



NORTH CAROLINA
State Board of Education
Department of Public Instruction

Report to the North Carolina General Assembly

COMPLETION OF THE EPP CLINICAL
INTERNSHIP REQUIREMENT FOR
CERTAIN STUDENTS IMPACTED BY
HURRICANE HELENE

S.L. 2024-51

Date Due: March 15, 2025
DPI Chronological Schedule, 2024-2025

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.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MISSION

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NC DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

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On October 10, 2024, Session Law 2024-51 passed to address challenges emerging from the impact of Hurricane Helene. Part 8, Section 8.3(a) authorized the State Board of Education to allow for educator preparation program candidates engaged in their student teaching experience to have the requirement deemed completed if they were either enrolled in an EPP or placed in a partner school located in a county declared a major disaster area under the Stafford Act (P.L. 93-288) as a result of Hurricane Helene. This report provides the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee (JLEOC) the information required in Part 8, Section 8.3(b) of that law that describe the scope of this waiver's impact.

SECTION 8.3.(b) By February 1, 2025, any EPP with an enrolled student who has his or her clinical internship requirement deemed completed pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall report to the State Board of Education with the following information:

- (1) Number of students who had the clinical internship requirement deemed completed.
- (2) Reasons for a clinical internship requirement being deemed completed.
- (3) Amount of time completed for a clinical internship.
- (4) Any other information required by the State Board of Education.

Table 1 provides the reporting requirements of this waiver for the JLEOC. A total of 145 students were reported to have had their clinical internship requirement impacted by the hurricane impacts from 6 educator preparation programs. Of those, a total of 142 needed the waiver to complete the 16-week student teaching requirement in § 115C-269.25.(d) (response to question 2). Educator preparation programs reported an average of 15 weeks of student teaching completed for these candidates. In one case, a student was only able to complete a total of nine weeks of student teaching.

Table 1: Impact of Hurricane Helene on Educator Preparation Program Student Teachers

Educator Preparation Program	Number of Students Affected	Number of Students Needing Waiver	Average number of weeks completed by those needing a waiver	Week Range (student)	
Appalachian State University	110	110	14.2	11	15
Brevard College	6	6	13.3	12	14
Lees McRae	3	3	10.3	9	12

Mars Hill	19	19	12	12	12
UNC – Charlotte	2	2	12	12	12
Western Governors University	5	2	12.5	11	14
Grand Total	145	142	13.7	9	15