nutrition and Custodial Staff Bonus*

Locally and federally funded custodians and school nutrition employees to receive \$1,750 bonus.

2.1.6.4 *Changes to the Principal Recruitment Bonus*

Eligible schools expanded to the bottom 10% of all schools in the State in the prior school year (previously the bottom 5%).

Adds a Retention component to the program

A qualifying retention principal who received a recruitment salary supplement for 36 months shall receive a subsequent annual salary supplement of twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000), paid on a monthly basis, as long as the principal remains employed as the principal of the same school, up to a maximum period of 36 months.

3 Licensure, Salary Adjustments, and Funding Responsibilities

3.1 Licensure Deadlines

Office of Educator Preparation and Licensure cannot guarantee the processing of any license requests for current-year salary adjustments after April 15. If a license request is submitted after April 15 and is not processed in the current fiscal year, local dollars must be used for any resulting salary audit exceptions.

3.2 Licensure Class Codes and Salary

The licensure class code corresponds to the educational level at which an individual has completed licensure requirements.

The codes indicate the level (or class) of the licensure area as determined by the Licensure Section.

Licensed public school personnel are to be paid on the [salary schedules](#) applicable to their assignment at the highest license level held. The Form G process for non-educational master's, advanced or doctoral degrees (see [Section 6](#)) is unaffected by this policy.

3.2.1 Below bachelor's level

Licensure Class Code	Licensure Area
V	Workforce Development areas are based on experience and academic preparation below the bachelor's level
V	Provisional Workforce Development (Vocational)

3.2.2 Bachelor's level

Licensure Class Code	Licensure Area
A	Regular teaching area
A	Provisional Workforce Development (Vocational)
A	Workforce Development (Vocational)

A	School Social Worker
A	Provisional School Counselor

3.2.3 Master's level

Licensure Class Code	Licensure Area
M	Regular teaching area
M	Curriculum Instructional Specialist (Supervisor/Director)
M	Workforce Development (Vocational)
M	Counselor
M	Instructional Support Personnel (School Social Worker, Speech Language Pathologist)
P	Principal

3.2.4 Advanced (sixth-year) level

Licensure Class Code	Licensure Area
S	Regular teaching area
S	Curriculum Instructional Specialist (Supervisor/Director)
S	Workforce Development (Vocational)
S	Counselor
S	Instructional Support Personnel (School Social Worker, Speech Language Pathologist)
AP	Principal
AS	Superintendent

3.2.5 Doctoral level

Licensure Class Code	Licensure Area
D	Regular teaching area
D	Supervisor/Director
D	Workforce Development (Vocational)
D	Counselor
D	Instructional Support Personnel (School Social Worker, Speech Language Pathologist)
DP	Principal
DS	Superintendent

3.3 Pay Level and Schedule

Pay levels indicate where an individual is placed on the legislated salary schedules and can be found on the Employment Inquiry Screen and Employee Roster on the Licensure and Salary Information Center (LicSal) system. Please contact [School Financial Reporting](#) to request access to LicSal.

The table below provides a summary of how each pay level is derived.

Salary Schedule	Digits 1 & 2	Digits 3 & 4	Digits 5 & 6	Digit 7
Teacher Schedule	Education: A, M, MS, or MD	Years of Experience	Blank	Blank or N for NBPTS
School Counselor	2, 2S, or 2D	Years of Experience	Blank	Blank or N for NBPTS
Psychologist Schedule	3, 3S, or 3D	Years of Experience	Blank	Blank
School-Based Administrator Schedule:	0, 0S, or 0D (zero)	Years of Experience	Blank	Blank

Assistant Principal				
School-Based Administrator Schedule: Principal	B0 to E5	Blank	Blank	Blank

A schedule is a numerical indicator preceding the pay level assignment, which designates the specific [salary schedule](#) from which the employee is paid.

Assistant principals are designated as Schedule 0 (zero).

The school psychologist, master's level audiologist, master's level speech-language pathologists are designated as Schedule 3, while the school counselor is designated as Schedule 2, differentiating them from the teacher schedules (A and M).

3.4 Salary Adjustments

3.4.1 Additional Years of Service

Retroactive salary adjustments for additional years of service not previously credited to an educator's certificate will be granted effective July 1 of the current school year. An adjustment may be granted back to a maximum of July of the previous school year if it is determined that the salary adjustment is the result of the Office of Educator Preparation and Licensure failing to process experience credit that is complete and correctly submitted at the time of the application. In such cases, as determined by the Office of Educator Preparation and Licensure and approved by the DPI Chief Financial Officer, the adjustment can be granted back to July 1 of the previous school year. Otherwise retroactive salary adjustment not credited to an educator's certificate will be granted effective July 1 of the current fiscal year.

3.4.2 When the LEA Fails to Submit Complete Information

If it is determined that a retroactive salary adjustment is the result of an LEA failing to submit payroll data that is complete or required, the LEA becomes financially responsible for any salary adjustment due.

3.5 State/Local Funding Responsibilities

The state's responsibility for a position paid from state funds ceases at the end of the last workday of actual employment.

The only salary benefit from state funds beyond that day shall be payment of:

- accumulated annual leave not to exceed 30 days, and
- the State's portion of any longevity pay due to the employee.

When an LEA releases an employee from employment, the LEA shall assume full responsibility for any additional pay that is negotiated between the LEA and the employee.

When an employee is suspended with pay and the suspension results in a loss of educational license, the employee salary must be paid with local funds.

4 Central Office Administrators

4.1 All Central Office Administrators

4.1.1 Daily Rate of Pay

The daily rate of pay for all central office administrators is based on the actual number of weekdays in the month of service.

Daily rates are calculated as follows

Monthly salary (with supplement) ÷ Number of workdays in the month (20, 21, 22, 23) =
Daily rate of pay.

4.1.2 Degree Supplement and Longevity Pay

A person holding an advanced license, (S, AP, AS) or a doctoral license, (D, DP, DS) shall be paid an additional monthly supplement, as noted in the Salary Schedules.

Longevity pay for superintendents, assistant superintendents, associate superintendents, directors/coordinators, supervisors, and finance officers shall be as provided for State employees under the [*North Carolina Human Resources Act*](#).

4.2 Superintendents

4.2.1 Definition of Superintendent

G.S. 115C-271 states that a superintendent is a person who is:

- appointed by the local board of education in accordance with G.S. 115C-271 and
- verified by the State Board of Education as to their eligibility to serve.

A superintendent is not required to hold a NC Professional Educator's License. Under special circumstances a superintendent may meet alternative criteria.

See State Board Policy LICN-001 General Licensure Requirements

4.2.2 Salary Basis

The local board of education shall determine the appropriate category and placement for the superintendent based on the average daily membership of the LEA. State funds used for the Superintendents salary may not exceed the maximum of the range. See the Salary Schedules.

4.3 Associate/Assistant Superintendents

4.3.1 Definition of Associate Superintendent

An associate superintendent is a person who is designated by a local board of education as next in line of authority to the superintendent. This person must hold a superintendent's license ('AS' or 'DS,' license area 00011) and either:

- a principal's license ('AP' or 'DP,' license area 00012) or
- a curriculum instructional specialist (supervisor) license at the advanced level ('S' or 'D,' license area 00113).

See exceptions to the licensure requirements in Section 4.3.3.

4.3.2 Definition of Assistant Superintendent

An assistant superintendent must hold:

- a superintendent's license ('AS' or 'DS,' license area 00011), or
- a principal's license ('P,' 'AP,' or 'DP,' license area 00012), or
- a curriculum instructional specialist (supervisor) license ('M,' 'S' or 'D,' license area 00113)
- is designated by a local board of education that has not designated an associate superintendent as next in line of authority to the superintendent.

See exceptions to the licensure requirements in Section 4.3.3.

4.3.3 Exceptions to Associate and Assistant Superintendent Licensure Requirements

4.3.3.1 ***The licensure requirements for associate superintendents and assistant superintendents are not applicable for the following positions:***

- Associate Superintendents for
 - Fiscal Management
 - Personnel Management
- Assistant Superintendent for
 - Fiscal Management
 - Personnel Management

4.3.3.2 ***Those designated in these positions should hold one of the following:***

- a school administrator's degree
- a business degree
- an accounting degree
- a degree in a related field

4.3.4 Salary Basis

The local board of education determines the appropriate category and placement of the associate and assistant superintendents as a School Administrator I-VII. State funds may not be used for salary above the legislated maximum for the respective classification.

For a list of maximums, see the [Salary Schedules](#). The maximums do not include advanced, doctoral, or local supplements.

4.3.4.1 *The following positions shall be assigned to a School Administrator I-VII category:*

- Associate and assistant superintendents in positions requiring professional licenses issued by the Office of Educator Preparation and Licensure
- Associate Superintendents for
 - Fiscal Management
 - Personnel Management
 - General Business Support
- Assistant Superintendents for
 - Fiscal Management
 - Personnel Management
 - Auxiliary Services
 - General Business Support

4.4 Supervisors, Directors, and Coordinators

4.4.1 Definition of Supervisor, Director, and Coordinator

A supervisor, director, or coordinator:

- is designated by the local board of education to work throughout the LEA to provide leadership in improving programs and quality of instruction and
- must hold a license appropriate to the area of assignment (See Attach A):
 - 00077 Instructional Technology Specialist - Computers,
 - 00078 Media Supervisor,
 - 00113 Curriculum Instructional Specialist
 - 00711 Career Technical Director, or
 - 88099 Exceptional Children Program Administrator

4.4.2 Salary Basis

Supervisors, directors, and coordinators are assigned to a School Administrator I-VII category by the local board of education.

Salary determination shall be made by the local board of education within the salary range, which corresponds to the school administrator assignment.

The range maximums do not include advanced, doctoral, or local supplements.

For a list of maximums, see the [Salary Schedules](#).

4.4.3 Positions

Supervisors, directors, and coordinators in positions requiring a license issued by the Office of Educator Preparation and Licensure are assigned to a School Administrator I-VII category.

4.4.4 Licensure Requirements for General Administration

A supervisor/director for general administration of specific educational programs may hold a school administrator 'P' license as a requirement for salary licensure, in place of the 'SG' (supervisor/director) license.

4.4.5 Non-Certified Supervisors and Directors

Non-certified supervisor and director positions shall be paid within the ranges of the appropriate non-certified salary schedules.

For a list of salary ranges for the position classifications below, see the [Salary Schedule](#).

- Office Administration
- Transportation
- School Nutrition Services
- Curriculum Support
- Other Licensed Professional
- Maintenance/Operations

4.5 Finance Officers

Refer to SBE policy FINO-000 for education and experience requirements for LEA finance officers. Local boards of education shall determine the salary of the Finance Officer at a minimum of the NC 24 level and a maximum of the NC 25 level. State funds may not exceed the maximum for the position.

4.6 Charter Schools

Charter schools may use definitions similar to those outlined in this section, but are not required to adhere to licensing or salary requirements.

5 School-Based Administrators (Principals and Assistant Principals)

5.1 Principals

5.1.1 Monthly Salary

See the [Salary Schedules](#) for a list of salaries and pay level codes.

Principals are paid monthly according to

5.1.1.1 School Size

There are 6 categories of school size based on ADM range. Effective January 1, 2025 the school ADM for purpose of the principal salary determination shall include Pre-Kindergarten ADM. Month 2 is used for the Pre-K calculation.

- 0-200
- 201-400
- 401-700
- 701-1,000
- 1,001-1,600
- 1,601 and above

5.1.1.1.1 The school's average daily membership is determined as follows:

- July 1 to December 31: The Best 1 of 2 ADM from the prior fiscal year.
 - If the school opened after Month 2 but before June 30 of the prior year, the final average daily membership shall be used.
 - If the school was not open to students in the prior year, the projected average daily membership provided by the LEA shall be used.
- January 1 to June 30: The Best 1 of 2 ADM in the current fiscal year

5.1.1.1.1.1 Merged Schools

If an LEA merges two schools, closing one of the schools, the current-year state salary of the merged school's principal shall be determined by the higher of the prior year Best 1 of 2 ADM for the 2 schools. The LEA shall receive prior approval from the Senior Director of School Business Services for this salary determination.

5.1.1.1.1.2 Cross-Enrollment Schools

Cross-enrollment schools are permitted to operate with students in membership at their base schools.

The size of the school for principal salary determination shall be the total course enrollments in Month 2 of the prior school year divided by 4.

5.1.1.2 Performance of Schools Supervised by the Principal

The principal salary will be determined based on the history of school growth for the schools that the principal supervised.

5.1.1.2.1 School growth placement shall be determined as follows:

- July 1 to December 31, 2026:
 - Growth scores from 20221-23, 2023-24, and 2024-25 are used.
 - If the principal does not have a school growth score in prior years, the principal shall be placed on the “Base” column.
 - If, for at least 2 of the last 3 years, the principal has supervised a school that does not receive an accountability growth score, the principal shall be placed on the “Met” column.
- January 1 to June 30, 2027:
 - Growth scores from 2023–24, 2024–25, and 2025-26 are used.
 - If the principal does not have a school growth score in prior years, the principal shall be placed on the “Base” column.
 - If the principal has supervised a school that does not receive an accountability growth score, the principal shall be placed on the “Met” column.
 - No later than January 31, 2027, DPI will provide a Salary supplement to qualifying Principals. The Salary supplement shall be for an amount equal to half the difference between the annual amount the Principal receives on the Base level of the 2027 Principal Annual Salary Schedule and the total annual amount the Principal qualifies to receive on the “Met” or “Exceeded” supplemental salary schedule, if eligible ([S.L. 2026-42, Section 7A.7.\(a2\)](#)).

