Licensure Exam Requirements Update

At the June 2014 meeting, the State Board of Education approved technical corrections to TCP-A-003 that will impact undergraduate and graduate candidates recommended for an initial teaching license on/after July 1, 2014. N.C. General Statute 115C-296 Section 9.3 (c) directs the State Board of Education to permit applicants to meet licensure exam requirements during their second year of teaching provided the exam(s) were taken at least once during the first year of teaching. Given the need to adhere to both state and national requirements, refer to the information below to learn how this change applies to specific licensure areas.

Middle, Secondary, K-12 Licensure Areas

Effective July 1, 2014, middle, secondary, and K-12 (with the exception of Special Education: General Curriculum) candidates recommended for an initial teaching license are NOT required by the SBE/DPI to pass the required licensure exam(s) prior to being recommended by the IHE.

Candidates who do NOT pass the exam(s) prior to IHE recommendation are required:

1) to take the exam(s) at least once during their first year of teaching.
2) to pass the exam(s) in order to convert the Standard Professional I license to the Standard Professional II license.

Special Education: General Curriculum

Effective October 1, 2014 – Special Education: General Curriculum initial teaching licensure candidates MUST pass the Praxis II 0543/5543 Core Knowledge and Mild to Moderate Applications exam PRIOR to being recommended by the IHE. This exam is used to meet the federal requirement of highly qualified.

Special Education: General Curriculum licensure applicants must then meet the remaining licensure exam requirements (Pearson’s Foundations of Reading and General Curriculum exams*) in compliance with NC General Statues.

Special Education: General Curriculum candidates who do NOT pass the Pearson Foundations of Reading and General Curriculum exams prior to IHE recommendation are required:

1) to take the exam(s) at least once during their first year of teaching.
2) to pass the exam(s) in order to convert the Standard Professional I license to the Standard Professional II license.

Elementary Education

Effective October 1, 2014 – Elementary Education initial teaching licensure candidates must PASS the Pearson Foundations of Reading and General Curriculum exams* PRIOR to being recommended by the IHE. These exams are used to meet the federal requirement of highly qualified.

*NOTE: Passing scores for the Foundations of Reading and General Curriculum exams are expected to be set by the SBE no later than September 2014.