Reciprocal Licensing Plans

Reciprocity plans allow educators from outside North Carolina to establish eligibility for licensing in this state. Reciprocity applies to the extent that out-of-state education programs are equivalent to North Carolina’s standards and guidelines for approved education programs. Certain requirements specific to North Carolina, such as the Praxis Series tests, are not covered by reciprocity and must be met before a clear North Carolina license can be issued.

North Carolina recognizes four teacher education and reciprocal licensing approaches:

- completion of an education program accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE)
- completion of an education program that follows National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification (NASDTEC) standards
- reciprocity based on interstate agreements. North Carolina has reciprocal contracts with:
  - Alabama
  - Alaska
  - Arkansas
  - California
  - Colorado
  - Connecticut
  - Delaware
  - Florida
  - Georgia
  - Hawaii
  - Idaho
  - Illinois
  - Indiana
  - Kansas
  - Kentucky
  - Louisiana
  - Maine
  - Maryland
  - Massachusetts
  - Michigan
  - Mississippi
  - Nebraska
  - Nevada
  - New Hampshire
  - New Jersey
  - New Mexico
  - New York
  - North Dakota
  - Ohio
  - Oklahoma
  - Oregon
  - Pennsylvania
  - Rhode Island
  - South Carolina
  - Tennessee
  - Texas
  - Utah
  - Vermont
  - Virginia
  - Washington
  - West Virginia
  - Wyoming
  - District of Columbia

- completion of a state-approved program not accredited by NCATE, approved through the interstate agreement, or based on NASDTEC guidelines.

Reciprocity does not guarantee that all areas of licensure will transfer directly from one state to another, but applicants will receive the closest comparable North Carolina areas. In some cases, North Carolina grade level definitions (e.g., elementary and secondary) may differ from those in other states, and such a difference may be reflected on the North Carolina license.

Public Schools of North Carolina
State Board of Education
Department of Public Instruction
Licensure Section
6365 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-6365
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