Table of Accountability Placement Growth determination

Base	Met	Exceeds
Not met + Not met +	Met + Met + Exceeded/Not Met	Exceeded + Exceeded + Not Met/Met
Principal has not supervised a school for 2 of the last 3 years	Exceeded + Met + Not Met	--
--	Principal for 2 of the last 3 years of a school not eligible to receive a school growth score	--

5.1.2 Daily Rate of Pay

The daily rate of pay for principals is based on 21.75 days in the month of service and is calculated as follows:

Annual certified salary ÷ 261 days = daily rate of pay.

Administrators who are split between a position that is calculated based on 261 annual days and a position that is based on the standard 21.5 days per month have their daily rate calculated on the standard 215 days.

5.1.3 Performance Bonus

Principals who supervised a school for the majority of the previous school year and are employed as of October 1 of the current year are eligible for a one-time bonus if that school was in the top 50% of school growth of the prior year.

5.1.3.1 *Statewide Growth Percentage Bonus*

- Top 5%: \$15,000
- Top 10%: \$10,000
- Top 15%: \$5,000
- Top 20%: \$2,500
- Top 50%: \$1,000

Principals who supervised two schools equally for 6 months receive the higher of the two bonuses earned.

A principal shall not receive more than one bonus.

The bonus paid shall be in addition to any regular wage or other bonuses the principal receives or is scheduled to receive.

This bonus is not subject to TSERS and shall be paid no later than October 31.

5.1.4 Hold Harmless S.L. 2024-39

A principal shall receive an amount equal to the greater of the following:

- The applicable amount determined by the salary schedules of the current fiscal year.
- For principals who were eligible for longevity in the 2016–2017 fiscal year, the sum of the following:
 - The certified salary the principal qualified for in the 2016–2017 fiscal year including, if applicable:
 - Additional pay for ABC and Safe Schools achievements from 1997–1998 through 1999–2000
 - Supplements for advanced degree or doctorate degree (\$126 or \$253 monthly)

- Or the salary the principal received in the 2016–2017 fiscal year pursuant to Section 9.1 or 9.2 of Session Law 2016-94 – teacher and school administrator salary schedule.
- The longevity that the principal would have received based on the 2016–2017 fiscal year pay and the principal's current years of service.
- For principals who were not eligible for longevity in the 2016–2017 school year
 - The salary the principal received in the 2016–2017 fiscal year pursuant to Section 9.1 or 9.2 of Session Law 2016-94 or per A.2(2)a. in this Section.

5.1.5 Advanced and Doctorate Supplement

Effective July 1, 2017, principals are not eligible for advanced and doctorate supplements.

5.1.6 Longevity

Effective July 1, 2017, principals are not eligible for longevity pay. If an employee currently working in a position ineligible for longevity accepts a position eligible for longevity, longevity is prorated for the portion of the time employed in the eligible position.

5.1.7 No Pay Decrease for Teachers or Assistant Principals Who Become Principals

A teacher or assistant principal who becomes a principal shall be paid, on a monthly basis, at least as much as he or she would earn as a teacher or assistant principal employed by that local school administrative unit ([G.S. 115C-285\(8a\) and \(9\)](#)).

5.1.8 Transfers in Merged Systems

The rate of state pay for a principal who is transferred to a principal's position within a school system that has been created, or will be created, by merger and in a school with lower current year average daily membership will not be reduced for one calendar year following the date of the merger or reassignment.

5.1.9 Principals in New and Closed Schools

Principals assigned to a new school may be employed prior to the opening of the school. Salaries for these principals will be calculated based on the projected average daily membership and the accountability placement of the principal. Documentation of the projected average daily membership must be submitted to the Office of School Business prior to the salary assignment.

The allotment the new school months must be approved by the Allotments Section prior to certification of the salary. LEAs must notify salary@dpi.nc.gov after receiving confirmation of allotment from the Allotments Section so the salary can be certified.

A local education agency may pay a principal from State funds for up to 4 months after the closing of a school if funds are available. The salary of the principal will be assessed in accordance with [Section 5.2.1](#).

5.2 Principal Allotment Requirements

5.2.1 Schools open prior to July 1, 2011

Each school with 100 or more pupils in final average daily membership (ADM) and/or seven or more full-time equivalent state allotted/paid teachers and instructional support personnel, unrounded (based on prior year 6th pay period), is entitled to twelve months of employment for a principal.

5.2.2 Schools open on or after July 1, 2011

A school must have 100 students or more in final average daily membership to be eligible for 12 months of employment for a principal, regardless of the FTE of staff. Allocations of principal positions may be limited based on State funds available.

5.2.3 Building Principals

A local board of education may designate a teacher as a principal in a school with fewer than seven but more than two full-time state-allotted teaching positions.

5.2.3.1 Salary Basis

A teacher employed as a building principal shall be paid:

- at the appropriate pay level on the Assistant Principal salary schedule;
- based upon total years of experience on their teacher's license, with no extra credit for years on their principal's license;
- at the scheduled monthly rate of pay for ten months
- Effective July 1, 2017, a building principal shall not be eligible for longevity
- The building principal shall be held harmless to the higher of the 2016-17 certified salary + longevity, if eligible and the current year salary assignment on the assistant principal scale.

Experience credit: Experience as a building principal is not added to the 'P' principal license.

Budget code: Building principals are coded 51100-0001-01210.

Advanced degree supplement: A person serving as a building principal and holding an advanced or doctoral license shall be paid an additional monthly supplement.

Notify DPI

School Business Services must be notified in writing with the name and social security number of the teacher designated as the building principal for appropriate salary assignment. Failure to provide notification will result in a salary audit exception.

5.2.4 Principal Recruitment and Retention Supplement GS 115C-285.1

- Recruitment Salary Supplement - A principal who is paid on the exceeded growth column on the salary schedule and who accepts a position in a low performing school identified

by the Department of Public Instruction shall receive an annual salary supplement of \$30,000, paid monthly as long as the principal is employed as the principal of that school, up to 36 months.

- **Retention Salary Supplement** - A principal who is paid on the met or exceeded growth column on the salary schedule and who accepts a position in a low performing school identified by the Department of Public Instruction shall receive an annual salary supplement of \$20,000, paid monthly as long as the principal is employed as the principal of that school, up to 36 months.

DPI shall identify up to 40 low performing schools in the bottom 10% in the overall school performance score. Contact the Office of Transformation Support for approval.

5.2.4.1 Notifications Timeline:

No later than October 1 of each year: DPI shall notify the respective LEAs with an eligible low performing school in the bottom 10% of the overall school performance score that they may be selected for the recruitment supplement program.

No later than November 1 of each year: Each LEA with an eligible school shall notify DPI of its intent to participate.

No later than November 15 of each year: DPI shall notify the LEA that one of more of the eligible schools was selected for the program. DPI may select up to 40 low performing schools, prioritizing by overall performance score.

No later than May 1: Each LEA participating in the program shall execute the contract with the qualifying principal and notify School Business Services

- The name of the principal and the school
- Length of contract period
- Length of time the qualifying principal will receive the supplement.

No later than August 1: All qualifying principals shall be employed at the school.

5.2.4.2 Additional Information:

A qualifying principal is not to be excluded in future years from contracting with the same eligible employer or a different eligible employer for another salary supplement.

A qualifying principal who works at qualifying school will continue to receive the salary supplement for up to 36 months even if one or more of the following occur:

- the principal no longer meets the definition of a qualifying principal; or
- the school is no longer an eligible school that meets the definition of a qualifying school.

The salary supplements are not considered compensation under the Teachers, and State Employees' Retirement System.

5.2.5 Retired Principal or Retired Assistant Principal as an Interim Principal

A local board of education may select a retired principal or retired assistant principal to serve as an interim principal for the remainder of any school year, regardless of licensure status ([G.S. 115C-284\(e\)](#), SBE Policy LICN-005 item IV.2).

Please contact salary@dpi.nc.gov to certify or assign the salary if needed to avoid salary audit exceptions.

5.3 Assistant Principals and Provisional Assistant Principals

An administrator with a one-year provisional assistant principal's certificate shall be considered equivalent to an assistant principal for salary purposes.

5.3.1 Monthly Salary

Assistant principals are paid monthly according to

- Years of Experience - the total number of years of experience on their educator license
- Education - their education level as determined by their highest license designation.

See the [Salary Schedules](#) for Assistant Principal salary ranges.

5.3.2 Daily Rate of Pay

Assistant Principals have their daily rate of pay based on 215 annual days regardless of the number of weekdays in the month of service:

Annual certified salary ÷ 215 days = daily rate of pay.

Administrators who are split between a position that is calculated based on 261 annual days and a position that is based on the standard 21.5 days per month have their daily rate calculated on the standard 215 days.

5.3.3 Advanced and Doctorate Supplement

Assistant principals are eligible for advanced and doctorate supplements.

An assistant principal who earns an advanced or doctoral license will receive an additional monthly supplement as indicated on the assistant principal Salary Schedule. This supplement will be effective the first day of the pay period, beginning the same month as the license effective date.

5.3.4 Longevity

Effective July 1, 2017, assistant principals are not eligible for longevity pay. If an employee currently working in a position ineligible for longevity accepts a position eligible for longevity, longevity is prorated for the portion of the time employed in the eligible position.

5.3.5 No Pay Decrease for Teachers Who Become Assistant Principals

A teacher who becomes an assistant principal shall be paid, on a monthly basis, at least as much as he or she would earn as a teacher employed by that local school administrative unit (Session Law 2016-94 Section 9.3.A, [G.S. 115C-285\(8\)](#)).

The above legislation applies to teachers and instructional support personnel required to be paid from the NC Teachers Salary Schedule.

5.3.6 Hold Harmless

An assistant principal shall receive an amount equal to the greater of the following:

- The applicable amount determined by the salary schedules of the current fiscal year.
- For assistant principals who were eligible for longevity in the 2016–2017 fiscal year, the sum of the following:
 - The certified salary the assistant principal qualified for in the 2016–2017 fiscal year including, if applicable:
 - Additional pay for ABC and Safe Schools achievements from 1997–1998 through 1999–2000
 - Supplements for advanced degree or doctorate degree (\$126 or \$253 monthly)
 - Or the salary the assistant principal received in the 2016–2017 fiscal year pursuant to Section 9.1 or 9.2 of Session Law 2016-94
 - The longevity that the principal would have received based on the 2016–2017 fiscal year pay and the principal's current years of service.
- For assistant principals who were not eligible for longevity in the 2016–2017 school year but who were employed in that year, the salary the assistant principal received in the 2016–2017 fiscal year pursuant to Section 9.1 or 9.2 of Session Law 2016-94 or per E.(2)a.

5.3.7 Summer School Monthly Salary

Assistant principals who serve as either assistant principals or as lead teachers during the summer school period will receive the same monthly salary for the summer school assignment as they received during the regular school term.

Local Education Agencies must contact salary@dpi.nc.gov to manually certify the salary if coded using lead teacher budget code.

A non-teaching assistant principal can be employed when 10 or more teachers are employed to work at a specific summer school.

5.4 Provisional Assistant Principals

A local school administrative unit may employ a person who is provisionally-certified as an assistant principal. SBE Policy LICN-001 item 1.30a Provisionally-licensed assistant principals shall be coded using object code 117.

The Board shall not issue provisional certificates for principals. (G.S. 115C-284(c))

5.4.1 Salary Basis for Provisional Assistant Principals

Provisionally licensed assistant principals are paid from the assistant principal schedule except when the provisionally licensed assistant principal earns more on the teacher salary schedule.

- If the assistant principal is eligible to be paid on the teacher salary schedule, the salary shall be split between Object Codes 117 and 129.
- Object Code 129 shall be used for the difference between the amount the individual is eligible to be paid on the assistant principal schedule and the amount the individual is eligible to be paid on the teacher schedule.

Example:

In 2027, the salary for a teacher with a master's w/NBPTS and 11 years of service = \$6,546

Salary for a provisionally-licensed assistant principal with master's and 11 years of service = \$6,384

Salary will be paid as follows:

Provisional AP XXXX-XXX-117, \$6,384

The difference from the teacher schedule will be paid on XXXX-XX-129, \$162.00.

5.4.2 Benefits for Provisional Assistant Principals

Provisionally-licensed assistant principals have benefits as described for public school employees in the [Benefits and Employment Policy Manual](#).

5.5 Masters in School Administration (MSA) Assistant Principal Intern Programs

5.5.1 Salary Basis for Interns

Participants receive a stipend during the internship period of the master's program at the full beginning salary on the assistant principal salary schedule (pay level 0-00), or, for a teacher who becomes an intern, at least as much as that person would earn as a teacher on the teacher salary schedule.

- If the MSA intern is eligible to be paid on the teacher salary schedule, the salary shall be split between object codes 117 and 129.
- Object code 129 shall be used for the difference between the amount individual is eligible to be paid on the assistant principal schedule and the amount the individual is eligible to be paid on the teacher schedule.

Example:

In 2027, the teacher salary for a teacher with a master's w/NBPTS and 11yrs of experience is \$6,546. MSA Intern pay will certify at \$5,712, pay level 0-00.

This MSA Intern is eligible to be paid \$6,546.

The salary will be paid as follows:

Assistant AP Object Code 117: \$5,712

Difference from Teacher schedule Object Code 129: \$834

Total Monthly Salary \$6,546

The stipend is received regardless of any sick leave, annual leave, personal leave, or holiday leave taken.

5.5.2 Budget Code

Stipends are to be coded to 1-5420-067-117. MSA Assistant Principal Interns are 10-month employees.

DPI will notify the LEA Finance Officer of the approved intern(s) and the dollars allotted for interns (PRC 067).

