



# HOUSE BILL 902: Transforming Principal Preparation

**This Bill Analysis  
reflects the contents  
of the bill as it was  
presented in  
committee.**

2015-2016 General Assembly

<b>Committee:</b>	House Education - K-12, if favorable, Appropriations	<b>Date:</b>	April 23, 2015
<b>Introduced by:</b>	Reps. Blackwell, Horn, Bryan, Hanes	<b>Prepared by:</b>	Denise Adams and James Ritter, Legislative Analysts
<b>Analysis of:</b>	PCS to First Edition H902-CSTB-14		

**SUMMARY:** *House Bill 902 would establish a competitive grant program to elevate educators in North Carolina by transforming the preparation of school principals.*

*The PCS for HB 902 would (i) change the term "certification" to "licensure" where the terms are used, (ii) remove the appropriation, and (iii) change the effective date.*

### BILL ANALYSIS:

**Section 1.(a)** of the PCS would state the purpose of the program, which is to establish a competitive grant program to elevate educators in North Carolina by transforming the preparation of school principals. The Authority would administer the program through a cooperative agreement with a private, nonprofit corporation.

**Section 1.(b)** would provide definitions for the following relevant terms associated with the program: "eligible entity," "high-need school," "principal," "school leader," and "student achievement."

**Section 1.(c)** would authorize the Authority to award grants to eligible applicants and establish necessary rules to administer the program.

**Section 1.(d)** would provide that by September 1, 2015, the Authority must issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a private, nonprofit corporation to contract with the Authority for the administration of the program, including making recommendations for the award of grants. Section 1.(d) lays out five requirements the nonprofit corporation must meet in order to be eligible for selection by the Authority.

**Section 1.(e)** would require the Authority to select a nonprofit corporation (selected nonprofit) to enter into a contract with by January 1, 2016. The Authority must report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee (JLEOC) on the selection by January 15, 2016.

**Section 1.(f)** would require the selected nonprofit to issue, no later than March 1, 2016, an initial RFP with guidelines and criteria for the grants. Section 1.(f) would require applicants to submit certain information in response to the RFP, including (i) the extent to which the entity has a demonstrated record of preparing school leaders who implement school leadership practices linked to increased student achievement and (ii) the extent to which the entity has a rigorous school leader preparation program design that includes certain research-based programmatic elements.

**Section 1.(g)** would direct the selected nonprofit to evaluate the applicants for grants by giving priority to an eligible entity with a record of preparing principals demonstrating:

- Improvement in student achievement.
- Placing school leaders in eligible schools.

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- A proposed focus on, and if applicable, a record of serving high-need schools, high-needs local school administrative units, or both.
- A detailed plan and commitment to share lessons learned and to improve the capacity of other entities in reaching similar outcomes.

**Section 1.(h)** would direct the selected nonprofit to recommend grant recipients to the Authority by June 1, 2016. Eligible entities that receive grant funds would have to use the funds to (i) recruit and select candidates into their program, (ii) operate a school leader preparation program with certain specific criteria, and (iii) collect data on program implementation and program completion outcomes.

**Section 1.(i)** would direct the selected nonprofit to recommend to the Authority the duration and renewal of grants.

**Section 1.(j)** would require grant recipients to submit an annual report to the selected nonprofit beginning in the third year of the grant, with any information requested by the selected nonprofit. Whenever practicable, grant recipients should make all materials developed as part of the program and with grant funds publically available.

**Section 2** would direct the State Board of Education (SBE), by June 1, 2016, to adopt a policy to provide for a specific licensure process applicable to school administrators who provide documentation to the SBE of successful completion of a principal preparation program selected for a grant.

**Section 3** would require the following:

- The selected nonprofit to provide to the SBE the required collected data on an annual basis.
- By September 15, 2021, the SBE, in coordination with the Board of Governors, to revise, as necessary, the licensure requirements for school administrators and the standards for approval of school administrator preparation programs after evaluating the data collected by the grant recipients.
- By November 15, 2021, the SBE must report to the JLEOC on any changes made to the licensure requirements for school administrators and the standards for approval of school administrator preparation programs.

**Section 4** of the PCS would remove the appropriation and instead provide that the provisions of the act are subject to the availability of funds for these purposes.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** The PCS would become effective when it becomes law.

**CURRENT LAW and BACKGROUND:** Currently, the Authority does not administer any competitive grant programs for principals. The Authority does, however, administer the North Carolina Principal's Fellows Program, a competitive, merit-based scholarship loan program available to individuals with teaching or relevant experience and of exceptional academic ability who desire to enter education administration in North Carolina public schools.