

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

**Title:** Recommendations from the Advisory Board on Requests for Exception from Teacher Licensing Requirements

**Type of Executive Summary:**

- Action
- Action on First Reading
- Discussion
- Information

**Policy Implications:**

- Constitution \_\_\_\_\_
- General Statute # \_\_\_\_\_
- SBE Policy # QP-A-021
- SBE Policy Amendment
- SBE Policy (New)
- APA # \_\_\_\_\_
- APA Amendment
- APA (New)
- Other

**Presenter(s):** Dr. Kathy Sullivan (Senior Policy Analyst, SBE Office)

**Description:**

In April 2006 the Board adopted a policy to allow individuals who have not met licensing requirements due to extenuating circumstances to request an exception from the requirement or an extension of time. The request must include documents from the teacher, the principal, the superintendent, and the chair of the local board of education. In June, a similar policy was approved to allow colleges and universities to submit requests for exception to Praxis I testing requirements on behalf of students seeking admission to teacher education programs. Requests are evaluated by a panel chaired by a member of the State Board. Panel recommendations will be presented in closed session.

**Resources:**

No additional resources are requested.

**Input Process:**

The requests for exception and supporting documentation are reviewed by the appeals panel. In addition, the individual and the LEA/IHE seeking the exception are provided the opportunity to meet with the panel.

**Stakeholders:**

LEAs, teachers who have not been able to satisfy licensure requirements, prospective teachers who have not been able to satisfy Praxis I testing requirements

**Timeline For Action:**

Panel recommendations will be presented in closed session.

**Recommendations:**

It is recommended that the actions related to each request be approved.

-----  
**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:** Quality Teachers, Administrators, and Staff

Category: Licensure

**Policy ID Number:** QP-A-021

**Policy Title:** Procedure for Seeking Exception from Licensure Requirements

**Current Policy Date:** 04/06/2006

**Other Historical Information:**

Previous Board Dates: 05/05/2005

**Statutory Reference:**

**Administrative Procedures Act (APA) Reference Number and Category:**

**\*\*\* Begin Policy \*\*\* (Do not tamper with this line)**

The State Board of Education will consider requests for exceptions from licensure requirements in State Board Policy due to extenuating circumstances for individuals who: (1) following initial licensure, have not completed the course work required to maintain a license; OR (2) have not met other licensure requirements.

**Exception from Required Course Work**

A local board of education may apply to the State Board of Education for a one-year exception from licensure requirements for an individual who, due to extenuating circumstances, has not completed the course work required to maintain a license. The application must include:

1. A document, signed by the individual, which includes:
  - a. A description of the extenuating circumstances that the teacher claims prevented him or her from satisfying the requirements for licensure;
  - b. A request for an extension of his or her license for one additional year to complete the course work required to maintain a license; and
  - c. An acknowledgment that the teacher understands that the materials submitted to the State Board of Education in support of his or her request are public records subject to disclosure under Chapter 132 of the North Carolina General Statutes.

2. A document, signed by the North Carolina principal who most recently supervised the individual, which includes:
  - a. The dates the principal supervised the teacher;
  - b. Sufficient evidence of the individual's academic and professional preparation to satisfy the State Board of Education that the individual is competent to teach the standard course of study and has demonstrated the ability to implement effective educational methods that provide differentiated, individualized instruction, assessment and remediation to all his or her students; and
  - c. A statement that in the principal's opinion the teacher is competent to teach the standard course of study and has demonstrated the ability to implement effective educational methods that provide differentiated, individualized instruction, assessment and remediation to the students in his or her classroom; and
  - d. A copy of any of the individual's summative annual evaluations for the past three years.
3. A document, signed by the superintendent of the local school system, which includes:
  - a. A statement certifying that, based upon a review of the individual's and the principal's documentation and evidence, the superintendent believes the individual is competent to teach the standard course of study and has demonstrated the ability to implement effective educational methods that provide differentiated, individualized instruction, assessment and remediation to the students in his or her classroom;
  - b. A list of the required course work that the applicant has completed;
  - c. A description of the efforts that the local school administrative unit has made to assist the teacher to complete the required course work;
  - d. A list of the required course work that the applicant must complete to qualify for a license;
  - e. A description of the efforts that the local school administrative unit will make to assist the teacher to complete the required course work during the next year of teaching; and
  - f. A statement that the superintendent believes that the applicant is likely to complete the required course work within the one-year extension.
4. A document, signed by the chair of the local board of education, which includes:
  - a. A certification that the local board of education has investigated the extenuating circumstances that the teacher claims prevented him or her from completing the required course work for a license without undue hardship;

- b. A statement that the local board of education is satisfied that the teacher's description of the circumstances is true;
- c. A statement that the local board of education is satisfied that, due to the extenuating circumstances, the teacher could not have completed the required course work for a license without undue hardship;
- d. A certification that the local board of education has approved the employment of the teacher for the next school year, subject only to the State Board of Education's decision to grant the requested one-year extension of the teacher's provisional license.

