

Lateral Entry is a process by which qualified individuals can enter the field of education while completing North Carolina licensure requirements. This process involves four “academic partners”: the individual, the Regional Alternative Licensing Center (RALC) or the teacher’s chosen institution of higher education (IHE), the local education agency (LEA), and the North Carolina State Department of Public Instruction (DPI).

Step One:

Before a lateral entry license can be requested, a person must be employed by an LEA. It is the responsibility of the LEA to make sure that the individual meets DPI eligibility requirements for lateral entry licensure.

Step Two:

After becoming employed, the individual and the LEA submit a joint application to DPI, requesting issuance of a lateral entry license in the subject area of employment.

The individual at this point must apply for a plan of study from the RALC or associate with an IHE that has an accredited program in the area of licensure.

The RALC or IHE will develop a Plan of Study which outlines the course and testing requirements that the individual must complete in order to receive Standard Professional I licensure. This plan must be on file with the employing LEA.

Step Three:

Cumberland County Schools (CCS) policy holds the individual responsible for completing at least six (6) semester hours of the courses outlined on the plan of study by the RALC or IHE during each school year. All completed coursework must be documented with transcripts by the LEA’s licensure specialist. If the yearly coursework requirement is not met, the LEA cannot renew the individual’s contract.

By the date designated by DPI, the individual is responsible for passing the appropriate Praxis II Subject Assessment test(s) or other tests (Pearson or ACTFL) as required for their area of licensure. Scores must be documented by the LEA’s licensure specialist. If the appropriate tests are not successfully completed, the individual cannot be hired/rehired. The individual is informed of their testing requirements by DPI when the lateral entry license is issued.

DPI gives an individual a maximum of three (3) school years to complete all lateral entry requirements.

Step Four:

When all college course work and testing have been successfully completed, the individual will be recommended for full licensure by the RALC or IHE.

Summary:

- The individual becomes employed by an LEA.
- The individual applies for a licensure program plan with the RALC or affiliates with an IHE, a regionally accredited college or university which has a teacher education program in their specific area of licensure.
- The individual completes at least 6 semester hours of coursework from their program plan each school year regardless of employment status.
- The individual successfully completes the NC DPI approved licensure exams by the date designated by DPI if the exam(s) were not the basis of qualifying for the license.
- The individual successfully completes all coursework as required by the RALC or IHE prior to the end of the 3rd school year of licensure.
- The individual successfully completes all requirements of the Beginning Teacher Support Program.
- The individual is recommended for Standard Professional I licensure by the RALC or IHE.

Qualifications for Lateral Entry in North Carolina

Only the hiring school system can initiate the process for lateral entry licensure.

Individuals must first be employed by a N.C. public school system that will request the lateral on behalf of the teacher.

All Lateral Entry teachers must have a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited college/university, AND must meet (1) of the criteria from each side below to qualify for Lateral Entry.

If you earned a degree from another country, you must provide an evaluation (course by course) from an international education evaluation service, www.foreigntranscripts.com. Note: transcripts must be translated into English by a certified translator.

One of the following:		One of the following:
Relevant Degree	A N D	2.5 GPA
Or		Or
24 Semester Hours of coursework in the teaching area		Five years of experience considered relevant by the employing LEA
Or		Or
Passing score on the NC State Board of Education (SBE) approved licensure exams for the teaching area		Passing scores on Core Academic Skills for Educators , or a total SAT score of 1100 <u>or</u> ACT score of 24 plus one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GPA of 3.0 in the major field of study* - GPA of 3.0 in all courses in senior year * - GPA of 3.0 on a minimum of 15 semester hour of coursework completed <u>within</u> the last five years after the bachelor's degree

*** Exceptional Children (Spec. Ed.) testing information, please call 678-2349 or 678-2639**

Who is not eligible for lateral entry?

- Graduates of approved teacher education programs who are not recommended for licensing by their college or university
- Individuals who have completed an approved teacher education program, but have not satisfied testing requirements

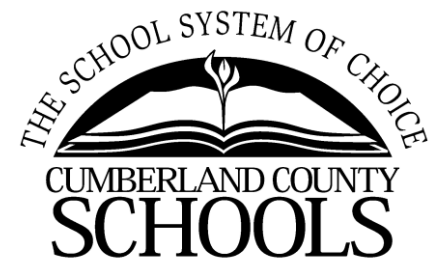
NOTE: qualifying for **ESL** requires a degree in English, or 24 semester hrs in English or Linguistics or passing NC Praxis II

Career & Technical Education teacher requirements are similar to Lateral Entry, **plus** they **must** have full-time documented work experience in the field: 2, 3, 4 or 6 yrs within the last 5, 8 or 10 yrs depending on college degree level.

TCP-A-001; 1.70 Lateral Entry. effective 7/1/08: If **all** lateral entry requirements are not satisfied within the 3 years initially granted, there is an additional 3 year waiting period before another lateral entry license can be issued, provided the SBE approved licensure exam(s) are met.

Lateral Entry

**A Major Step Into
An Exciting New Career!**



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