

GENERAL LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS LICN-001 f/k/a TCP-A-001

1.20 TYPES OF LICENSES

3(a) The Initial License, which is valid for three years, allows the teacher to begin practicing the profession on an independent basis in North Carolina. Beginning with the 2016-2017 school year, to be issued an initial license, an individual must complete an approved teacher education program, qualify for an initial lateral entry license, or qualify for an initial CTE license. All Standard Professional 1 licenses shall be deemed to be Initial licenses effective July 1, 2016.

(b) The Continuing License, which is valid for five years, allows the teacher to serve on an ongoing basis. A Continuing License must be renewed every five years.

4) A teacher shall not be required to prepare or submit a portfolio to receive an Initial license or a Continuing license. To convert an Initial license to a Continuing license, a teacher must complete all required coursework and achieve a passing score on all North Carolina State Board of Education approved exams required for the license area(s) within the established timeframe. Conversion from an Initial license to a Continuing license does not require the recommendation of the employing school system. Educators with fewer than three years of teaching experience, however, are required to continue participating in a Beginning Teacher Support Program regardless of their licensure status.

A teacher's continuing license shall be renewed at the end of each five-year term, provided the teacher has completed all requirements put forth in G.S. § 115C-296(b)(1)(b): (a) all teachers who:

- (1) are employed by a local board of education;
- (2) possess a continuing license;
- (3) are in the final year of the 5-year renewal cycle;

are not deemed proficient on the most recent final summative evaluation may be placed on a mandatory improvement plan and may, therefore, be eligible to receive an initial license; provided all other licensure requirements are met.

(b) a teacher who meets the criteria in paragraph (a) but who is not placed on a mandatory improvement plan by the employing agency shall be deemed to have an "expired" teaching license. A teacher whose license has expired pursuant to the provision in this section shall be eligible to apply for an Initial license upon receipt of official notification from the State Board of Education and after a 30-day waiting period.

(c) For the purposes of this policy, "proficient" shall be defined as achieving a rating of proficient, or higher, on three of the five standards of the NC Educator Evaluation System

(NCEES), provided that the standard related to pedagogy (Standard IV in NCEES) is rated at the level of proficient, or higher. Teachers on an abbreviated evaluation plan must achieve a rating of proficient, or higher, on the standard related to pedagogy in order to be deemed “proficient”.

(d) The term of the mandatory improvement plan shall be 90 instructional days for teachers in schools identified as low performing and 60 instructional days for teachers in schools not identified as low performing. Teachers who are placed on a mandatory improvement plan as a result of this policy shall be issued an Initial license provided the teacher meets other licensing requirements.

(e) Local education agencies (LEAs) that move to dismiss a teacher under the provisions of this policy must follow all due process procedures as outlined in G.S. § 325.1, et seq. The reversion of a teacher’s license from Continuing to Initial shall not be construed as a demotion or result in a reduction of the teacher’s salary. At the end of the term of the Initial license (three years), a teacher may be eligible for a Continuing license.