

Licensure – Statutes, Consequences, and Possible Approaches

Teacher Licensure					
	Concern	Description	NCGA Action Needed?	Statutes	Possible Approach
1	Will COVID-19 keep teachers from completing their licensure exams?	<p>State law requires that teachers pass certain licensure exams. Teachers have until the end of their third year of licensure to pass the exams, provided that they attempted the exams at least once during their first year of licensure.</p> <p>Sec. 1.2 of S.L. 2019-71 gave certain teachers a one-year extension, so some teachers are in their fourth year of teaching and are required to pass licensure exams by June 30, 2020.</p>	<p>Yes, NCGA action would likely be needed, since testing centers are closed due to COVID-19.</p> <p>Without passing the exams, teachers whose deadline for passing the licensure exams is June 30, 2020, would see their teaching license expire.</p> <p>Additionally, teachers in their first year of teaching who have not taken their licensure exams would be out of compliance with State law.</p>	115C-270.15	Provide one additional year for individuals whose license would expire on June 30, 2020 for failing to meet licensure exam requirements – 1st yrs have to attempt by end of 2nd year, 3rd and 4th get one-year extension to pass test.
2	Will COVID-19 impact teacher licensure renewal?	State law requires teachers on continuing licenses to earn 8 continuing education credits prior to licensure renewal, with at least 3 credits being in the teachers' subject area. For elementary school teachers, at least 3 credits must be related to literacy.	Possibly. NCGA action may be required depending on policy decision regarding teachers who are up for renewal this year and are not able to complete their continuing education credits.	115C-270.30	Provide one-year extension to existing license in order to fulfill continuing education requirement.

Other Licensed Positions					
	Concern	Description	NCGA Action Needed?	Statutes	Possible Approach
3	Will COVID-19 affect the initial licensure of school administrators?	State law requires individuals seeking school administrator licensure to pass a standardized exam, complete a year-long internship, and develop a portfolio as evidence of applying their training to actual school needs and challenges.	Possibly. NCGA action may be required if individuals are not able to complete these requirements due to school and testing site closures.	G.S. 115C-284	Waive remainder of internship requirement if program ensures the principal candidates meet capacity requirements. Students should continue to work with LEAs to engage in remote learning as practicable. Complete portfolio prior to graduation to the extent practicable. Allow principal candidates to be licensed and complete exam requirement within first year of licensure.
4	Will COVID-19 affect licensure renewal of school administrators?	State law requires continuing education in digital teaching and learning as a requirement for licensure renewal. Other licensure renewal requirements for school administrators are set by the State Board.	Possibly. NCGA action may be required depending on policy decision regarding school administrators who are up for renewal this year and are not able to complete continuing education in digital teaching and learning. However, many school administrators have likely had some continuing education in this area (either formally or informally) as a result of the transition to distance learning.	G.S. 115C-284(c3)	Provide one-year extension to existing license in order to fulfill continuing education requirement.
5	Will COVID-19 affect initial licensure of other personnel, such as counselors and social workers?	State law requires individuals in professional positions other than teachers and school administrators to pass a relevant standardized exam prior to licensure. Other licensure requirements are set by the State Board.	Possibly. NCGA action may be required if individuals are not able to complete this requirement due to testing site closures.	G.S. 115C-315(d)	Allow licensure candidates to be licensed and complete exam requirement within first year of licensure.