

Lateral Entry: Criteria and Conditions

A lateral entry license entitles the holder to be employed by and serve as a teacher in North Carolina schools. Lateral entry licenses are authorized on a provisional basis in major areas of academic study for which the state has established licensure.

Criteria

- Applicants for a lateral entry license must be employed by a North Carolina school system, hold at least a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution, and meet the federal requirement to be designated highly qualified in the subject area they are employed to teach.
- Individuals must have a minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of at least 2.5 (on a 4.0 scale) **or** have five years of experience considered relevant by the LEA **or** have passed the Core Academic Skills for Educators tests or SAT (minimum required score is 1100) or ACT (minimum required score is 24) and have earned one of the following:
 - a GPA of 3.0 in the major field of study or
 - a GPA of 3.0 on all work completed in the senior year or
 - a GPA of 3.0 on a minimum of 15 semester hours of course work (related to the area of licensure) completed during the preceding five years.
- **Individuals who have completed all education program requirements, but have not met State Board of Education approved Licensure testing are not eligible for lateral entry licensing.**

Conditions

- The applicant and the employing school system submit a joint application to the Licensure Section.
- Individuals licensed through lateral entry must complete an approved education program in their area of licensure at a college or university or through a Regional Alternative Licensing Center (RALC). The college or RALC evaluates the individual's credentials and outlines the course work necessary to earn a clear license. Successful teaching experience can substitute for the student teaching requirement.
- A lateral entry license is valid for three school years. All program requirements, including testing, must be met within the three year time limit whether or not employment continues.
- Lateral entry license holders are subject to all regulations that apply to other beginning teachers in North Carolina. They must successfully complete three years of teaching in the Initial Licensure Program before their licenses can be converted from lateral entry to clear and continuing status. Lateral entry employees retain initial status throughout the entire period during which they complete academic and testing requirements.
- Individuals entering public school service through lateral entry must complete a two-week training course prior to service in the schools or submit evidence of equivalent training. The training is to include:
 - lesson planning,
 - classroom organization,
 - classroom management, including positive management of student behavior, effective communication for defusing and deescalating disruptive or dangerous behavior, and safe and appropriate use of seclusion and restraint,
 - an overview of the ABCs Program including the standard course of study and end-of-grade and end-of-course testing, and
 - the identification and education of children with disabilities.
- For a lateral entry license to remain valid, the holder must meet the testing and progressive credit requirements within the three-year limit whether or not he or she continues to be employed in a North Carolina school system.