5.5.3 Additional Information

The North Carolina Principal Fellows and Transforming Principal Preparation Program or the school of education where the intern participates in a full-time master's in school administration program shall supply the Department of Public Instruction with certification of eligible full-time interns.

Full-time interns do not earn sick leave, annual leave, personal leave, holiday leave, retirement, or longevity, but do qualify for FICA.

For any clarification related to benefits or licensure, please contact the Office of Licensure and Educator Preparation.

See also Allotment Policy Manual (SBE policy ALOT-003) for other details on PRC 067.

6 Teachers and Student Services Personnel

6.1 All Teachers and Student Services Personnel

6.1.1 Required Legislative Reporting

Per [S.L. 2026-41](#) An LEA is required to report Salary Schedules for all experience-based teacher and instructional support salary schedules to the State Auditor. No later than Feb 15, these schedules shall be published to the DPI website and reported to the NC General Assembly.

6.1.2 Daily Rate of Pay

The following employees have their daily rate of pay based on 215 annual days regardless of the number of weekdays in the month of service:

- all teachers
- all student services personnel, and
- all employees in split position where one of the positions is based on a 215 annual days pay period daily rate.

The term “daily rate of pay” for the purpose of General Statute 115C-12(8) or for any other law or policy governing pay or benefits (i.e., Annual Leave Payout) based on the teacher salary schedule shall not exceed one twenty-second ($1/22$) of a teacher’s monthly rate of pay.

Example:

An employee serves 50% of the day as a teacher (215 annual days basis) and 50% of the day as a principal (261 annual days basis).

This employee’s daily rate is calculated on 215 annual days.

6.1.3 Salary Schedule Placement

6.1.3.1 Teachers, school counselors, school social workers, and media coordinators

Those employed with the local boards of education are assigned a salary on the appropriate classroom teacher salary schedule according to the class level of their license, experience level, and area of assignment. (See [Salary Schedules](#))

Beginning with the 2014–2015 fiscal year, in lieu of providing annual longevity payments to teachers paid on the teacher salary schedule, the amounts of those longevity payments are included in the monthly amounts under the teacher salary schedule.

A teacher compensated in accordance with this salary schedule shall receive an amount equal to the greater of the following:

- The applicable amount on the salary schedule for the applicable school year.

- For teachers who were eligible for longevity for the 2013–2014 school year, the sum of the following:
 - The teacher's salary based on the 2013–2014 legislated salary schedules (S.L. 2013-360, Sec. 35.11.)
 - The longevity that the teacher would have received under the longevity system in effect for the 2013–2014 school year ([S.L. 2013-360, Sec. 35.11](#)), based on the teacher's current years of service.
 - The annual bonus provided in 2014–15 (S.L. 2014-100, Sec. 9.1.(e).) This provision typically applies to teachers, school counselors, school social workers, and media coordinators paid at the top of their scale.
- For teachers who were not eligible for longevity for the 2013–2014 school year, but who were employed that year, the sum of the teacher's salary and annual bonus in 2014–15.
- Only the following teachers and instructional support personnel shall be paid on the "M" salary schedule, or receive a salary supplement for academic preparation at the six-year degree level or at the doctoral degree level ([G.S. 115C-302.10](#)):
 - School nurses and instructional support personnel in positions for which a master's degree is required for licensure.
 - Teachers and instructional support personnel who were paid on that salary schedule or received that salary supplement prior to the 2014–2015 school year.
 - Teachers and instructional support personnel who complete a degree at the master's, six-year, or doctoral degree level for which they completed at least one course prior to August 1, 2013, and would have qualified for the salary supplement pursuant to State Board of Education policy LICN-006 (formerly TCP-A-006), as it was in effect on June 30, 2013.
 - Teachers who obtain their master's in administration, but are currently assuming the role of a classroom teacher, must meet one of the three criteria above in order to be paid on the master's, six-year, or doctoral degree level.

6.1.3.2 Exception: Highest License Level

If an individual in a teaching or student services position holds at least one license area beyond the required license level and completes at least one course prior to August 1, 2013, then that individual's salary is certified at his or her highest education level of licensure, even if the area of assignment is not the area with the highest-class level. The individual must meet one of the three following criteria

- School nurses and instructional support personnel in positions for which a master's degree is required for licensure.
- Teachers and instructional support personnel who were paid on that salary schedule or received that salary supplement prior to the 2014–2015 school year.

Teachers and instructional support personnel who complete a degree at the master's, six-year, or doctoral degree level for which they completed at least one course prior to August

1, 2013, and would have qualified for the salary supplement pursuant to State Board of Education policy [LICN-006](#) (formerly TCP-A-006), as it was in effect on June 30, 2013. If neither of the above criteria are met, the individual will be paid according to the license in the area of assignment.

For those approved for master's pay through Form G, see [Section 6.2.2](#) for Non-Educational Master's Degree.

Exception: Years of Experience

If the employee has multiple teaching areas with different years of experience, the employee shall be paid according to the years of experience in the area of assignment. Please contact salary@dpi.nc.gov to certify the years applicable. (See also [Section 6.2.4](#) for Career Technical Teachers.)

6.1.3.3 Pay for Newly-Employed Teachers with Experience Credit ([G.S.115-C-302.1\(b3\)](#))

A local board of education shall determine the experience credit for a teacher in the first year of employment with the local board for the purposes of placement on the salary schedule.

The local board of education and the teacher shall not be responsible for repayment of any State funds due to misapplication of the experience credit to the State salary schedule for the first year of employment if the determination of experience credit was done in good faith based on the teacher's verified prior employment record and the guidelines established by the State Board of Education. However, a local board of education that does not use due diligence to verify prior employment will be responsible for the repayment of any overpayment of State funds.

The teacher must be paid at the appropriate experience level as determined by the State Board.

- A teacher overpaid due to incorrect determination of experience credit is not entitled to the same pay level in subsequent years.
- A teacher overpaid due to incorrect determination of experience credit shall not be deemed to be demoted if the State Board's determination of experience credit results in a reduction in salary in subsequent years of employment.

Refer to the Office of Educator Preparation and Licensure for the due diligence requirements the LEA must meet for the waiver of overpayment to apply.

6.1.3.4 Audiologists, school psychologists and speech-language pathologists

The first step of the salary schedule for the following employees shall be equivalent to Step 6 of the "A" salary schedule:

- school psychologists
- school speech pathologists who are licensed as speech pathologists at the master's degree level or higher
- school audiologists who are licensed as audiologists at the master's degree level or higher

These employees shall receive the following supplements:

- a salary supplement each month of ten percent (10%) of their monthly salary.
- an additional three hundred fifty dollars (\$350.00) monthly salary supplement.
- eligibility to receive salary supplements equivalent to those of teachers for academic preparation at the six-year degree level or the doctoral degree level.

The twenty-sixth step of the salary schedule for these employees shall be seven and one-half percent (7.5%) higher than the salary received by these same employees on the twenty-fifth step of the salary schedule.

Certification for audiologists and school psychologists and Speech-Language Pathologists follows procedures in [Section 6.4](#).

6.1.3.5 School Counselors

School counselors who are licensed as counselors at the master's degree level or higher shall receive a salary supplement each month of one hundred dollars (\$100.00).

6.1.3.6 School Nurses

School nurses shall be paid on the teacher's 'M' salary schedule according to their years of experience. The Office of Educator Preparation and Licensure does not license school nurses. LEAs evaluate the years of experience for school nurses employed in their local education agency based on the individual's experience as a registered nurse.

6.1.4 Master's Degree Supplement for Teachers and Instructional Support Personnel

Only the following teachers and instructional support personnel shall be paid on the "M" salary schedule or receive a salary supplement for academic preparation at the six-year degree level or at the doctoral degree level:

- School Nurses and instructional support personnel in positions for which a master's degree is required for licensure.
- Teachers and instructional support personnel who were paid on that salary schedule or received that salary supplement prior to July 1, 2014.
- Teachers and instructional support personnel who
 - complete a degree at the master's, six-year, or doctoral degree level for which they completed at least one course prior to August 1, 2013, and
 - would have qualified for the salary supplement pursuant to the State Board of Education policy LICN-006 (formerly TCP-A-006), as it was in effect on June 30, 2013.

If an individual in a teaching or student services personnel position is eligible to be paid on an advanced or doctoral license s/he will receive an additional monthly supplement of

- \$126 per month for an advanced license and
- \$253 per month for a doctorate license.

The college/university makes the distinction if the degree qualifies as advanced. Typically, an advanced degree is a 6th year degree, 30 hours beyond the masters.

6.1.4.1 Provisional License

Instructional Support personnel who are provisionally licensed shall be paid from the “A” salary schedule.

6.1.4.2 Effective Date for Salary Purposes

For salary purposes, all degrees above the bachelor’s level earned prior to April 1 of the current school year will become effective in the same pay period as the license effective date.

Example:

The license area effective date of a doctorate degree is November 15 (as shown on the Employment Inquiry screen). For salary purposes, this doctorate degree will be effective for the entire month of November.

All November paychecks retroactive to November 1 should reflect the pay increase.

If the LEA pay period is from October 15–November 15, the pay increase should only apply beginning November 1 and not October 15 as the degree was earned during the calendar month of November and not October.

6.1.5 State-Funded Supplements for Teachers and Qualifying School Administrators

The following applies to supplements paid from State PRC071 outlined in the [Allotment Policy Manual](#) (SBE policy ALOT-003).

- No individual salary supplement shall exceed the annual per-teacher funding amount awarded to the unit.
- An LEA may use these State funds to provide a supplement to a teacher, instructional support personnel, or to an assistant principal or principal paid from the teacher salary schedule pursuant to G.S. 115C-285(a)(8). See [Sections 5.2.6 and 5.4.4](#).
- No teacher or administrator may receive a supplement greater than the annual per-teacher amount for their unit, which may not exceed \$5,000.
- The local board of education shall determine the frequency and the amount for each eligible recipient.
- Local boards of education may pay supplements to personnel who are funded from non-state funds.
- No supplements from this funding source shall be used for teachers who are not eligible to be funded from the State Public School fund. e.g., Pre-K teachers.

- Supplements are subject to TSERS.

6.1.6 Longevity

Teachers and instructional support personnel are not eligible for longevity. If an employee currently working in a position not eligible for longevity accepts a position eligible for longevity, the longevity payment is prorated for the portion of the time employed in the eligible position.

6.1.7 Legislated Teacher Bonuses

The bonuses in this subsection are not subject to TSERS. Qualifying teachers in an LEA, charter, regional, or lab school are eligible for the bonuses in this subsection.

6.1.7.1 Third Grade Reading Bonuses

Bonuses are provided to 3rd grade reading teachers who are in the top 25% in the State based on the EVAAS growth scores. Teachers in charter and lab schools are eligible.

Bonuses are provided to 3rd grade reading teachers who are in the top 25% in their respective local education agency. Teachers in charter and lab schools are not eligible.

6.1.7.2 Fourth and Fifth Grade Reading Bonus and Fourth to Eighth Grade Math Bonus

Bonuses are provided to 4th and 5th grade reading teachers and 4th to 8th grade math teachers who are in the top 25% in the State based on the EVAAS growth scores. Teachers in charter and lab schools are eligible.

6.1.7.3 Advanced Course Bonuses

State-funded qualifying teachers who teach AP, IB, AICE courses are eligible for a bonus based on the performance of the students, up to \$3,500 based on prior year results.

- Qualifying teachers in North Carolina Virtual Public School are eligible to receive the advanced course bonus.
- IB Theory of Knowledge is not an eligible advanced course.
- Both teachers of IB- Diploma Program tests that are for courses that span over 1 years are eligible, if applicable.
- A sub-score does not qualify for a bonus.
- The teacher shall only be awarded a bonus payment for students who are enrolled in the advanced course.
- For reporting purposes, the bonus is coded under Purpose Code 5260.

An eligible teacher or eligible career and technical education teacher must meet one of the following criteria:

- Remains employed teaching in the same qualifying public school unit, or, if an eligible advanced course teacher is only employed by the North Carolina Virtual Public School program, remains employed teaching in that program, at least from the

school year the data is collected until January 1 of the corresponding school year that the bonus is paid.

- Retired, between the last day of the school year in which the data is collected and January 1 of the corresponding school year in which the bonus is paid, after attaining one of the following:
 - The age of at least 65 with five years of creditable service.
 - The age of at least 60 with 25 years of creditable services.
 - Thirty years of creditable service. This includes a teacher who retired with an effective retirement date of January 1 provided they meet the requirements above.

6.1.7.4 Career Technical Education Credential Bonuses

State-funded qualifying teachers who teach students who attain credentials and certificates approved by the State Board of Education are eligible for a bonus based on the performance of the students, up to \$3,500 based on prior year results.

Teachers in North Carolina Virtual Public School, charter and lab schools are eligible to receive the bonus.

For reporting purposes, the bonus is coded to purpose 5120.

An eligible teacher or eligible career and technical education teacher must meet one of the following criteria:

- Remains employed teaching in the same qualifying public school unit, or, if an eligible advanced course teacher is only employed by the North Carolina Virtual Public School program, remains employed teaching in that program, at least from the school year the data is collected until January 1 of the corresponding school year that the bonus is paid.
- Retired, between the last day of the school year in which the data is collected and January 1 of the corresponding school year in which the bonus is paid, after attaining one of the following:
 - The age of at least 65 with five years of creditable service.
 - The age of at least 60 with 25 years of creditable services.
 - Thirty years of creditable service. This includes a teacher who retired with an effective retirement date of January 1 provided they meet the requirements above.

