

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Title: Revision of the License Renewal Requirements to Reflect Legislation

Type of Executive Summary:

- Action
- Action on First Reading
- Discussion
- Information

Policy Implications:

- Constitution _____
- General Statute # _____
- SBE Policy # TCP-A-005
- SBE Policy Amendment
- SBE Policy (New)
- APA # _____
- APA Amendment
- APA (New)
- Other Senate Bill 1292, Session 2007

Presenter(s): Mr. Larry Simmons (Chief, Licensure Section) and Dr. Kathy Sullivan (Senior Policy Analyst, SBE Office)

Description:

In July the General Assembly enacted legislation directing the State Board of Education to adopt a policy requiring teachers to take credits in their academic subject area as part of the license renewal process. Proposed revisions to license renewal requirements to reflect this legislation are attached. The proposed revisions would become effective for teachers renewing their licenses on or after July 1, 2009.

Resources:

N/A

Input Process:

The proposed revisions reflect recently ratified legislation

Stakeholders:

LEAs, Teachers

Timeline For Action:

The proposed revisions are presented for discussion this month and will be presented for approval next month. The proposed revisions will apply to teachers renewing their licenses on or after July 1, 2009.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the proposed revisions to the license renewal policy be approved by the State Board.

Audiovisual equipment requested for the presentation:

- Data Projector/Video (Videotape/DVD and/or Computer Data, Internet, Presentations-PowerPoint preferred)
Specify: _____
- Audio Requirements (computer or other, except for PA system which is provided)
Specify: _____
- Document Camera (for transparencies or paper documents – white paper preferred)

 Motion By: _____ Seconded By: _____
 Vote: Yes _____ No _____ Abstain _____
 Approved _____ Disapproved _____ Postponed _____ Revised _____

*Person responsible for SBE agenda materials and SBE policy updates: Kathy Sullivan, 807-3608

**NORTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Policy Manual**

Policy Identification

Priority: Twenty-First Century Professionals

Category: Licensure

Policy ID Number: TCP-A-005

Policy Title: Policies regarding renewal requirements

Current Policy Date: ~~08/04/2005~~ 10/04/2007

Other Historical Information: Previous board dates: 01/14/1998, 07/09/1998, 01/09/2003, 06/05/2003, 05/05/2005, 6/30/2005, 08/04/2005

Statutory Reference: Session Law 2002-178

Administrative Procedures Act (APA) Reference Number and Category:

16 NCAC 6C.0307

***** Begin Policy *****

5.00 General Requirements

Standard Professional 2 licenses shall be issued with five-year renewal cycles. Holders must renew their licenses at the end of each five-year period. Credit earned for renewal purposes shall apply to the person's license field(s) and professional duties.

Renewal or reinstatement of a license shall be based on 15 units of renewal credit. A unit of credit shall be equal to one-quarter hour or two-thirds of a semester hour of IHE credit, ten clock hours of professional development, or one school year of teaching experience.

Five-year renewal cycles shall be initially based on the completion of credit requirements to qualify for licensure, the completion of licensure renewal requirements, or a valid license held from another state. A new five-year renewal cycle is established for a Standard Professional 2 license when an expired license is renewed. A new five-year renewal cycle also is established upon the completion of program requirements for converting a Standard Professional 1 license to a Standard Professional 1 license.

Individuals with expired, non-provisional North Carolina licenses shall be eligible for a three-year Standard Professional 1 or Standard Professional 2 license based on the need of the employing LEA. At least 15 renewal credits must be completed during the three years, with a minimum of 5 credits required each year. At the end of the three-year cycle, if all 15 credits have been completed, the license will be issued with a new five-year dating cycle or the license remains expired until all renewal credits have been earned. Only an employing school system

can request reinstatement of a license for a person who holds an expired license. This shall be not an option for currently employed individuals who have not met renewal requirements.