### **Exception from Other Licensure Requirements**

A local board of education may apply to the State Board of Education for an exception from licensure requirements for an individual who has not fulfilled licensure requirements, other than course work, due to extenuating circumstances. The application must include:

1. A document, signed by the individual, which includes:
  - a. A list of the licensure requirements from which he or she is requesting an exception;
  - b. A description of the extenuating circumstances that the individual claims prevented him or her from fulfilling the licensure requirements; and
  - c. An acknowledgment that the individual understands that the materials submitted to the State Board of Education in support of his or her request are public records subject to disclosure under Chapter 132 of the North Carolina General Statutes.
2. If the individual is not currently employed in a North Carolina public school, the local board shall submit:
  - a. Sufficient evidence of the individual's academic and professional preparation to satisfy the State Board of Education that the individual is competent to teach the standard course of study and has demonstrated the ability to implement effective educational methods that provide differentiated, individualized instruction, assessment and remediation to all his or her students; and
  - b. A copy of any teaching evaluations the individual received during the past three years.
3. If the individual is currently employed in a North Carolina public school, the local board shall submit:
  - a. Sufficient evidence of the individual's academic and professional preparation to satisfy the State Board of Education that the individual is competent to teach the standard course of study and has demonstrated the ability to implement effective

educational methods that provide differentiated, individualized instruction, assessment and remediation to all his or her students;

- b. A document, signed by the North Carolina principal who most recently supervised the individual, which includes:
  - i. The dates the principal supervised the teacher;
  - ii. A statement that in the principal's opinion the teacher is competent to teach the standard course of study and has demonstrated the ability to implement effective educational methods that provide differentiated, individualized instruction, assessment and remediation to the students in his or her classroom; and
  - iii. A copy of any teaching evaluations the individual received during the past three years.
  
- 4. A document, signed by the superintendent of the local school system, which includes:
  - a. A statement certifying that, based upon a review of the individual's and the principal's documentation and evidence, the superintendent believes the individual is competent to teach the standard course of study and has demonstrated the ability to implement effective educational methods that provide differentiated, individualized instruction, assessment and remediation to the students in his or her classroom;
  - b. A description of the deficiencies that prevent the individual from meeting licensure requirements;
  - c. A description of any efforts that the local school system has made to assist the individual to complete the licensure requirements; and
  - d. The reasons the superintendent believes that the individual should be granted a license despite the failure to meet the licensure requirements.
  
- 5. A document, signed by the chair of the local board of education, which includes:
  - a. A certification that the local board of education has investigated the extenuating circumstances that the individual claims prevented him or her from completing the requirements for a license;
  - b. A statement that the local board of education is satisfied that the individual's description of the circumstances is true;
  - c. A statement that the local board of education is satisfied that, due to the extenuating circumstances, the individual could not have completed the requirements for a license without undue hardship;

- d. A certification that the local board of education has approved the employment of the teacher for the next school year, subject only to the State Board of Education's decision to grant the individual a license.

### **Decision of the State Board of Education**

Upon the recommendation of the Chair, the State Board of Education shall appoint two or more members of the Board and at least four professional educators to an Advisory Board on Requests for Exception from Teacher Licensing Requirements. From those individuals appointed to the Advisory Board, the Chair shall construct review panels consisting of no less than four professional educators and one member of the State Board of Education. The panels shall review those requests for exception from licensure assigned to them, evaluate the merits of the requests and submit to the State Board of Education recommendations to grant or deny the requests along with any other information the panels deem material.

Each review panel shall be chaired by a member of the State Board of Education. A panel may require the representatives of the local school administrative unit which submitted the application for exception as well as the individual in question to provide additional information, appear before the panel, respond to questions, produce documents and otherwise cooperate with the panel's efforts to evaluate the merits of a request for exception. With the approval of the chair of the panel, members may participate in panel meetings by telephone.

After it receives the panel's recommendation, the State Board of Education shall make a decision whether to grant or deny the requested exception, provided an extension for course work will not extend the three-year time limit in which a lateral entry teacher must satisfy all course work and testing requirements for a continuing license.

Nothing herein is intended to permit exceptions from licensure requirements mandated by State or federal law.

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

**Policy Identification**

**Priority:** Quality Teachers, Administrators, and Staff

**Category:** Teacher Education

**Policy ID Number:** QP-B-009

**Policy Title:** Procedure for Seeking Exception from Teacher Education Program Praxis I Admission Requirements

**Current Policy Date:** June 1, 2006

**Other Historical Information:**

**Previous Board Dates:**

**Statutory Reference:**

**Administrative Procedures Act (APA) Reference Number and Category:**

**\*\*\* Begin Policy \*\*\* (Do not tamper with this line)**

An institution of higher education (IHE) may apply to the State Board of Education for an exception from PRAXIS I for an individual who, due to extenuating circumstances, has not been able to pass PRAXIS I. The application must include:

1. A document, signed by the individual, which includes:
  - a. Copies of the official scores for all the PRAXIS I tests that the individual has taken;
  - b. A description of the extenuating circumstances that the individual claims prevented him or her from passing PRAXIS I; and
  - c. An acknowledgment that the individual understands that the materials submitted to the State Board of Education in support of his or her request are public records subject to disclosure under Chapter 132 of the North Carolina General Statutes.
2. The dean of the school of education at the IHE shall submit:
  - a. Evidence that the individual has passed tests in reading, writing, and mathematics sufficient to demonstrate that the individual is qualified to successfully complete the teacher education program at the IHE and
  - b. A copy of the individual's official transcript at the IHE.

## **Decision of the State Board of Education**

Requests for exceptions to teacher education program Praxis I admission requirements will be considered by the Advisory Board on Requests for Exception from Teacher Licensing Requirements. The panel may require the dean of the IHE that submitted the application for exception, as well as the individual seeking the exception, to provide additional information, appear before the panel, respond to questions, produce documents and otherwise cooperate with the panel's efforts to evaluate the merits of the request for exception. With the approval of the chair of the panel, members may participate in panel meetings by telephone.

After it receives the panel's recommendation, the State Board of Education shall make a decision whether to grant or deny the requested exception.