6.1.7.5 Small and Low Wealth County Signing Bonus for Teachers [G.S.115C-302.8](#)

Teachers and instructional support who accept employment a local education agency that receives Small County Supplemental or Low Wealth County Supplemental Funding, may be eligible for a signing bonus. The local education agency is required to match \$1 dollar of local funds for \$1 of State funds expended up to \$1,000 in State funds.

Teachers and instructional support personnel are those who are required to be paid from the legislative certified teacher salary schedule and are typically eligible to be paid from

State PRC 001 and/or State PRC 007 and are working and coded to the school level. This is consistent with the definition of teacher and instructional support used for other bonus and compensation items.

This bonus is not subject to TSERS.

6.1.8 Highly Qualified NC Teaching Graduate G.S. 115C-302.7

A highly qualified graduate who is employed by an LEA shall receive a salary supplement each month at the highest level for which the graduate qualifies under this section.

A highly qualified NC Teaching Graduate is defined as a classroom teacher who:

- has zero years of experience on their educator license
- was employed for the first time as a classroom teacher on or after July 1, 2021
- graduated from an approved educator preparation program located in NC
- graduated with a GPA of 3.75 or higher and met a certain score on edTPA or PPAT assessments:
 - A score of 42 or higher for the World Languages and Classical Languages edTPA assessments (those with 13 rubrics)
 - A score of 57 or higher for the Elementary Education edTPA assessment (those with 18 rubrics)
 - A score of 48 or higher for all other edTPA assessments (those with 15 rubrics)
 - A score of 44 or higher for the PPAT assessment

In all cases, these assessments must be nationally scored. Local scoring will not be accepted.

6.1.8.1 Teaching Assignment

6.1.8.1.1 Low-Performing School

A highly qualified graduate whose initial teaching assignment is in a low-performing school shall receive a monthly supplement of the equivalent of the difference in the State-funded salary of the graduate and the State-funded salary of a teacher on the “A” Schedule with 3 years of experience.

The graduate is eligible to receive the calculated supplement for up to 3 years of employment, if they remain teaching in that school, or teach in another low-performing school or a low-performing district. If the graduate has a break in service, he/she is no longer eligible for the supplement.

The list of low performing schools can be found on the [DPI Accountability website](#).

Eligible Initial Employment years:

Graduates are eligible for the supplement if their initial employment at a low-performing school began in

- 2024–25: 2022–23 & 2023–24
- 2025–26: 2023–24 & 2024–25

- 2026-27: 2024-25 & 2025-26

6.1.8.1.2 Licensed and Teaching in STEM or Exceptional Children (EC)

A highly qualified graduate who is licensed and teaching in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (STEM) or exceptional children (EC) shall receive a monthly supplement of the equivalent of the difference in the State-funded salary of the graduate and the State-funded salary of a teacher on the “A” Schedule with two years of experience.

The graduate is eligible to receive this supplement for up to two years of employment, if they are licensed and teaching in STEM or EC without a break in service.

6.1.8.1.3 Other Assignment

A highly qualified graduate who does not qualify for supplements under 6.1.7.1.1 or 6.1.7.1.2 shall receive a monthly supplement of the equivalent of the difference in the State-funded salary of the graduate and the State-funded salary of a teacher on the “A” Schedule with 1 year of experience.

The graduate is eligible to receive this supplement for up to 1 year of employment without a break in service.

Coding: PRC 028 - Bonus for Highly Qualified NC Teaching Graduates. This is a guaranteed allotment.

6.1.9 Extended Day and Extra Pay

Any work that a teacher does in the confines of the school day which is established by the local board of education does not constitute extended day and therefore makes this time ineligible for extra duty pay.

State funds may not be used to pay certified instructional personnel for a planning period that is outside of the regular instructional day. Therefore, if a school decides to require a teacher to teach an additional class and to schedule their planning period after the regular instructional day, no State funds may be used to provide additional compensation.

Extended Day Pay Computation

The computation of payment for extended day duties for all employees is based on a standard number of hours worked per month. The number of hours in a work month can be obtained by using the following formula:

Formula: Hours per day × days in week = hours per week × weeks in year = hours per year ÷ months in year = hours per month (Hours refer to work hours.)

Hours Per Month

$$8.0 \times 5 = 40.0 \times 52 = 2,080 \div 12 = 173.33$$

$$7.5 \times 5 = 37.5 \times 52 = 1,950 \div 12 = 162.50$$

$$7.0 \times 5 = 35.0 \times 52 = 1,820 \div 12 = 151.66$$

$$6.5 \times 5 = 32.5 \times 52 = 1,690 \div 12 = 140.83$$

$$6.0 \times 5 = 30.0 \times 52 = 1,560 \div 12 = 130.00$$

Divide the hours of extended-day time worked by the appropriate hours per month from the table; multiply this result by the employee's monthly salary to determine the extended-day payment.

Example:

An employee works in a local education agency that considers 7.5 hours a regular workday. Forty (40) hours of extended-day time was worked in November.

The regular monthly salary is \$4,000. Extended-Day Payment = $40 \div 162.50 = 24.62\% \times \$4,000 = \$987.62$

6.1.10 Provisional Licenses: Failing to Meet Requirements

When an educator fails to meet the educational requirements for maintaining a provisional license, the license will be classified as expired. Removal of the provisional area to reinstate the initial license may result in ineligibility to serve in the specific capacity and/or reduction to a lower pay level.

6.2 Teachers

6.2.1 Teacher Budget Codes and Attachment A

All budget codes are listed in the Chart of Accounts and the Attachment A document. Teachers' certified salary is coded to one of the following object codes:

- 121 – Classroom Teacher
- 123 – JROTC
- 124 – International Faculty Exchange
- 127 – Advanced Teaching Roles (ATR)

Attachment A provides a list of the licensure requirements for each budget code. If a particular budget code is not listed on Attachment A, the salary for the employee will not certify. [Requests for additional codes](#) should be directed to the Office of School Business.

If an individual does not have the required educator license required for the budget code, the salary system will create an audit exception.

Object Code 129 - Held Harmless Salary: Include the dollar amounts above the certified salary when calculating no loss in pay, held harmless or the higher salary. *129 object code is not in Attachment A.*

6.2.2 Non-Educational Master's Degree and Application for "M" Supplemental Salary – Form G Approval

Effective July 1, 1993, the Office of Educator Preparation and Licensure began authorizing salary payments on the class "M" teacher license for teachers who hold a master's degree in a non-teaching area and the degree is directly relevant to the teacher's area of assignment. Effective November 3, 2005, the Office of Educator Preparation and Licensure began authorizing salary payments on the class "S" teacher license for teachers who hold an advanced degree and is directly relevant to the teacher's area of assignment.

A list of individuals by LEA who are currently on the "M" salary schedule can be viewed on [LicSal](#). It is the LEA's responsibility to review the list and send any additions or deletions to the Office of Educator Preparation and Licensure.

- For new employees who hold a master's or advanced degree in a non-teaching education area, a Form G - Request for Authorization of Graduate Salary must be submitted.
- For a current employee whose area of assignment changes and the teacher is no longer eligible for "M" level salary, please notify Salary.

This information must be submitted early in the new school year for proper placement on the "M," "S," or "D" salary schedule.

The Form G list available on [LicSal](#) is managed by the Office of Educator Preparation and Licensure. Salary Administration does not monitor or update this list.

A new Form G must be submitted for each school number assignment. Therefore, the "M," "S," or "D" salary is only valid for the school on the Form G. Teachers assigned to multiple schools must list all schools they serve on the Form G for their salary to certify. It is the LEA's responsibility to be sure that the Form G is on file for each school number.

The Office of Educator Preparation and Licensure cannot guarantee processing of any licensure requests, including for current year salary adjustments, after April 15. If a license request is submitted after April 15 and is not processed in the current fiscal year, your LEA is responsible for any resulting salary audit exception.

Authorized users can view the list on [LicSal](#).

6.2.3 National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) Differential Pay G.S.115C-296.2

6.2.3.1 Eligibility for NBPTS Pay

Teachers who meet the following criteria are paid based on National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) certification.

The teacher holds a valid certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS), and the teacher spends at least seventy percent (70%) of his or her work time:

- in classroom instruction. Most of the remaining 30% of time should be spent in areas such as mentoring teachers, doing demonstration lessons, writing curricula, developing and leading staff development programs,

OR

- media coordinators, school counselors, career development coordinators, and instructional coaches at Title I schools, if the employee works 70% of their time in these specific areas. Only Instructional Coaches are required to be at Title I schools to qualify for NBPTS,

OR

- a teacher working in an advanced teaching role

If an employee is employed in an area other than classroom instruction (e.g., library/media or school counselor) they are eligible for the 12% pay differential.

The 12% differential is calculated based on the employee's salary on the bachelor's salary schedule (A Schedule) only.

Other instructional support personnel are not eligible to be paid the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) Pay Differential.

6.2.3.2 The Role of the Instructional Coach

The Instructional Coach is a peer-support role which involves direct interaction with teachers for the purpose of improving instructional practice. Instructional Coaches may be district or building-based professionals.

The primary duties of an Instructional Coach are to:

- Provide job-embedded modeling and support to help colleagues implement effective instructional strategies, understand content standards or other program practices, and recognize how various components of the curriculum link together
- Facilitate professional learning opportunities to help educators master of the North Carolina Professional Teaching Standards, often by demonstrating a lesson, co teaching, or observing and giving feedback

The Instructional Coach **MUST** be at a Title I school in order to be eligible for NBPTS.

It is the responsibility of the LEA central office to ensure that the teachers receiving NBPTS pay meet the above criteria. DPI may request documentation and a letter from the central office, substantiating the criteria for NBPTS pay. In the event that DPI concludes that a teacher is not appropriately paid, the LEA will be required to refund the State for the entire amount of the exception.

Please submit a separate [form](#) for each school location employed to salary@dpi.nc.gov to certify NBPTS pay for instructional coaches

See the *Guidelines for National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) Pay Differential* document on the [FBS website](#).

6.2.3.3 Salary schedules

NBPTS certified personnel serving as teachers who meet the criteria above are paid from the NBPTS certified salary schedules.

6.2.3.4 Budget codes

The same budget codes are used for NBPTS certified teachers as used for non-NBPTS teachers.

6.2.3.5 Pay Indicator

Individuals with salaries certified on the NBPTS salary schedule will have an 'N' in the seventh digit of the pay level.

Example:

Mary Smith is a teacher with NBPTS certification, 'M' license, and ten years of experience.

Her pay level will be assigned by DPI as M 10 N.

6.2.3.6 Effective Dates

For pay purposes, the effective date is July 1 of the school year that NBPTS certification is earned. NBPTS certificates will expire according to the expiration date listed on the NBPTS certificate.

Example:

Mary Smith is notified in November of 2007 that she has become NBPTS certified.

She will be paid from the NBPTS salary schedule effective July 1, 2007. Her certificate will expire in November of 2017 and will need to be renewed as of this date in order to continue to receive payment for NBPTS in the 2017 school year after the November expiration date.

6.2.3.7 NBPTS Candidate Funding and Associated Paid Leave

NBPTS Grant Program [GS 115C-296.2A](#)

Within funds available, grant funds are available to reimburse teachers for the cost of participation fee for NBPTS certification. Eligible teachers shall be employed in a qualifying school and determined by the Office of Educator Preparation and Licensure.

Loan Program

Candidates may receive a loan through the State Education Assistance Authority for the NBPTS assessment fee. Eligibility for receiving a loan and the 3 days of paid leave to participate in the certification program is based on the candidate:

- Having completed three full years of teaching in a North Carolina public school; and
- Having not previously received State funds for participating in any certification area in the NBPTS program, or

- Having repaid any State funds previously received for the NBPTS certification process, or
- Having received a waiver of repayment from the State Board of Education.

The candidate will have three years to pay the assessment fee back to the State Education Assistance Authority.

The candidate is eligible to receive up to 3 days of paid leave, to be scheduled and approved by the candidate's supervisor to participate in the NBPTS program. This leave is coded as leave with pay. It is the responsibility of the LEA to determine funding eligibility of NBPTS candidates.

6.2.3.8 Substitute Code

The substitute used for the NBPTS candidate's leave should be paid under PRC 011 and coded to either Object Code 163, 164 or 166, consistent with how the teacher is normally coded.

6.2.3.9 Additional information

For further information on National Board Certification contact the North Carolina Program Coordinator for National Board Certification or visit the [National Board Certification](#).

6.2.4 Career Technical Teachers

When a classroom teacher is re-assigned to:

- a career technical teaching position and
- has more years of experience (due to creditable work experience) in the career technical license area than in the academic area

placement on the salary schedule shall be in accordance with work experience granted in the career technical license area. If the teacher then returns to a regular classroom teaching position, he/she will be paid in accordance with the years of experience in the academic area.

Please contact salary@dpi.nc.gov to certify the years applicable.

Effective July 1, 1999, local education agencies can pay career technical teachers holding a limited license from PRC 001. Please contact salary@dpi.nc.gov to certify their salaries in PRC 001.

6.2.5 ROTC Instructors

The contracts between the military and LEAs for the JROTC programs require that ROTC instructors are compensated at their military active duty pay level. ROTC instructors should be coded to 5110-001-123.

6.2.5.1 Military Contract Formula

The formula for determining the salary is as follows:

Active Duty Pay - Military Retirement = Difference to be compensated.

Difference to be compensated =

- 50% paid from
 - LEA local funds or
 - State funding from identified state-allotted teaching positions (based on license and years of experience),
- 50% paid by the military.

If the total compensation based on the military contract formula is less than what an individual would earn on the state salary schedule (based on the license rating), the local school system **MUST** add funds to compensate the instructor at the state salary level.

