



Public Schools of North Carolina

# Policy Recommendations for LICN-001

State Board of Education  
July 5, 2017

# NC General Statute 115C-296(a)

The State Board of Education shall require an applicant for an initial bachelors degree license or graduate degree license to demonstrate the applicant's academic and professional preparation by achieving a prescribed minimum score on a standard examination appropriate and adequate for that purpose.

The State Board of Education shall permit an applicant to fulfill any such testing requirement before or during the applicant's second year of teaching provided the applicant took the examination at least once during the first year of teaching.

The licensure program shall provide for initial licensure after completion of preservice training, continuing licensure after three years of teaching experience, and license renewal every five years thereafter, until the retirement of the teacher.



# Timing and Deadlines for Meeting Requirements

- What is the term of the initial license?
- What is the deadline for completing licensure requirements?
- For whom do the testing requirements apply?
- How do teachers return to the profession if they fail to meet testing requirements?



# Term of Initial License

The State Board of Education approved the new testing requirements on August 4, 2016. This date marks the shift in policy for initially licensed teachers.

Licenses received by NCDPI <b>before</b> August 4, 2016	Licenses received by NCDPI <b>on or after</b> August 4, 2016
Must attempt exam(s) once in first year of teaching and pass before or during second year of teaching.	Must attempt exam(s) once in first year of teaching and pass before or during second year of teaching.
Initial License valid for entire 3-year term regardless of meeting/not meeting testing requirements.	Initial License expires at the end of the teaching year if requirements not met.
Teacher eligible to teach in year 3 of initial license.	Teacher not eligible to teach in following school year if requirements not met.
Teacher cannot convert to a Continuing License.	Teacher may convert to Continuing License if all requirements met.



# Deadline for meeting licensure requirements

- A date for the end of a year of teaching must be defined.
- GS 115C-84.2(d) establishes the closest Monday to August 19<sup>th</sup> as the earliest school opening date.
- No (traditional schedule) school could open earlier than August 16<sup>th</sup>.
- August 15<sup>th</sup> is the last day that could not be a school's opening day.



# When does testing requirement apply?

- LEAs often have to hire teachers late in the school year – when do testing requirements apply?
- GS 115C-325(a)(8) defines a year as 120 workdays.
- NCDPI recommends that if a teacher works 120 workdays of the contract term, he/she must meet the applicable testing requirements.



# Re-entering the teaching profession

- How do teachers return to the profession once licensure requirements have been met?
- Prior policy required re-affiliating with IHE and/or waiting 3 years.
- NCDPI recommends allowing teachers to re-apply for initial license once **all** licensure requirements have been met (testing and/or coursework).



# Summary of Policy Changes

## Term of Initial License

- August 4, 2016 date of policy shift

## Deadline for completing testing requirements

- August 15<sup>th</sup> of any calendar year

## Who is required to test?

- 120 Workday Rule

## How to re-enter the profession

- As soon as all licensure requirements are met





# Discussion

