

Teacher Licensure Policies

April 2008

Basic Eligibility Requirements

- At least a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution (e.g., SACCS) with appropriate major
- 2.5 grade point average
- NCLB “Highly Qualified” requirement for “core” subject areas

Types of Licenses for **Core** Subject Areas

Standard Professional 1 (SP1)

Initial license, valid for 3 years, based on completion of an approved teacher education program

Standard Professional 2 (SP2)

Continuing license, valid for 5 years

Lateral Entry

Issued to individuals who have not completed an approved teacher education program, valid for 3 years, must complete at least 6 semester hours per year toward licensure requirements

Additional Licenses for **Non-Core** Areas

Provisional

Typically used to add an area to a license when an individual has not yet completed an approved program in the area

Emergency Permit

Issued to individuals who have at least a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution, but do not meet "major" or grade point average requirements

Converting SP1 to SP2

- 1) three years of satisfactory teaching experience
- 2) the recommendation of the employing school system
- 3) any professional development activities prescribed by the employing school system
- 4) NC testing requirements for the teaching area **or** the NC HOUSSE for the teaching area **or** a satisfactory evaluation in the most recent year of employment in North Carolina, which verifies the ability to positively impact student learning AND verification of the LEA intent to offer re-employment to the teacher for the following year. The teacher will not be required to accept the offer of re-employment.

Teachers with 0-2 Years of Experience

Elementary and Exceptional Children's Teachers who complete a NC teacher education program	+	Praxis II	=	Standard Professional 1 License	+	3 years of teaching + LEA recommendation + Any PD requirements prescribed by LEA	=	Standard Professional 2 License
Middle School, High School, and K-12 Special Subject Area Teachers who complete a NC teacher education program (with at least 24 semester hours in the content/licensure area)	=	Standard Professional 1 License			+	3 years of teaching + LEA recommendation + Any PD requirements prescribed by LEA + NC testing requirements or Completion of NC HOUSSE or Successful evaluations in most recent year of employment in North Carolina, which verifies the ability to positively impact student learning, AND verification of the LEA intent to offer re-employment to the teacher for the following year	=	Standard Professional 2 License
Teachers who complete an approved teacher education program in another state and meet that state's requirements to be designated "Highly Qualified"	=	Standard Professional 1 License			+	3 years of teaching + LEA recommendation + Any PD requirements prescribed by LEA + NC testing requirements or Completion of NC HOUSSE or Successful evaluations in most recent year of employment in North Carolina, which verifies the ability to positively impact student learning, AND verification of the LEA intent to offer re-employment to the teacher for the following year	=	Standard Professional 2 License

Teachers with 3 or more Years of Experience

Teachers who are fully licensed and highly qualified in the state from which they are coming	+	Have met NC's Praxis II testing requirements OR Have earned National Board Certification	=	Standard Professional 2 License		
Teachers who are fully licensed and highly qualified in the state from which they are coming	=	Standard Professional 1 License	+	1 year of teaching in NC with the recommendation of the NC LEA superintendent which includes verification of the LEA intent to offer re-employment to the teacher for the following year.	=	Standard Professional 2 License

Determinations Made by Licensure

- Is the degree from a regionally accredited institution?
- If lateral entry, does the individual have a 2.5 gpa
- Licensure Area(s) [K-6, Middle Grades Science, Art, etc.]
- Dating Cycle
- Level (bachelor's, master's, specialist, doctoral)
- Experience (Teaching and Relevant Non-Teaching)

Impacting Licensure

- Verification of “Highly Qualified” status from other states
- Variability of License Areas Across States
- Verification of Work Experience (Teaching and Non-Teaching)
- Relevancy of Non-Teaching Work Experience
- Relevancy of Graduate Degrees (that do not lead to a license)

Efforts to Facilitate Licensing

- **Additional summer testing opportunity arranged for Praxis**
- **Adding License Areas through Testing**
- **“Lateral Entry” for Licensed Personnel**
- **License Policy Appeals Panel**
- **Graduate/Non-Teaching Work Experience Appeals Panel**
- **Regional Alternative Licensing Centers (RALCs)**
- **Innovative/Experimental Alternative Licensure Programs**
- **Additional License Area (e.g., Elementary Reading)**