6.2.5.2 Coding and Computations:

Minimum Instructor Pay (MIP)=\$6,500.00 (sample only)

Certified Salary = \$4,500.00 (sample only)

State Fund with Object code 123:

Net Gross Amount: \$3,250.00 ($\$6,500.00 \times 50\%$)

% Employed: 72.22% ($\$3,250.00 \div \$4,500.00$)

Local Fund with Object code 123:

Net Gross Amount: \$1,250.00 ($\$4,500.00 - \$3,250.00$)

% Employed: 27.78% ($\$1,250.00 \div \$4,500.00$)

Local Fund with Object code 187:

Difference between MIP and Certified Salary

Net Gross Amount: \$2,000.00 ($(\$6,500.00 - \$4,500.00)$)

6.2.5.3 Use of a State-Allotted Position for a JROTC Instructor

State regulations permit:

- identification of a state-allotted teaching position up to 50% of the MIP dollar amount (no additional positions are provided and no career technical funds can be used) and
- use of that position to pay a JROTC instructor provided the LEA employs another teaching position using local funds to replace the use of the state-allotted position. For example: the position in local funds must match the percentage employed in the state funded position.

6.2.5.4 Experience

See [LICN-006](#) III and IV for information on experience credit and non-teaching experience credit for military experience.

6.2.6 Driver Training Teachers

Driver Training Instructors shall be paid within the salary range of the pay grade for their job classification, based on a 40-hour workweek. If the established workweek is fewer than 40 hours, the hourly rate of pay must be based on a 40-hour workweek.

Driver Training Instructors shall be paid based on the following pay grades:

- NC08 DMV-certified instructors without a NC educator license
- NC09 DMV-certified instructors with a NC educator license but no license area 096 - Safety and Driver Education
- NC11 NC educator license with subject area 096 - Safety and Driver Education

If an individual was employed as a driver training instructor prior to July 1, 2014 and was paid higher than the maximum allowable of the respective pay grade, Local Education Agencies may continue to pay at the higher rate, but it is not required.

Driver training teachers who only hold DMV certificates, not a driver training educator license, must be coded to 5110-012-148.

6.2.7 Mentor Teachers

The State Board of Education has adopted the Beginning Teacher Support Program policy [TCED-016](#) requiring each beginning teacher to be assigned a qualified, well-trained mentor as soon as possible after employment. Mentors are assigned to assist beginning teachers during their first 3 years of employment in a North Carolina public school system.

6.2.7.1 Compensation

Mentor teachers are assigned to provide support and assistance to beginning teachers. No dedicated State funding is provided for the purpose of mentoring. Each local school administrative unit determines the amount of compensation paid to school-based teachers serving as mentors.

Refer to TCED-016.2.b for requirements to be a mentor for beginning teachers.

State funding should not be used to provide mentors for superintendents, associate superintendents, or assistant superintendents; principals, assistant principals, or central office staff; or teachers not classified as a beginning teacher in TCED-16.

Mentor stipends are to be coded to 5xxx-xxx-193. Full-time mentor salary should be coded to 5xxx-xxx-134.

6.2.8 New Teacher Orientation

Individuals are eligible for new teacher orientation if they meet all of the following:

- have never taught before, (including out of county, state, or country) or
- have taught fewer than 6 months, or
- are residency license holder teachers with only non-teaching work experience on their license (See below for staff development requirements); or

- are workforce development (vocational) teachers with only non-teaching work experience on their license;
- are employed with an emergency permit to practice; or
- JROTC instructors with zero years of teaching experience (only non-teaching experience), and
- have never participated in the new teacher orientation program in prior years.

If the teacher does not have zero years on his or her license due to additional experience being credited, the Office of Educator Preparation and Licensure must verify if the experience is teaching or nonteaching.

Eligible new teachers may be paid up to a maximum of 3 days from State or Federal funds.

New teacher orientation should be paid at the teacher's certified rate.

Local Education Agencies must contact salary@dpi.nc.gov at DPI to manually approve and certify New Teacher Orientation for teachers with more than zero years' experience on their license.

Student Services Personnel do not qualify for this orientation. In order for an eligible teacher to be paid for this orientation, the orientation must take place outside of the normal instructional calendar. No additional pay will be allowed if the orientation takes place on a workday or on a regular instructional day.

6.2.9 Retired Teachers Subject to the Salary Earnings Cap

Retired teachers may be hired subject to a salary earnings cap, after the required 6-month break in service, during which, the employee shall not work in any capacity in an organization participating in the Teachers' and State Employees' Retirement System including part-time, temporary, substitute, part-time tutor, or contractor service.

For additional information, please see the [*Benefits and Employment Policy Manual*](#), Section 16.1. and/or Guidance on Return-to-Work Laws for Members of the Teachers' and State Employees' Retirement System (TSERS) from the NC Department of the State Treasurer.

Retired teachers subject to the cap are coded the same way as a regular employee (e.g., 121).

The Retirement System may adjust the earnings cap due to inflation in January of each year. Retirees are subject to the earnings restrictions below. Retirees may earn whichever is greater:

- Current salary cap as reported by the NC Retirement System:
The retirement system's earnings cap applies to the 12-month period immediately following the effective date of retirement. At the end of the initial 12-month period following retirement, the cap applies to the calendar year (January 1-December 31)
OR

- 50% of the gross pre-retirement salary (excluding termination payments) (see NC Retirement for more details)

6.2.9.1 Salary Assignment

A local board of education may pay a retired teacher hired under this provision no more than the employee would have received on the teacher salary schedule, excluding longevity, had the employee not retired.

A local board of education may pay a retired teacher hired under these provisions less than his or her certified rating. Please notify salary@dpi.nc.gov to manually certify this negotiated rate.

The exemption from the earnings cap expired June 30, 2021, per G.S. 115C-302.4.

6.2.10 International Faculty Exchange (IFE) Teachers

LEAs may convert teaching positions to dollars to cover the contract cost for International Faculty Exchange Teachers.

The conversion to dollars shall be the statewide average teacher salary, with benefits. The dollars from this conversion are allotted in PRC 020, International Faculty Exchange. See allotment policy manual for PRC-020.

The allowable uses for the conversion dollars are restricted to costs associated with supporting IFE teachers within the local education agency:

- salaries (commensurate with their experience levels) and State approved bonuses
- costs associated with
 - programming and related activities
 - background checks
 - medical coverage
 - other program administration services in accordance with federal regulations

To request the conversion, the LEA must submit the International Faculty Exchange Position Conversion to Dollar Allotment Request [form](#).

Please return the form to School Business Services, Allotments Section.

6.2.11 Summer School

Summer school teachers are paid in accordance with their teaching license rating on the teacher salary schedule.

6.2.11.1 Lead Teacher Positions/Summer School

Teachers who are assigned to work as the lead teacher (budget code xxxx-069-135) for summer school programs, will receive a salary increase of four percent (4%) above their base certified salary (e.g. \$5,000 during regular school year, \$5,200 for summer assignment only).

Lead teachers are not eligible for NBPTS differential.

This special salary assignment is applicable for the summer school program only.

6.2.11.2 Teacher Reassigned to Site Supervisor

Teachers reassigned to work as a site supervisor (object code 113) during the summer school period shall be assigned to a School Administrator I-VII category by the local board of education.

Salary determination will be made by the local board of education within the salary range that corresponds to the School Administrator I-VII assignment.

6.2.12 DPI Consultant

Teachers assigned to work with DPI on a statewide or regional instructional basis (e.g., state teacher of the year, regional coordinator, Recruiters, Educators on Loan, etc.) during the school year are to be paid at a monthly rate of three steps above what they would earn in the position they held prior to being named a teacher-on-loan, or 6% above their certified salary for the length of their assignment at DPI if the teacher has 27 or more years of experience.

It is common practice for LEAs to continue to pay these individuals their local supplements. Local Supplements may not be paid from State funds.

If a prior year Teacher of the Year returns to a local education agency as a classroom teacher, including those who are in an advanced teaching role at the school building level, they shall continue to receive the appropriate certified salary plus 6%. The advanced teaching roles are defined in General Statute [115C-310.3](#).

The teacher shall also have the option of eleven or twelve months of employment. The additional one or two months may include work on local, regional, and state initiatives; working with beginning teachers; serving on local, regional, and state committees; developing and delivering professional development; or other functions as assigned by the employing LEA. The teacher will be responsible for signing a waiver form if he/she opts out of the twelve (12) months of employment. For more information, see [SBE Policy TOYR-000](#).

Regional consultants and previous teachers-on-loan do not qualify for this 6% increment.

6.2.12.1 Coding

The allotment for the DPI consultant is in PRC 096 Special Position Allotment. Individuals are coded to school number “860”. The allotment for Teacher of the Year is in PRC 096. Individuals are coded to the school number(s) in which they are assigned. **Please notify salary@dpi.nc.gov to manually certify the additional 6% increment.**

6.2.12.2 Effective Date

For salary purposes, the consultant position is effective with the first day of the consulting contract.

6.2.13 Interim Teachers

An interim teacher may be employed when a vacancy in a teaching position exists by separation of employment. An interim teacher may not be employed to replace a permanent employee who is using paid leave.

6.2.13.1 Pay Basis

An interim teacher will be paid at his or her certified salary rating if

- the interim employee is licensed in the area of assignment and
- service in the interim position is more than 10 teaching days, and
- is coded with an object code of 121.

An LEA may want to see if it is an advantage to the LEA or the individual to request a provisional license if the interim is certified but working out-of-field. This may allow the individual to be paid with state funds and receive experience credit. However, the interim employee **may** be paid at the substitute rate if he or she requests to be paid at the substitute rate.

An interim teacher **must** be paid at the substitute rate if:

- the interim employee is not licensed in the area of assignment or
- service in the interim position is 10 teaching days or less,
- is coded with an object code of 122.

Interim teachers coded to 122 (non-certified) do not earn experience credit.

6.2.13.2 Exception:

Retirees re-employed as classroom teachers must be coded to object code 121 as outlined in Section 6.2.8 above.

6.2.13.3 Budget Code

Certified interim teachers are paid from the budget code from which the regular teacher (XXXX-XXX-121) being replaced was paid. Therefore, all interim teachers must be paid from the program report code from which the regular teacher being replaced was paid.

6.2.13.4 "Permanent" Status

The interim teacher will be afforded all benefits due a permanent employee, if the period of interim employment will be at least six full consecutive monthly pay periods. ([Benefits and Employment Policy Manual](#) 1.1.2 (b) and 12.1.3.)

6.2.14 Adjunct Instructors

6.2.14.1 Adjunct CTE Instructors

An adjunct instructor may be employed for no more than 20 hours per week or no more than five full consecutive months of employment. An adjunct instructor shall not be eligible to earn paid leave, participate in the Teachers' and State Employees' Retirement System,

or receive or purchase health benefits through the State Health Plan for Teachers and State Employees.

An adjunct instructor shall not be required to hold or apply for licensure as a teacher.

The minimum criteria of relevant education or employment experience to qualify to contract as an adjunct instructor in each career and technical education career cluster is approved in SBE policy EVAL-023. (G.S. 115C-157.1 SL 2019-185 Section 2.(a), SBE Policy EVAL-023)

6.2.14.2 Adjunct K-12 Instructors in Core Academic Subjects, Fine and Performing Arts, and World Languages

An adjunct instructor may be employed for fewer than 20 hours per week or for fewer than six full consecutive months of employment. Adjunct instructors may be classified as temporary full-time or part-time employees. Based on the status as a temporary public school employee, an adjunct instructor shall not be eligible to earn paid leave, participate in the Teachers' and State Employees' Retirement System, or receive or purchase health benefits through the State Health Plan for Teachers and State Employees.

An adjunct instructor shall not be required to hold or apply for licensure as a teacher. (G.S. 115C-298.5 SL 2017-91 Section 1, SL 2021-48 Section 1)

6.3 Substitute Teachers

A person is considered a substitute when filling in for a teacher who is on paid leave, not filling an interim position.

6.3.1 Pay Basis G.S. 115C-12(8)

Current pay rates are indexed to the A-00 teacher rates. See Salary Schedules for minimum and maximum daily rates.

6.3.1.1 Licensed

For licensed substitutes working either part-time or full-time, the pay rate is at least 65% of the A-00 teacher calculated on a 22-day month (not 21.5). The maximum pay rate allowable is the licensed daily rate of pay calculated on a 22-day month.

A licensed substitute must hold a current North Carolina license.

6.3.1.2 Unlicensed

For unlicensed substitutes working either part-time or full-time, the pay rate is at least 50% of the A-00 teacher rate calculated on a 22-day month (not 21.5). The maximum pay rate allowable is the daily rate of licensed substitutes pay calculated on a 22-day month.

Under no circumstances can an unlicensed substitute earn more than a licensed substitute; however, the pay rate can be the same for both.

6.3.2 Full-Time Substitutes

A full-time substitute must work at least 30 hours per week and is expected to be employed at least six consecutive months. Full-time substitutes earn the same benefits as other employees and are paid as a substitute.

Full-time substitutes must be coded with an object code of 164.

6.3.3 Part-Time Substitutes

Substitute teachers who are not classified as full-time can only be paid for the actual number of days worked. This payment does not include the option of pay for weekends, pay for holidays, etc.

6.3.4 Teacher Assistants as Substitutes G.S. 115C-12(8)

When a teacher assistant is assigned to serve as a substitute teacher, the daily rate paid shall be the same as the daily rate for an entry level teacher with an 'A' license (A-00) (calculated on 21.5 days).

An absence code (Reason Code 37) is to be charged to the regular teacher assistant assignment (object code 142) for each day or half-day the teacher assistant serves as a substitute. The PRC for the payment of the teacher assistant's substitute payment is the same PRC from which the teacher assistant is normally paid, with the exception of substitute payment for staff development activities.

