



Public Schools of North Carolina
State Board of Education
Department of Public Instruction

Report to the North Carolina General Assembly

2012-2013 Educator Preparation Licensure
and Performance Reporting
SL 2013-360 (SB 402), sec. 9.3e

Prepared by:

Educator Effectiveness Division
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Introduction:

During its 2012 session, the General Assembly passed legislation directing the State Board of Education to require schools of education to include the following competencies in their elementary and special education general curriculum teacher education programs: (i) teaching of reading, including a substantive understanding of reading as a process involving oral language, phonological and phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension; (ii) evidence-based assessment and diagnosis of specific areas of difficulty with reading development and of reading deficiencies; and (iii) appropriate application of instructional supports and services and reading interventions to ensure reading proficiency for all students. During its 2013 session, the General Assembly directed the State Board of Education to develop a plan for measuring and reporting the performance of schools of education on the same competencies through the annual performance reports and the higher education educator preparation report cards required by G.S. 115C-296. The 2013 law requires an update to reporting operations at the Department of Public Instruction, as well as, within schools of education.

Previous Policy Changes:

In December 2012, the State Board of Education adopted policy requiring new licensure exam requirements for elementary and special education general curriculum teacher education candidates. Effective October 1, 2014, elementary and special education general curriculum teacher education candidates must pass the State Board adopted Foundations of Reading for North Carolina and General Curriculum for North Carolina exams in order to be issued a teaching license. For elementary education candidates, the exams will replace the currently required Praxis II Elementary Education: Instructional Practice and Applications licensure exam. For special education candidates, the exams will replace the currently required Praxis II Fundamental Subjects: Content Knowledge licensure exam.

The Foundations of Reading exam assesses four sub-areas: (i) foundations of reading development; (ii) development of reading comprehension; (iii) reading assessment and instruction; and (iv) integration of knowledge and understanding. The test framework and a full length practice exam can be found at <http://www.nc.nesinc.com/prepare.asp>.

The exams will be effective for teacher education graduates beginning in the 2014-15 academic year.

Reporting Operational Changes:

The percentage of elementary and special education general curriculum candidates passing the new licensure exams will serve as a performance measure for schools of education. Currently Praxis II licensure exam pass rates are reported for each school of

education in the annual Institutions of Higher Education (IHE) Performance Reports and the federal Title II report. Beginning with the 2014-15 reporting year, schools of education will report the pass rates on the Foundations of Reading for North Carolina and General Curriculum for North Carolina exams. This data will also be reported in the higher education educator preparation report cards. The educator preparation report cards can be accessed by clicking on IHE Report Cards at www.ncpublicschools.org/ihe .

In addition to the pass rate performance measure, schools of education will be required to provide a narrative response in the annual performance report describing campus efforts to ensure elementary and special education general curriculum teacher education candidates demonstrate the required competencies.

Summary:

- The State Board of Education has adopted a more rigorous licensure exam requirement for elementary and special education teacher education candidates that will serve as a performance measure for both candidates and the schools of education.
- The Department of Public Instruction will include the new licensure exam pass rates in the annual performance reporting and higher education educator preparation report cards for each school of education.
- Schools of education will provide narrative responses on their efforts to ensure candidates demonstrate the required competencies as part of the annual performance report.