

# **Educator Preparation and Licensure Exams**

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# Elementary Licensure Exams

- Prior to the 2013-14 school year, NC required elementary teachers to pass Praxis 5015.
- NC statute change requires subtests of mathematics and reading.
- NC State Board of Education adopts Pearson tests for elementary educators (Pearson 090, 103, 203).



# Pass Rates for Elementary Licensure Exams

- The average pass rate for the Praxis 5015 for NC was approximately 85% for the school years 2011-12 to 2013-14.
  - 2011-12      87.48%
  - 2012-13      85.03%
  - 2013-14      85.47%
- NC State averages on Praxis 5015 remained relatively stable for these three years.



# Foundations of Mathematics (P103)

- Pass rates on the new exam fell dramatically in 2014-15, and later

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Pass Rate	65.1%	58.2%	54.5%

# Foundations of Mathematics (P103)

- In 2014-15, 488 (23.4%) of the exam takers failed the exam and did not attempt again that year.
- In 2015-16, that number rose to 911 (30.2%) exam takers.
- In 2016-17, there were 987 (36.4%).
- The “delay” policy may explain the drop in annual pass rates.



# PEPSC Subcommittee

- Comprised of math experts from K-12, Universities, and DPI
- Investigating alternative tests to the current Pearson
  - possible misalignment between the test and NC K-8 curriculum
  - a better test would be less about mathematics content knowledge and more about math knowledge to support strong teaching and pedagogy



# Regardless of the Test

- The Department currently lacks sufficient evidence to validate the licensure exam as an indicator of future teacher effectiveness.
  - Not as simple as changing the test
  - Need to set up the conditions to answer the question
  - Supports (EPPs/LEAs) for teachers who have not passed



# Moving Forward

- NCDPI needs the ability to track licensure exam performance for NC beginning teachers. Recent policy revision should help.
  - Understand the relationship between licensure exam performance and effectiveness.
  - Time to collect data and make a compelling case.