6.3.5 Funding Source

6.3.5.1 *Instructional Personnel*

Unless otherwise required, a substitute for a regular teacher is paid from the same source of funds from which the regular teacher is paid. If the teacher is paid from more than one fund, the substitute will be paid at the same percent from each fund as the teacher for the appropriate number of days.

Example:

A teacher is 50% state and 50% local and is absent one day.

The substitute will be paid for one day at 50% state and 50% local; NOT ½ day at 100% state and ½ day at 100% local.

6.3.5.2 *Exceptions:*

6.3.5.2.1 Substitute Pay for Staff Development

The PRC used for the substitute's payment due to staff development activities is the same PRC used for the teacher's staff development payment. Substitute payments for staff development activities are not charged to object 0312 (Workshop Expenses), but to one of the approved substitute pay object codes.

6.3.5.2.2 Substitute Pay for Child Involvement Leave

Substitutes employed for teachers taking Child Involvement Leave shall be paid from local funds only.

6.3.5.3 Principal Replacement

A substitute employed to replace the teacher who fills in for a principal shall be paid from the same source of funds as that of the principal's salary (local, state, or federal). An assistant principal filling in for a principal does not constitute a substitute. Additional pay is not applicable to the assistant principal due to the terms in the contract of regular duties associated with the position of assistant principal.

6.3.5.4 Exceptional Children Requirements

When non-instructional temporary replacement personnel are required in the Exceptional Children Program, the replacement person shall be paid from the same source of funds as the employee being replaced. If a teacher assistant is absent and a temporary replacement teacher assistant is required by law to be placed in that absent position, the temporary replacement teacher assistant is paid based on the non-certified salary schedule, which includes teacher assistant. The same source of funds as the absent teacher assistant should be used.

6.4 Student Services Personnel

6.4.1 Positions and Budget Codes

6.4.1.1 Student Services Personnel Paid on the Teacher Salary Schedule:

Positions	Object Codes
School Counselor (licensure area 00005)	0131
School Social Worker (licensure area 00006)	0131
School Nurse (no license area assigned by DPI)	0131
Media Coordinator (see "Attachment A")	0131
Full-Time Mentors	0134
Instructional Coaches	0135

6.4.1.2 Student Services Personnel paid starting at the 6th Step of the A Teacher Salary Schedule

Positions	Object Codes
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Speech-Language Pathologist (licensure area 88082)	0132
Audiologist (licensure area 88003)	0132
School Psychologist (licensure area 00026)	0133

6.4.2 Audiologists

In order to serve as a school audiologist, a person shall hold a doctoral degree in audiology and an audiology license issued by the North Carolina Board of Examiners for Speech and Language Pathologists and Audiologists (“NCBOESLPA”). A person who obtained a master’s degree in audiology prior to October 1, 2007, shall be exempt from the doctoral degree requirement provided that the person remains continuously licensed by the NCBOESLPA ([LICN 001 Section 1.20c](#)).

Audiologists licensed below the master’s level in license area 88003 are to be compensated on the teacher salary schedule according to the number of years on their license and their highest level of education. (See [Salary Schedules](#) for salary ranges).

6.4.3 Speech-Language Pathologists Licensed Below the Master’s Degree Level

Speech-language pathologists licensed below the master’s degree level in area 88082 are to be compensated on the teacher salary schedule according to the number of years on their license and their highest level of education. (See [Salary Schedules](#)).

6.4.4 Provisionally-Licensed School Psychologists

School psychologists who are provisionally licensed and have not completed the six-year education requirement will be compensated on **the master’s degree ‘M’ teacher salary schedule**.

6.4.5 School Nurse

Any person employed by or under contract with a PSU to serve as a school nurse in a North Carolina public school shall meet all qualifications established by the State Board of Education ([16 NCAC 06C .0110](#)). At minimum, the school nurses initially hired or contracted for on or after July 1, 2025 shall meet either of the following criteria to be considered certified:

Be licensed as a registered nurse under [Chapter 90, Article 9A of the General Statutes](#) and have at least two years of experience serving as a nurse in a hospital or health clinic;
or

Be certified by the American Nurses Credentialing Center or the National Board for Certification of School Nurses.

A school nurse who meets either of these qualifications and is employed by a LEA shall be paid under the certified master's degree 'M' teacher salary schedule. A nurse employed by a local health department, as defined in [G.S. 130A-2\(5\)](#), and contracted to serve as a school nurse shall be paid according to the local pay schedule established by the county government.

7 Non-Certified Personnel

7.1 Salary Determinations

7.1.1 Required Legislative Reporting

Per [SL 2025-73 \(NCGS 115C-320\)](#), local boards of education are required to post central office position and salary information to their websites by August 15, of each year.

7.1.2 Daily Rate of Pay

- Effective July 1, 2005, school-based non-certified employees whose term of employment is exactly 10 months (215 days) will be paid based on 21.5 days in a month.
- School-based non-certified employees whose term of employment is not exactly 10 months (215 days), and all central office non-certified employees will be paid based on the actual number of weekdays in a month.
- All teacher assistants will be paid based on 21.5 days in a month.

7.1.3 Non-Exempt Hourly Rate of Pay

Compute the hourly rate of pay for non-exempt employees using the following formulas:

Monthly Salary $\times$ 12 = Annual Salary

Annual Salary $\div$ 52 = Weekly Salary

Weekly Salary $\div$ 40 = Hourly Rate

7.1.4 Salary Basis

Non-certified personnel must be paid within the salary range for their job classification, based on a 40-hour workweek. If the established workweek is less than 40 hours, the hourly rate of pay must be based on a 40 hour workweek.

Example:

Beginning July 1, 2021, the annual salary for non-certified public school employees whose salaries are supported from State funds shall be a minimum of \$15 per hour.

The minimum allowed salary for a pay grade employee is \$2,600, based on the employee working 40 hours. If the employee works less than 40 hours, the individual has to be paid the same hourly rate as if they worked 40 hours, although they will not earn the \$2,600.

If the employee worked 30 hours a week, the monthly salary is

Monthly Salary $\times$ 12 = Annual Salary (\$2,600 $\times$ 12 = \$31,200)

Annual Salary ÷ 52 = Weekly Salary (\$31,200 ÷ 52 = \$600)

Weekly Salary ÷ 40 = Hourly Rate (\$600 ÷ 40 = \$15)

An individual who worked the full 40 hours would earn \$520.00 per week. An individual that worked 30 hours would only earn \$390.00. Both are being paid the same hourly rate and would meet the minimum monthly salary requirements for a pay grade 50 employee.

Exception:

School nurses are to be paid on the classroom teacher's "M" salary schedule. See Section 6.4.5.

7.1.5 Average Salary/State Allotment Compliance

By the end of the third pay period each fiscal year, state law ([G.S. 115C-12\(16\)\(b\)](#)) requires that local boards of education place the following state-allotted positions on the salary schedule adopted by the State Board of Education so that the average salary paid for each personnel classification is at least 98% of the state-allotted amounts.

- office support personnel (object code 151),
- teacher assistants (object code 142), and
- custodial personnel (object code 173)

In placing these employees on the salary schedule, local boards shall consider each employee's:

- education,
- training, and
- experience (including other local school administrative units).

7.1.6 Workweek

Salaries for all classifications of non-certified personnel (excluding teacher assistants) are based on a 40-hour workweek. The monthly salary for standard workweeks of less than 40 hours must be prorated accordingly.

7.1.7 Teacher Assistant Engaged in Internship

Teacher assistants shall continue to receive their salary and benefits while interning in the same local school administrative unit where they are employed as a teacher assistant.

Teacher assistants who participate in this program shall meet the following requirements:

- Be enrolled in a recognized EPP.
- Be employed in a North Carolina public school

Local school administrative units are encouraged to assign teacher assistants to a different classroom during an internship than the classroom they are assigned to as a teacher assistant. To the extent possible, they may be assigned to another school within the same local school administrative unit. ([G.S. 115C-269.30](#), [Session Law 2017-189](#) (Sections 2(i) and 6(n)).

7.2 Source of Funds

7.2.1 State-Funded Non-Certified Employees

Each local board of education shall:

- Examine the duties and responsibilities of all non-certified personnel in its employment whose salaries are paid from state funds (in whole or in part),
- Classify non-certified personnel according to class specification in Class Specifications for Non-Certified Public School Employees, and
- Pay these employees in accordance with the state salary ranges for non-certified personnel.

Class Specifications for Non-Certified Personnel can be found on the [Office of Educator Preparation and Licensure website](#).

7.2.2 Local or Federal Funds for Non-Certified Employees

The local board of education shall have full authority to establish the salary of its locally- or federally- paid employees. Local boards are not bound by rules and regulations established for employees paid from state funds if they have adopted a local salary schedule that recognizes a difference in salaries based on variations in

- duties
- training
- experience
- professional fitness, and
- continued service in the same school.

If a local salary schedule is not adopted, the state salary schedule shall be in force.

7.2.3 Prorating of Time – Multiple Positions – No Overtime

7.2.3.1 Teachers and Other Personnel Who Also Drive a School Bus

If a teacher or other employee also drives a school bus during the hours designated as their standard workday, the standard workday of that individual must be adjusted to reflect actual work time and their salary adjusted accordingly. The bus-driving time must be coded to and paid from the transportation allotment. The rate of pay for bus driver duty is based on the bus driver salary range. For example, if a teacher's regular work hours begin at 7:30, but the teacher drives a bus from 7:30 till 8:00, the teacher would be prorated 93.33% employed as teacher and 6.67% employed as bus driver (no overtime applicable).

7.3 Overtime Pay Policy and Definitions

7.3.1 Overtime Policy

Overtime compensation must be provided to employees determined to be non-exempt on the basis of U.S. Department of Labor Regulations (Code of Federal Regulations, Chapter 29, Part 541) and other U.S. Department of Labor publications.

7.3.2 Types of Overtime Compensation

Public schools may provide this compensation in either of two forms:

- overtime pay at the rate of one and one-half times the regular rate of pay for all hours in excess of 40 hours in a workweek, or
- compensatory time off at a rate of one and one-half hours for each hour worked in excess of 40 hours in a regular workweek provided the employee is notified and is in agreement that compensatory time will be given before the work is performed.

7.3.3 Who Decides How to Compensate?

The decision to provide either overtime pay or compensatory time off rests with the local board of education. The local board of education may establish policies on

- the number of hours allowed to be accumulated up to a maximum of 240 hours, and
- the timeframe in which these hours shall be taken (e.g., compensatory time off must be taken before annual vacation leave is used).

If compensatory time off is used, the following guidelines must be followed:

- The employer and the employee must arrive at an understanding or agreement on the use of compensatory time before any work is performed.
- Compensatory time must be given at the premium rate of not less than one and one-half hours for each hour of employment for which overtime compensation is required.
- Employees may not accrue more than 240 hours of compensatory time (160 actual hours) for hours worked.
- An employee who accrues the maximum amount of compensatory time (240 hours) must receive cash payments for any additional hours of overtime work.
- If the employee is paid for the accrued compensation time off (i.e., cashed out), cash payments must be paid at the regular rate earned by the employee at the time the employee worked the overtime or receives such payment.
- Upon termination of employment, an employee must be paid for unused compensatory time at a rate of compensation not less than (a) the average regular rate received by the employee during the last 3 years of employment, or (b) the final regular rate received by the employee, whichever is higher.
- An employee who requests the use of compensatory time must be permitted to use such time within a reasonable period, if the use of compensatory time does not

unduly disrupt the operations of the unit. Any unused compensatory time must be paid for at the time of separation from employment.

7.3.4 Determining Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) Status

The determination of exempt status for employees depends on

- the duties of the position
- the employee's actual work
- the salary level and
- the salary basis/method of payment.

Generally, employees occupying positions requiring an educator's license and others occupying professional or managerial positions without licensure requirements are exempt from the FLSA and are not subject to the overtime provision.

7.3.5 Exemptions from Overtime Pay

FLSA exemption determinations must be made at the local level.

Under the FLSA, the following groups of employees are exempt from the overtime pay provision:

- Elected public officials, their immediate advisors, and appointees.
- Employees that meet exemption requirements for executive, administrative, professional and highly compensated occupations, and high-income computer employees, which are defined as follows:
 - **Executive employees** - must earn a salary of \$455 or more a week, and meet the following conditions:
 - Primary duty (main, major or most important duty; generally, 50% or more of time) - must manage an enterprise, department, or subdivision thereof;
 - Supervision - must customarily and regularly direct the work of two or more employees; and
 - Authority - must be able to hire and fire or suggest changes in status of other employees, and their input is given particular weight.
 - **Administrative employees** - must earn a salary or fee of \$455 or more per week, except for academic administrative personnel, who must earn at least the entrance salary for teachers in the school or educational institution by which employed; and meet the following conditions:
 - Primary duty (main, major or most important duty; generally, 50% or more of time) - must perform office or non-manual work relating to management policies, or general business operations, or perform functions in the administration of a school or educational institution in work directly related to academic instruction;
 - Other duties - must regularly and directly assist an executive or administrative employee, or must work under general supervision

- along specialized or technical lines that require special training, experience, or knowledge, or must execute specialized assignments under only general supervision; and
 - Discretion - must customarily and regularly exercise discretion and independent judgment with respect to matters of significance.
- **Professional employees** - must earn a salary or fee of \$455 or more per week, except this requirement does not apply to teachers employed by schools or other educational institutions, or to qualified computer employees who may be paid on an hourly basis of at least \$27.63 per hour. In addition, the following conditions must be met:
 - Primary duty (main, major, or most important duty; generally 50% or more of time) - must perform work requiring advanced knowledge in a field of science or learning acquired by specialized study; or must perform original and creative work in a recognized artistic endeavor, which depends primarily on the invention, imagination, or talent of the employee; or must teach; or must perform work requiring theoretical and practical application of specialized knowledge in computer systems analysis, programming design, or software engineering;
 - Other duties - learned professionals must perform work that is predominantly intellectual and varied in nature and involves output, which cannot be measured on the basis of standardized units of time; and
 - Discretion - must consistently exercise discretion and judgment.

