



# HOUSE BILL 432: Principal Licensure Changes.

2023-2024 General Assembly

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<b>Committee:</b>		<b>Date:</b>	December 1, 2023
<b>Introduced by:</b>		<b>Prepared by:</b>	Kara McCraw Staff Attorney
<b>Analysis of:</b>	S.L. 2023-125		

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**OVERVIEW:** *S.L. 2023-125 updates principal licensure requirements and administrator preparation program approval rules that apply beginning July 1, 2024, and requires the Professional Educator Preparation and Standards Commission (PEPSC) to develop a portfolio-based assessment for prospective principals.*

*The State Board of Education (SBE) must adopt rules for two classes of administrator license, an administrator license and a provisional assistant principal license, that meet certain requirements. The SBE must also develop rules for determining whether individuals who completed an out-of-state administrator preparation program (APP) meet or exceed North Carolina requirements.*

*PEPSC, in consultation with the Department of Public Instruction and the North Carolina Principal Fellows Commission, must develop a portfolio-based assessment system for use in applications for administrator licensure, and submit recommendations to the SBE by June 15, 2024.*

*Except as otherwise provided, this act became effective September 28, 2023.*

## **PRIOR LAW:**

### School Administrator Licensure Requirements

G.S. 115C-284(b) identifies the statutory requirements for licensing school administrators, including the following:

- Bachelor's degree.
- One of the following:
  - A graduate degree from a public school administration program that is approved by the SBE.
  - A master's degree and completion of a public school administration program approved by the SBE by December 31, 1999.
  - Education and training determined by the SBE as equivalent.
- Pass an exam adopted by the SBE.

Additionally, G.S. 115C-284(d1) required the following for principal licensure:

- At least four years of classroom teaching experience.
- At least a Masters Degree in Education Administration.
- Achieve at least the second level of differentiation between classroom teachers.

G.S. 115C-284(c) requires the SBE to issue a one-year provisional assistant principal certificate to an employee of a local board of education if one of the following are met:

Jeffrey Hudson  
Director



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- The local board determines there is a shortage of persons who hold or are qualified to hold a principal's license and the employee enrolls in an approved program leading to a masters degree in school administration before the provisional certificate expires.
- The employee is enrolled in an approved masters in school administration program and is participating in the required internship under the masters program.

The SBE is required to extend the assistant principal provisional certificate for up to two additional years while the employee completed the program.

## School Administrator Preparation Requirements

G.S. 115C-284(c2) requires the SBE to adopt standards for school administrator preparation programs, and identified certain requirements that must be included, such as:

- Requiring all candidates to complete a year-long internship.
- Requiring all candidates to develop portfolios.
- Requiring written agreements between the institution of higher education and a local school administrative unit to govern their shared responsibility for (i) recruitment and preparation of school administrators, especially with regard to clinical experiences including the internship, and (ii) a new administrator's success once employed.

Additionally, school administrator preparation programs must require candidates to demonstrate competencies in (i) using digital and other instructional technologies and (ii) supporting teachers and other school personnel to use digital and other instructional technologies to ensure provision of high-quality, integrated digital teaching and learning to all students. The SBE must also require school administrators to complete continuing education in high-quality, integrated digital teaching and learning as a requirement for licensure renewal. G.S. 115C-284(c3).

G.S. 115C-284.1 requires rules for approving school administrator preparation programs to incorporate criteria developed in accordance with G.S. 116-74.21 for assessing proposals under the School Administrator Training Program. G.S. 116-74.21 requires a competitive proposal process and criteria for assessing proposals to establish school administrator training programs within the constituent institutions of The University of North Carolina. No more than 12 school administrator programs can be established under the competitive proposal program.

## Principal License Waivers

Section 1 of S.L. 2021-170, as amended by S.L. 2022-71, waived certain statutory school administrator licensure requirements for individuals who completed at least one course as part of a masters degree program or a post-masters certificate designed for school administrators prior to August 31, 2024, provided that the individual completes a masters degree program or a post-masters certificate designed for school administrators and meets all licensure requirements not otherwise waived by this provision prior to being licensed as a school administrator.

## **BILL ANALYSIS:**

S.L. 2023-125 updates principal licensure requirements and administrator preparation program approval rules that apply beginning July 1, 2024, and requires the PEPSC to develop a portfolio-based assessment for prospective principals.

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The SBE must adopt rules for two classes of administrator license: an administrator license and a provisional assistant principal license. A renewable five-year administrator license will require the following qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree.
- Successful completion of an approved APP.
- At least four years of experience as a licensed professional educator.
- Portfolio approved by the SBE.

The SBE also must adopt rules for granting approval to APPs that ensure the following:

- A rigorous approval process that requires statutory criteria are met.
- An application process, peer review, and technical assistance provided by the SBE.
- An approval period of five years and a process for renewal.
- Internships required as part of the program must be at least 500 hours rather than a year-long internship.

Finally, the SBE must develop rules for determining whether individuals who completed an out-of-state APP meet or exceed North Carolina requirements.

The new licensure and APP requirements will not apply to individuals eligible for a principal license requirement waiver under current law.

The act also requires PEPSC, in consultation with the Department of Public Instruction and the North Carolina Principal Fellows Commission, to develop a portfolio-based assessment system for use in applications for administrator licensure and submit recommendations to the SBE by June 15, 2024.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Except as otherwise provided, this act became effective September 28, 2023.