5.10 LEA Employees

LEA employees shall maintain an individual growth plan. During each five-year cycle, individuals shall participate in professional development activities based on level(s) of expertise, from beginning to accomplished, in the areas of content knowledge, content pedagogy, assessment, diverse learners, leadership, technology, and others. An LEA may require a minimum number of hours in integrating technology to improve student learning. Individuals teaching kindergarten through eighth grade must complete three renewal credits in reading methods courses during each five-year renewal cycle. This reading methods requirement applies to individuals renewing their licenses on or after July 1, 2003. Teachers of grades kindergarten through twelve must complete three renewal credits in their academic subject areas, including strategies to teach those subjects, during each five-year renewal cycle. This subject area requirement applies to individuals renewing their licenses on or after July 1, 2009. Teachers completing the National Board Certification process or the National Board Certification renewal process during their renewal cycle are not required to complete the three renewal credits in their subject area. School administrators must earn at least 5 renewal credits during each renewal cycle focused on the principal's role in teacher effectiveness, teacher evaluations, teacher support programs, teacher leadership, teacher empowerment, and teacher retention. This requirement for school administrators applies to individuals renewing their licenses on or after July 1, 2007.

These persons may also obtain renewal credit for the following activities:

- a) college or university credit;
- b) teaching experience (one unit for each year);
- c) earning National Board for Professional Teaching Standards certification or completion of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards certification process (fifteen units of renewal credit);
- d) completing National Board for Professional Teaching Standards Certification renewal (five units of renewal credit);
- e) completion of activities that meet the following criteria (one unit of renewal credit per ten clock hours):
 - i. The activity shall be delivered in a minimum of 10 clock hours over time with on-the-job application, feedback, and follow-up.
 - ii. The activity shall have identified goals and objectives that are designed to increase knowledge or skills in the person's license area or job assignment.
 - iii. The activity shall include focused content and instruction that are sequenced to develop specified competencies of a specific population.
 - iv. The activity shall be conducted by instructional personnel approved by the sponsoring school unit or employer.
 - v. The activity shall include a focused evaluation designed to gauge the change in learner knowledge or skill and to guide the development of future programs.
- f) independent study of no more than five units of renewal credit per five-year period which meets the following criteria:

- i. Teachers and other licensed personnel help to develop local independent study procedures which the superintendent shall keep on file and periodically send to each licensed employee; and
- ii. The employee and the superintendent or his or her designee shall plan the experience in advance, including identification of competencies to be acquired and an evaluation to determine satisfactory achievement of those competencies.

LEAs and governing boards of schools shall assure that all local courses, workshops, and independent study activities which do not carry IHE credit meet the standards contained in this policy. LEAs must adopt a procedure to determine the appropriateness of credit in advance of renewal activities. In determining appropriateness, the LEA must consider direct relationship to critical job responsibilities, school improvement plans, and SBE strategic priorities to properly establish credit for the activity. Each LEA must report on participation in and effectiveness of professional development to the North Carolina Professional Teaching Standards Commission on an annual basis.

LEAs may develop an alternative license renewal plan that is competency-based and results-oriented. The plan must describe the connection among professional development, the school improvement plan, and the individual's license area or job responsibilities through processes such as peer review and annual evaluation. The plan may waive specific hour requirements that a licensed employee must meet and focus instead on knowledge and skill acquired by participants. The plan must include outcome measures and must be submitted to the Department for review in advance of its implementation.

5.20 Non-LEA Employees

Persons who hold a NC license but who are not currently employed in the public schools or by governing boards of approved nonpublic schools may earn renewal credit through college or university coursework, or local courses and workshops on the same basis as currently employed persons. The Licensure Section shall evaluate the appropriateness of the credits.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 2007

**SENATE BILL 1292
RATIFIED BILL**

AN ACT DIRECTING THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO ADOPT A POLICY REQUIRING TEACHERS TO TAKE CREDITS IN THEIR ACADEMIC SUBJECT AREA AS PART OF THE LICENSURE RENEWAL PROCESS.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. The State Board of Education shall adopt a policy that requires:

- (1) Teachers of grades kindergarten through eight to take three renewal credits in their academic subject areas, including strategies to teach those subjects, during each five-year license renewal cycle and
- (2) Teachers in grades nine through twelve to take three credits in their academic subject areas, including strategies to teach those subjects, during each five-year license renewal cycle.

For teachers who are in the fourth or fifth year of their current five-year license renewal cycle, this policy shall apply beginning with the first year of their next five-year license renewal cycle. The State Board may provide for exceptions to this policy for teachers seeking certification or renewal of certification by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.

SECTION 2. This act is effective when it becomes law.

In the General Assembly read three times and ratified this the 28th day of July, 2007.

Beverly E. Perdue
President of the Senate

Joe Hackney
Speaker of the House of Representatives

Michael F. Easley
Governor

Approved _____ .m. this _____ day of _____, 2007