7.3.6 Special Provisions for Public Employees

One of the most important factors used to determine whether an employee qualifies for the overtime exemption is that the employee must be paid on a “salary basis.” One test used by the US Department of Labor to determine “salary basis” payment is whether an employee’s pay is subject to reduction for time away from work of less than one day. This test has been recognized as an important factor in determining the line between exempt and non-exempt employees. *However, this test does not work well in the public sector.* Statute or public policy requires public employers to use pay systems that require all employees to use accrued leave or incur a reduction in pay for absences from work. Thus, under the above test, all public employees, including managers who otherwise would clearly be exempt from the overtime requirements, could be considered nonexempt. As a result, the US Department of Labor has adopted regulations to eliminate this anomaly. Under this rule, an otherwise exempt public-sector employee who is paid according to a pay system that reduces earnings for time away from work of less than one day will not be disqualified from exemption because of such a pay system. Furthermore, the exemption will not be lost because of budget-required furloughs that are not regular and recurring, except in the workweek in which such a deduction occurs.

7.4 Calculating Overtime Pay/Hours

7.4.1 State Does Not Allot Overtime Funds

The state does not provide additional funds to pay overtime. If overtime occurs and money is not available in the state allotment from which the employee is paid, it must be paid from local fund sources.

7.4.2 Standard Workweek

All monthly salaries shown in the non-certified section of the state salary schedule are based on a standard workweek of 40 hours.

7.4.2.1 *Workweek*

The workweek is a fixed and regularly recurring period of 168 hours (seven consecutive 24-hour periods).

An employee who is subject to the requirements of FLSA is entitled to overtime at time and one-half for all hours worked over 40 in a workweek. Holidays and paid leave do not count toward the 40-hour requirement.

7.4.2.2 *Employee's Regular Workweek*

For a non-exempt employee, the employee's regular workweek is the period of time (hours) for which the salary is intended to provide compensation.

Exception:

The standard workweek for teacher assistants is established by the local board of education.

7.4.2.2.1 Regular work week fewer than 40 hours

If an employee's regular workweek is fewer than 40 hours, the employee is not entitled to overtime pay until hours worked exceed 40. However, the employee may be entitled to straight-time pay for hours worked up to 40, unless it is clear that the salary covers a 40-hour workweek.

Hours worked do not include any pay for holidays, vacation, or sick leave.

If the regular workweek includes any pay for holidays, vacation, or sick leave, the employee must work in excess of 40 hours, excluding paid leave days to receive overtime pay.

7.4.2.2.2 Hours worked

Hours worked includes all the time that an employee is required to be on duty, on the employer's premises or at another prescribed workplace, and all times during which the employee is permitted to work for the employer. It also includes any work, which the employee performs on or away from the premises, if the employer knows or has reason to believe that the work is being performed. If an employee's regular workweek is fewer than

40 hours, the employee is not entitled to overtime pay until hours worked exceed 40. However, the employee may be entitled to straight-time pay for hours worked up to 40, unless it is clear that the salary covers a 40-hour workweek.

7.4.2.2.3 Volunteer work

An employee cannot volunteer to perform work that involves duties, which are normally associated with the employee's regular work. Volunteers may be paid expenses, reasonable benefits, a nominal fee, or any combination of these for their services without losing their volunteer status. The value of any benefit or nominal fee received by an employee for volunteer work would be reported on the employee's annual W-2 form.

7.4.2.2.4 Occasional or sporadic work

The FLSA provides that State and local government employees can work "occasionally or sporadically" at another job for the same public agency, without requiring the employer to combine the hours from both jobs in determining the overtime liability. However, to use this exemption, the employee must work at the other job solely at his/her option, and the other job must be on a part-time basis and must be infrequent, irregular or occurring in scattered instances. In addition, the employee's other job must be in a different capacity from his/her regular job.

7.4.3 Salary

An employee's salary includes

- the amount of compensation to which the employee is entitled during the year from the salary schedule
- the amount of longevity pay, if any, to which the employee is entitled during the year
- the amount of local supplement, if applicable, to which the employee is entitled during the school year
- non-discretionary bonuses (i.e. the employer contract agrees or makes a promise to pay it).

7.4.3.1 Calculation When Employed in One Position

Monthly salary × 12 (or months employed) = annual salary

Annual salary ÷ 52 = weekly salary

Weekly salary ÷ hours actually worked = hourly regular rate of pay

Determine the number of hours worked during the workweek in excess of 40

Hourly regular rate × hours worked over 40 × 1.5 = overtime pay

Weekly salary + overtime pay = total gross wages due

7.4.3.2 Calculation When Employed in More Than One Position

When a non-certified person is employed:

- in two or more positions having different rates of pay and
- the total hours worked in the workweek exceeds 40.

If agreed upon by both the employer and the employee, up to 240 hours may be granted as compensatory time off instead of overtime pay. Hours of compensatory time shall accrue at a rate of time and a half. Overtime compensation, in the form of overtime pay or compensatory time shall be provided after 40 hours of work and cannot be waived by agreement between the employer and employee.

7.4.3.3 Prorate Overtime to Budget Codes for Each Position

Allocation of overtime pay at time and one-half must be prorated to the overtime budget codes for each position's respective allotment.

7.4.3.3.1 Non-exempt Employee and a Non-exempt Position:

If a non-exempt employee works in more than one capacity (i.e., teacher assistant/bus driver), all compensation would be paid from the sources of funds that incurred the expense. For example, if the teacher assistant/bus driver worked 45 hours in a given week, the first 40 hours would be distributed and paid at straight time according to the work normally performed. The appropriate number of hours would be paid for teacher assistant duties from the teacher assistant allotment, and the appropriate number of hours would be paid for bus driver duties from the transportation allotment.

Payment for the five (5) hours of overtime must be prorated between the same budget codes as the salary payments.

Use the respective percentages calculated by comparing the number of hours in the teacher assistant position to the total hours and the number of hours in the bus driver position to the total hours to prorate the overtime payment. The overtime payment would be charged to the appropriate overtime expenditure code in each allotment.

7.4.3.3.2 Non-exempt Employee and an Exempt Position

When a non-exempt employee works in more than one capacity and the second position is typically held by an exempt employee (i.e., teacher assistant/athletic coach), those hours worked as a coach are categorized as non-exempt hours. Where the employee who coaches beyond the regular full-time duties performed in a position which is non-exempt under the Fair Labor Standards Act, the employee remains non-exempt in the coaching position. This is true even though a full-time coach could be classified as exempt.

Part-time duties of non-exempt employees do not change their classification; the full-time duties control in fixing the status of non-exempt employees.

7.4.3.3.3 Exempt Employee and a Non-exempt Position

If an exempt employee works in more than one capacity, and the second position is typically held by a non-exempt employee (i.e., teacher/bus driver), the amount of time worked per week in the non-exempt position **must** not be the employee's primary duty. Therefore, if the employee's regular workweek in a combination job is 40 hours, then they

may work only eight hours per week in a non-exempt position without changing their classification to non-exempt, and **none** of the time worked would be subject to overtime.

However, if the employee worked more than eight hours in a non-exempt position, then the employee's classification would change to non-exempt and all of the time worked would be used to qualify for overtime.

7.4.3.3.4 Exempt Employee and Non-Exempt Summer Employment

When a 10-month employee (i.e., teacher) works as a painter or in some similar class of work during the summer months, that employee is to receive time and a half compensation for hours over 40 per week during those summer months. This answer is based upon the implicit assumptions that (1) the employee is employed by the same employer during the summers as during the school term, and (2) that the employee does not perform his/her regular full-time teaching duties during the summer months. Work as a painter is non-exempt under the Fair Labor Standards Act, and the requirements pertaining to overtime (i.e., hours over 40 hours per week) apply to that employee.

7.4.4 Overtime Calculation: Multiple Positions with Different Pay Rates

1. Determine the total number of hours worked during the workweek in each position.
2. Determine the employee's hourly rate of pay for each position.
3. Multiply the number of hours worked during the workweek in each position by the appropriate hourly rate of pay.
4. Total the results for all positions to determine the total regular wages.
5. Divide the result in #4 above by the total number of hours worked during the workweek in all positions to determine a weighted hourly rate of pay for the employee.
6. Multiply the weighted hourly rate by .5 and then multiply the result by the number of hours worked in the workweek in excess of 40 to determine the overtime premium.
7. Add the result in #6 to the result in #4. This is the employee's total gross compensation due.
8. Total gross compensation, consisting of salary and overtime pay, must be prorated among the positions worked, with overtime pay recorded to the appropriate overtime code.

7.4.5 Funding Source

Whether an employee is funded from multiple state sources, multiple federal sources, multiple local sources, or a combination of any of these sources, the appropriate wage for hours worked (both for straight time and overtime) must be paid from the funding sources appropriate for the duties being performed.

Overtime compensation is an expense that is paid from available funds in the appropriate allotment. No additional allotments are made to cover these expenses. Therefore, if overtime occurs and funds are not available in the appropriate allotment, the overtime must be paid from local funds. This is true regardless of the funding sources for employees subject to the Fair Labor Standards Act. Overtime pay must be charged to

object code 199. The regular salary object code (i.e., 142, 171) is not used for the payment of overtime.

7.4.6 Due Date of Overtime Payment

Overtime compensation earned in a particular workweek must be paid to the employee on the regular payday for the period in which such is done. If this is not possible due to cut off times necessary for preparing payrolls, then payment must be made no later than the next regular payday.

7.4.7 Record Keeping

Under FLSA, all covered employers must meet certain record keeping regulations. These records must be kept for each non-exempt employee. The following is a listing of the basic records that an employer must maintain:

7.4.7.1 Every LEA shall maintain and preserve payroll or other records containing the following information and data:

- Employee's full name and social security number.
- Home address, including zip code.
- Date of birth, if under 19.
- Sex and occupation.
- Time of day and day of week on which the employee's workweek begins (can be stated in LEA policy).
- Hours worked each day.
- Regular hourly rate of pay in any workweek in which overtime premium is due; basis on which wages are paid (e.g., \$6/hour, \$220/week, \$1300/month); the amount and nature of payments which are excludable from the regular rate of pay. (Basis of which employee's wages are paid)
- Total daily and weekly hours of work.
- Total daily or weekly straight time earnings.
- Total overtime earnings for the workweek.
- All additions to or deductions from wages.
- Total wages paid each pay period.
- Date of payment and the pay period covered by payment.

7.4.7.2 The basic record keeping requirements for employees subject to the compensatory time provisions are:

- All of the applicable information above,
- The number of hours of compensatory time earned each workweek, or other work period, by each employee at the rate of one and one-half for each overtime hour worked,
- The number of hours of such compensatory time used each workweek, or other work period, by each employee,

- The number of hours of compensatory time paid in cash, the total amount paid, and the date of such payment, and
- Any collective bargaining agreement or written understanding or agreement with respect to earning and using compensatory time. If such agreement or understanding is not in writing, a record of its existence must be kept.

7.4.7.3 The basic record keeping requirements for executive, administrative, and professional employees are:

- All of the information required above in (1.) except for items (f) through (k).
- Necessary information to permit calculation for each pay period of the employee's total remuneration for employment, including fringe benefits (e.g., \$2000 per month plus hospitalization, insurance plan A, benefit package B, and two weeks paid vacation).

Records of the required payroll information must be preserved for three (3) years. Records on which wage computations are based should be retained for two (2) years; i.e., time cards, wage rate tables, time schedules, and records of additions to or deductions from wages.

An employer that fails to maintain adequate records could face serious consequences if subjected to enforcement proceedings or a lawsuit seeking to collect back wages and unpaid overtime.

7.4.8 Enforcement

Investigators for the local Wage and Hour Division of the US Department of Labor enforce the provisions of the FLSA. The wage-hour investigators have the authority to conduct investigations and gather data on wages, hours, and other employment conditions or practices, in order to determine compliance with the FLSA. If violations are found, the wage-hour investigators have the authority to recommend changes in employment practices in order to bring an employer into compliance with the FLSA. Employers who willfully violate the FLSA may be prosecuted criminally. The violator may be fined criminal penalties up to \$10,000, and a second conviction may result in imprisonment. Employers who willfully or repeatedly violate the overtime pay provisions are subject to civil monetary penalties of up to \$1,100 per violation. Finally, the FLSA prohibits the shipment of goods in interstate commerce, which were produced in violation of the overtime pay provisions.

7.4.9 Common Violations

The 10 most common violations made by employers are as follows:

1. Misclassification of employees as exempt from the overtime requirements of the FLSA.

In many cases, an employee has been erroneously classified as exempt and should have been receiving overtime.

2. Not properly compensating employees for meal and break periods.

Generally, an employee must be paid for meal periods unless:

- a. the period is at least 30 minutes long,
 - b. the employee is completely relieved of duties, and
 - c. the employee can leave the work post, although he/she can be required to stay on the premises of the unit. If an employee is required to perform work during this time, it must be counted as hours worked even if the period is labeled as a meal period and the employee eats during this time. Rest periods and coffee breaks of 20 minutes or less are generally required to be counted as hours worked.
3. Not compensating employees for “on call” time.

If an employee is required to sit by the phone and be available for a phone call and come to work immediately, that time is compensatory.
4. Not paying employees for time in training and other educational sessions.

