



SENATE BILL 840: Teacher Licensure Modifications.

2025-2026 General Assembly

Committee:	Senate Appropriations/Base Budget	Date:	April 29, 2026
Introduced by:	Sens. McInnis, Lee, Burgin	Prepared by:	Bryson Penley
Analysis of:	Second Edition		Committee Co-Counsel

OVERVIEW: *S.B. 840 would modify the laws governing educator preparation program and teacher licensure, including:*

- *Eliminating the testing requirements for admission to an educator preparation program.*
- *Eliminating the requirement that a teacher attempt to pass licensure exams during the first year of licensure.*
- *Allowing a teacher to convert a limited license to a continuing professional license if the teacher has a positive growth score under the Education Value-Added Assessment System, regardless of whether the teacher has passed required licensure examinations.*
- *Eliminating the requirement that a teacher licensure applicant with an out-of-state license hold a license from a state with substantially similar requirements.*

CURRENT LAW: G.S. 115C-269.15 requires educator preparation programs (EPPs) to establish minimum admissions requirements, including a testing requirement that an applicant for admission to an EPP (i) earn a passing score on a preprofessional skills test, (ii) earn a minimum score on either the SAT or ACT, or (iii) hold a bachelor's degree.

G.S. 115C-270.15 requires initially licensed teachers to pass certain licensure examinations by the end of their third year of licensure to convert to a continuing professional license (CPL). A teacher must attempt to pass these licensure examinations during the first year of licensure.

A teacher who does not pass these licensure examinations by the third year of licensure may be eligible for a limited license under G.S. 115C-270.20(a)(4a). A limited license is a renewable three-year license that can be issued upon the request of a local board of education currently employing or seeking to employ an individual. A limited license can only be used in the local school administrative unit that requested the license. An in-state licensee can qualify for a limited license if the individual failed to meet required licensure examinations after three years of licensure, and the employing local board of education must certify that the individual is an effective teacher.

Additionally, for a teacher seeking to renew a limited license, G.S. 115C-270.30(b)(6) requires that teachers who have available growth data under the Education Value-Added Assessment System (EVAAS) demonstrate that the teacher meets or exceeds expectations of growth.

G.S. 115C-270.25 requires the State Board of Education (SBE) to issue a CPL to teachers holding an out-of-state teaching license if the out-of-state teacher (i) holds a teaching license from a state with substantially similar licensure requirements, (ii) has three years of teaching experience, and (iii) is in good standing with the other state.

BILL ANALYSIS: Section 1 would eliminate the testing requirements for admission to an EPP.

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Section 2 would eliminate the requirement that a teacher attempt to pass certain licensure examinations during the first year of licensure. The teacher would still be required to pass the examinations by the third year of teaching or convert to a limited license.

This section would also allow a teacher with a limited license who has available EVAAS growth data to convert the license to a CPL if the teacher has a positive average growth score for two of the three most recent years. Teachers with a negative average growth score but who still meet expected growth could continue to request a renewal of the limited license.

Section 3 would require the SBE to grant a CPL to a teacher holding a license from another state if the teacher has three years of teaching experience and is in good standing with the other state, regardless of the other state's licensure requirements.

Section 4 would appropriate \$50,000 in nonrecurring funds to the Department of Public Instruction to implement the requirements of this bill.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The appropriation in Section 4 would become effective July 1, 2026. The remainder would be effective when it becomes law.