

Principal Licensure Updates

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PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

State Board of Education | Department of Public Instruction

G.S. 115C-284

Current Principal Licensure Requirements

Reviewing § 115C-284

- A review of the law regarding the method of selection and requirements of Principals revealed a need for adjustments to policy to comply with law and standardize expectations of principal preparation programs

§ 115C-284 (b1)

- To qualify for certification as a school administrator, an individual must meet all of the following requirements
 - (5) Pass the exam adopted by the State Board
- Principal exam was removed in August 2011



§ 115C-284 (c2)

- The State Board of Education shall adopt new standards by July 1, 2008, for school administrator preparation programs. The new standards shall:
 - (7) Require all candidates to complete a year-long internship
- NCDPI would have to formally define what a year-long internship entails

§ 115C-284 (d1)

- ...prerequisites to candidacy for principal, a classroom teacher must have attained at least the **second level of differentiation, have at least four years of classroom teaching experience**, and possess, at least, a Masters Degree in Education Administration.



Interpreting ‘second level of teacher differentiation’

- First level of differentiation: Initial professional license or IPL
 - § 115C-270.20 (a) (3) A three-year nonrenewable license issued to an individual who has successfully completed a recognized educator preparation program and meets other requirements established by the State Board.
 - Emergency Licenses and Residency License would be included in the first level of differentiation.
- Second level of differentiation: Continuing professional license or CPL
 - § 115C-270.20 (a) (1) A five-year renewable license issued to a teacher who has at least three years of licensed teaching experience and meets other requirements established by the State Board

Session Law 2021-170

Part I

Principal License Exemptions

Part I. Principal License Exemptions

Section 1.(a)

SECTION 1.(a) Notwithstanding any law, rule, or policy to the contrary, for individuals licensed as school administrators for any school year from 2010-2011 to 2020-2021, the State Board of Education shall deem previously issued licenses and future renewals to be valid regardless of the failure to meet any of the following licensure requirements:

1. The exam required by G.S. 115C-284(b1)(5) and (c).
2. The year-long internship required by G.S. 115C-284(c2)(7).
3. The classroom teaching experience required by G.S. 115C-284(d1).
4. The requirement that an individual hold a Master's Degree in Education Administration, pursuant to G.S. 115C-284(d1), provided that the individual completed a master's degree program or a post-master's certificate designed for school administrators that is offered by an educator preparation program approved by the State Board of Education.
5. The "second level of differentiation" required by G.S. 115C-284(d1).

Part I. Principal License Exemptions

Section 1.(b)

SECTION 1.(b) Notwithstanding any law, rule, or policy to the contrary, for individuals who meet the criteria established by subsection (c) of this section, the State Board of Education shall waive the following licensure requirements:

1. The exam required by G.S. 115C-284(b1)(5) and (c).
2. The year-long internship required by G.S. 115C-284(c2)(7).
3. The classroom teaching experience required by G.S. 115C-284(d1).
4. The requirement that an individual hold a Master's Degree in Education Administration, pursuant to G.S. 115C-284(d1).
5. The "second level of differentiation" required by G.S. 115C-284(d1).

Part I. Principal License Exemptions

Section 1.(c)

SECTION 1.(c) **To be eligible for the waiver** in subsection (b) of this section, an individual shall meet the following criteria prior to being licensed as a school administrator:

1. Prior to August 31, 2022, the individual completed at least one course as part of a master's degree program or a post-master's certificate designed for school administrators that was offered by an educator preparation program approved by the State Board of Education.
2. The individual completed a master's degree program or a post-master's certificate designed for school administrators that is offered by an EPP approved by the SBE.
3. The individual meets all licensure requirements in State law, rule, or policy not otherwise waived by this section.

Next Steps

- Gather feedback from the field (e.g., NCACTE and Teacher Recruitment and Retention Task Force)
- Professional Educator Preparation and Standards Commission (PEPSC) provides recommendations to the SBE
- SBE considers recommendations

Part I Needs: Policy Amendment

- Licensure Exam (test selection)
 - Does the SBE believe that a licensure exam is essential in licensing principals?
 - If not, what other measure might ensure that candidates for principal licensure have been adequately prepared for the role?
- Yearlong Internship (definition)
 - Current legislation requires a 10-month internship for principal licensure candidates.
 - Should policy allow for an equivalent internship as defined by hours?
 - Should the internship period (either monthly or hourly) be the same for part-time MSA program completers?

Part I Needs: Policy Amendment

- Teaching Experience
 - Should the requirements for principal licensure include a minimum number of years of teaching experience?
 - Should instructional support personnel without classroom teaching experience be eligible to hold a principal license?
- Masters of School Administration (MSA)
 - Is an MSA a requirement for principal licensure to the exclusion of all other masters degrees?
 - Many EPPs in North Carolina offer a licensure only path that does not result in an MSA. Should revised statute create the opportunity for these programs to continue?

Questions