Payment is required when attendance is mandatory, and the training session is designed to enhance the skills needed by an employee to perform a current job assignment. Teacher assistant training to meet the employment criteria under ESSA legislation is exempt from this requirement.
5. Not paying employees for compensatory travel time.
6. Not properly administering a compensatory time off policy that substitutes time off for overtime.
7. Not compensating employees for unauthorized overtime.

If management is aware that an employee is working before or after normal hours, during break times, or at home, the hours worked must be compensated and included as overtime if the employee has worked more than 40 hours in a week.
8. Failing to include certain non-discretionary bonus payments or overtime into weekly payments for overtime calculation.
9. Not paying employees for all time that is recorded on time cards.
10. Not maintaining accurate records or in cases of dual recordkeeping, having inconsistent records.

7.4.10 Interpretation of FLSA Laws

To obtain additional information, contact the nearest office of the Wage and Hour Division listed in most telephone directories under U. S. Government, Department of Labor; or by accessing the Department of Labor on the internet: www.dol.gov.

7.4.11 Sample Questions – Overtime Pay

1. When a teacher assistant (or any non-exempt employee) is also employed beyond their regular workweek as an athletic coach, are those hours worked as a coach in the exempt or non-exempt category?

Answer: Non-exempt. When an employee coaches beyond the regular duties performed in a full-time position which is non-exempt under the FLSA, the employee remains nonexempt in the coaching position. This is true even though a full-time coach could be classified as an exempt position. Part-time duties in this instance do not change the status as the full-time primary duties predominate in fixing the character of the position.

2. When a teacher, who is exempt from FLSA by the law during the regular ten month term, also works as a painter or in some such class of work during the summer months, is that employee to receive time and a half compensation for hours over forty per week during those months?

Answer: Yes, this answer is based upon the implicit assumptions that (1) the employee is employed by the same employer during the summer as during the school term, and (2) that the employee does not perform his/her regular full-time teaching duties during the summer months. Work as a painter is non-exempt under the FLSA, and the requirements pertaining to overtime (i.e., hours over 40 hours per week) applies to that employee.

3. When a school secretary volunteers to serve as an athletic coach for a small fee, are those hours worked as a coach eligible for overtime compensation?

Answer: No, according to the Fair Labor Standards Act, employees who volunteer their time outside their normal services and who receive only expenses, reasonable benefits, or a nominal fee are exempt from coverage under the FLSA. When utilizing school employees who volunteer their time to coach, always take care to see that their services are totally voluntary, are not similar to their normal duties, and are rewarded with a nominal fee, expense reimbursement, or on some other basis that is clearly not a salary.

4. When a maintenance or any other non-exempt employee is employed beyond their regular workweek to perform work at the school (cleanup, opening and closing of school, etc.) for an outside agency, how is the employee paid?

Answer: If the employee is required to perform work for the outside agency, anytime worked over 40 hours is payable at time and a half. The employee is still considered an employee of the school system when conducting this type of work for the outside agencies and is paid accordingly. The school system should pay the employee the applicable rate (including overtime, if appropriate) and have the outside agency reimburse the school system, if the outside agency is required to pay for this service by the school system. Payment for this type of activity must be paid from local funds. Note, however, that an employee could choose to volunteer to assist an outside agency, and such work would not have to be compensated as long as the outside agency is considered an independent entity from the school district.

5. What is the workweek for a non-exempt employee?

Answer: The workweek is established by the local Board of Education for teacher assistants. For all other non-certified employees the salary manual provides for a 40 (forty) hour workweek.

8 Absences

8.1 Absence Reporting

8.1.1 Absence Codes

The required codes for reporting absences are as follows.

8.1.1.1 Codes when Employing a Substitute

- 01:** Sick Leave—No Deduction
- 02:** Personal Leave Approved—No Deduction
- 03:** Extended Sick Leave—\$50 Deduction
- 04:** Absence Without Deduction—No Deduction
- 05:** Absence With Deduction—\$50 Deduction
- 07:** Absence Without Pay—Day's Pay Deduction
- 08:** Sick Leave Bank—No Deduction
- 09:** Personal Leave Not Approved—Variable Day's Pay Deduction
- 24:** Contagious Disease—No Deduction
- 25:** Parental Leave (Classroom Instruction Only)—No Deduction; parental paid leave shall not be counted against or deducted from the employee's leave balances.

8.1.1.2 Other Absence Codes

- 10:** Child Involvement Leave—At LEA Discretion Substitutes will be charged to local funds only. Substitutes are paid for whole or half days only. Contact salary@dpi.nc.gov and inform them on how this absence is being recorded (whether using a standard deduction or daily rate).
- 14:** Episode of Violence—No Deduction
- 20:** Annual Leave—No Deduction
- 22:** Annual Leave for Catastrophic Illness—No Deduction
- 26:** Personal Leave Day/Non-Instructional Day—No Deduction
- 28:** Bonus Annual Leave—No Deduction
- 37:** Teacher Assistant When Subbing—Day's Pay Deduction
- 50:** Donated Annual Leave—No Deduction
- 51:** Donated Sick Leave—No Deduction
- 52:** Donated Leave Used—No Deduction

8.1.2 Absence Without Deductions

LEAs will not make deductions from the public school employee's salary in the following cases. See the Benefits and Employment Policy Manual for more information.

Annual Leave: Temporary employees shall not be employed to replace a non-teaching employee who is absent on annual leave, except in the case of catastrophic illness or annual leave for new parents.

Annual Leave for Catastrophic Illness: Temporary employees employed for these absences shall be paid from the same source of funds as the employee.

Sick Leave: Temporary employees employed for these absences shall be paid from the same source of funds as the employee.

Jury Duty: Temporary employees employed for these absences shall be paid from the same source of funds as the employee.

Professional Leave (Assignment by State Superintendent, Governor, General Assembly, or State Board of Education): Temporary employees employed for these absences shall be paid from State funds.

Court Attendance by Duty or Subpoena: Temporary employees employed for these absences shall be paid from the same source of funds as the employee.

Educational Leave (In-Service School Programs): Temporary employees employed to replace teachers participating in in-service school programs must be paid from the same source of funds as the employee.

Educational Leave (State-Sponsored Staff Development): Temporary employees employed to replace teachers participating in state-sponsored staff development activities, for which state funds have been budgeted for substitutes, shall be paid from the appropriate budgeted State funds.

North Carolina Center for Advancement of Teaching (NCCAT): Employees may be allowed to attend NCCAT seminars with pay upon the approval of the local superintendent. Pay for substitutes must be provided by the Center.

Incident of Contagious Disease: Temporary employees employed to replace teachers absent for reason of a contagious disease shall be paid from the same source of funds as the employee.

Bona Fide Religious Holiday: When a substitute is employed on these holidays, payment must be made from the same source of funds as the employee's salary.

Community Service: Upon approval of the supervisor, full-time or part-time public school employees may be granted leave to represent the school or LEA at community functions. Substitutes or temporary employees employed for these absences shall not be paid from state funds.

Military Leave with Pay: Substitutes or temporary employees employed for these absences shall be paid from the same source of funds as the employee.

Episode of Violence: If the employment of a replacement teacher is necessary for the continuation of services, the replacement teacher shall be paid from the same source of funds as the injured teacher.

The Department of Public Instruction, School Business Services shall be notified of the employee who is absent due to an episode of violence.

Email allotments@dpi.nc.gov with the following information:

- A written description of the act.
- A copy of the physician's statement and the Board's designation of Act of Violence.
- The specific dates the additional allotment will cover.
- The name and phone number of the Sedgwick caseworker.

Suspension with Pay: A person employed to replace the suspended employee shall be paid a salary based on the replacement's certification and shall be paid from the same source of funds as the individual suspended. The Department of Public Instruction, Division of School Business shall be notified of the suspension and the replacement person employed. The notification of an absence due to a Suspension with Pay can be made by setting a "flag" through payroll that will update the payroll detail record and payroll summary record. Refer to your individual software instructions on how to set the flag.

Principal Replacement: No deduction shall be made from the salary of a teacher who fills in for a disabled principal who does not have an assistant principal. The teacher may be reassigned to fill in for the principal after the principal has been on sick leave for at least ten days. This reassignment shall be allowed until the principal returns to work or exhausts paid leave.

8.1.3 Absence With Deductions

The LEA will make deductions from public school employees' salaries in the following cases:

8.1.3.1 *Leave with Deduction:*

As of 11/19/2021, absences not eligible for leave with pay require a deduction of the full cost of the substitute from the regular teacher's salary. The full substitute cost shall be refunded if no substitute is hired for the teacher. The local superintendent must approve these absences. These absences include:

- **Extended Sick Leave**
- **Personal Leave**
- **Other Absence With Deduction**

Includes leave for professional obligations. Permanent public-school employees who have professional responsibilities, or who need to attend professional meetings, may be absent with pay minus a salary deduction of \$50.00. This deduction is mandatory whether or not a substitute is employed. Such absences are allowed only with the approval of the local superintendent and will be allowed for a period not exceeding three successive days for in-state meetings or five

successive days for out-of-state meetings. Absences for this purpose may not exceed ten days for the school year. The limitation shall not apply to a person who is a local or district president or president elect, state or national officer of a professional education association, or a person selected as the National Teacher of the Year. The Office of the State Superintendent shall upon request determine the eligibility of the professional education association.

8.1.3.2 Day's Pay Deduction:

Monthly salary multiplied by daily rate of pay:

- 1/22 for teachers
- 1/21.5 for assistant principals
- 1/21.75 for principals
- All other employees: 1/Days in the pay period.

8.1.3.3 Leave of Absence Without Pay:

- **Family Medical Leave:** If the employee does not elect to use earned leave or the employer does not wish to require use of earned leave.
- **Military leave** without pay for certain periods of active duty or attendance at service schools beyond annual eligible days.

9 Miscellaneous

9.1 Authority to Garnish Wages

N.C. [Department of State Treasurer](#)

Assignment of Wages for Child Support [G.S. 110-36.1](#)

Procedure for Attachment and Garnishment [G.S. 105-368](#)

[N.C. General Statutes](#) 110-136.1, 105-366, 105-364, and 105-368

9.2 Installment Pay

9.2.1 State-Allotted Teachers

State-allotted teachers shall be paid for a term of 10 months. Each local board of education shall establish a set date on which monthly salary payments to State-allotted teachers shall be made. This set pay date may differ from the end of the month of service [G. S. 115C-302.1\(b\)](#).

Any individual teacher who is not employed in a year-round school may be paid in 12 monthly installments if the teacher so requests. Such request shall be filed in the local school administrative unit, which employs the teacher. Local school administrative units shall fulfill this requirement through a payroll deduction plan.

The payment of the annual salary in 12 installments instead of 10 shall not increase or decrease the teacher's annual salary nor in any other way alter the contract made between the teacher and the local school administrative unit.

9.2.2 School Employees Paid on an Hourly Basis

According to Public School Law, [G. S. 115C-316](#), "Salary payments to employees other than superintendents, principals, supervisors, agricultural CTE teachers in grades 9-12 shall be made at a time determined by each local board of education. Expenditures for the salary of these employees from State funds shall be within allocations made by the State Board of Education and in accordance with rules and regulations approved by the State Board of Education concerning allocations of State funds:

- School employees employed for a term of 10 or 11 calendar months in year-round schools shall be paid in 12 equal installments.
- Any individual school employee employed for a term of 10 or 11 calendar months who is not employed in a year-round school may be paid in 12 monthly installments, if the employee so requests. Such request shall be filed in the administrative unit which employs the employee. Local school administrative units shall fulfill this requirement through a payroll deduction plan.

The payment of the annual salary in 12 installments instead of 10 or 11 shall not increase or decrease said annual salary nor in any other way alter the contract between the employee and the said administrative unit.

If you have any questions, please contact the Office of School Business for help.

9.2.3 Bus Drivers

It is permissible to pay bus drivers employed in full- or part-time permanent positions in equal monthly installments (i.e., ten equal checks instead of ten checks of varying amounts). If a driver is paid an hourly wage, it must be annualized, and then divided by the months of employment. The formula is as follows:

Formula

Number of days of employment × daily rate = annual salary

Annual salary ÷ months employed = monthly rate

Example

200 days = length of employment (180 driver days, 10 holidays, 10 vacation days); and 10 months of employment. \$65 = daily rate (\$13.00 per hour × 5 hours per day) $200 \times \$65 = \$13,000$ annual salary $\$13,000 \div 10 = \$1,300$ monthly rate

Adjustments for payments of unearned holiday and annual leave must be made if employee resigns during the school year.

9.2.3.1 Bus Driver bonus

The payment of a bus driver “bonus” (unless specifically legislated) is ineligible from state funds. If and when legislated, bonus pay must be paid from the regular bonus program report code, PRC 45 - Compensation Bonus, not the transportation program report code, PRC 56 - Transportation of Pupils. Under no circumstances can bus drivers be paid above the state salary schedule from state funds.

9.3 Personal Use of Employer-Provided Vehicles

The value of fringe benefits, such as personal use of an employer-provided vehicle, is taxable and must be included in employee income as compensation, unless law specifically excludes the benefits, or the employee pays fair market value for them.

The total value of the fringe benefit is determined by the employer and included on the employee’s W-2. The employer reports the taxable fringe benefits in the “wages, tips, and other compensation” box and, if applicable, in the “Social Security wages” and “Medicare wages” boxes on Form W-2. The total value of the fringe benefits should also be shown on Form W-2.

The reporting and withholding on personal use of employer-provided vehicles must be handled through local funds. State funds may not be used for this purpose.

Additional information is available on the [IRS website](#).