

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Title: Approval of the Location of the 4th Regional Alternative Licensure Center

Type of Executive Summary:

- Action
- Action on First Reading
- Discussion
- Information

Policy Implications:

- Constitution _____
- General Statute # _____
- SBE Policy # TCP-A-002
- SBE Policy Amendment
- SBE Policy (New)
- APA # _____
- APA Amendment
- APA (New)
- Other _____

Presenter(s):

Description:

North Carolina has three Regional Alternative Licensing Centers (RALCs) that work under the direction of the Licensure Section, and are authorized to review transcripts, prescribe plans of study leading to licensure, and directly recommend teachers for licensure. The centers work with state-approved teacher education programs and LEA personnel to provide assistance to lateral entry and provisionally licensed teachers. Based upon survey feedback and conference call data gathered from LEAs in the proposed service area, personnel administrators, and institutions of higher education, Catawba County Schools is proposed as the site for the new RALC.

Resources:

Licensure funds are available to support the request.

Input Process:

The request to establish a new RALC is based upon discussion with the TCP Committee at the August 2007 meeting. Survey data and conference call feedback gathered from LEA's in the proposed service area, personnel administrators, and institutions of higher education representatives suggest a possible location of the new center.

Stakeholders:

LEAs, Lateral Entry Teachers, Approved Teacher Education Programs

Timeline For Action:

The request is presented for action this month.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the Board approve the request to establish a fourth Regional Alternative Licensure Center in Catawba County.

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 _____

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Approval of the Location of the 4th Regional Alternative Licensure Center

The proposed service region of the fourth RALC encircles the entire Western Region of the state from Cherokee County along the state border northward and eastward to include Rockingham County. The boundary then runs south to include Guilford and Chatham counties in the east. The proposed border extends westward along the southern border of Randolph, Davidson, Rowan, Iredell, Catawba, Burke, and Rutherford counties back to the entire region in the west. A total of thirty-seven counties comprise the service area.

A survey of and follow-up conference call with personnel administrators, LEAs and institutions of higher education in the proposed RALC service area provided stakeholder feedback regarding a possible site for the new center. Twenty-two (22) stakeholders responded to the survey, followed by a discussion with representatives of the entire survey group. Based upon the discussions and feedback of the stakeholders Catawba County Schools is proposed as the site for the new Regional Alternative Licensing Center (RALC).

Though extreme east and west locations were included in responses from stakeholders, such locations were discussed and found not conducive to the RALC providing the LEAs with the services stakeholders said they need. Feedback indicated plainly that accessibility of RALC staff is essential for providing the support they need. Stakeholders want strong support for LEAs at job fairs, professional development sessions, Personnel Administrators of North Carolina (PANC) meetings, and other activities. Accessibility and support provided by RALC staff by travel may be hindered with the site being located in the extreme east or west of the service area. Location of the center in the extreme west will hinder travel eastward by RALC staff in the winter months due to inclement weather. Stakeholder feedback indicated that it is essential for the RALCs to communicate and work well with all IHEs in the service area. Some on-campus work with faculty will facilitate this important function of the center throughout the region. IHEs not located in education rich areas of the new region require the same services as those in metropolitan areas. It should be noted that the extreme western part of the state serves fewer lateral entry teachers than the central and eastern portions of the region, yet those educators need to have access to the same high quality service.

Catawba County Schools lies in the south central part of the RALC service area just south of Interstate 40. This location provides easy access to both the east and west of regional center's service area, and the Raleigh-Durham area. The location is close to the education rich Triad region, as well as reasonable in driving distances from the more remote institutions such as Western Carolina University, Mars Hill College, and Appalachian State University. The location of the RALC in Catawba County will also allow for dual training and support of the site coordinator at the new center, and the soon to be employed head at the Charlotte-Cabarrus facility. Catawba County lies at the midpoint of the metropolitan areas (comprised of Asheville, Greensboro, and Winston-Salem) with the second highest jobless rate in North Carolina, according to the December 2008 unemployment statistics from the U.S. Department of Labor. This may increase the numbers of walk-ins at the center who are seeking assistance with becoming licensed and employed teachers.

Facilities at the central offices of Catawba County School have been identified and are available. The infrastructural needs of the center are ready to be accessed and implemented in the service of North Carolina's prospective and employed lateral entry teachers.