

Article 20.

Teachers.

§ 115C-295. Minimum age and license prerequisites.

(a) All teachers employed in the public schools of the State or in schools receiving public funds, shall be required either to hold or be qualified to hold a license in compliance with the provision of the law or in accordance with the regulations of the State Board of Education: Provided, that nothing herein shall prevent the employment of temporary personnel under such rules as the State Board of Education may prescribe: Provided further, that no person shall be employed to teach who is under 18 years of age.

(b) It shall be unlawful for any board of education to employ or keep in service any teacher who neither holds nor is qualified to hold a license in compliance with the provision of the law or in accordance with the regulations of the State Board of Education.

(c) This section shall not prohibit the employment of individuals exempted from licensure under G.S. 115C-270.21. (1955, c. 1372, art. 18, ss. 1, 4; 1975, c. 437, s. 7; c. 731, ss. 1, 2; 1981, c. 423, s. 1; 1985 (Reg. Sess., 1986), c. 975, s. 16; 2018-7, s. 2(b).)

§ 115C-295.1: Repealed by Session Laws 2011-145, s. 7.32, as added by Session Laws 2011-391, s. 17, effective July 1, 2011 and by Session Laws 2011-266, s. 1.39, effective July 1, 2011.

§ 115C-295.2: Repealed by Session Laws 2011-145, s. 7.32, as added by Session Laws 2011-391, s. 17, effective July 1, 2011, and by Session Laws 2011-266, s. 1.39, effective July 1, 2011.

§ 115C-295.3. Repealed by Session Laws 1999-96, s. 6.

§ 115C-296: Repealed by Session Laws 2017-189, s. 3(a), effective July 27, 2017, and applicable beginning with the 2017-2018 school year.

§ 115C-296.1. Expired.

§ 115C-296.2. National Board for Professional Teaching Standards Certification.

(a) State Policy. – It is the goal of the State to provide opportunities and incentives for good teachers to become excellent teachers and to retain them in the teaching profession; to attain this goal, the State shall support the efforts of teachers to achieve national certification by providing approved paid leave time for teachers participating in the process, lending teachers the participation fee, and paying a significant salary differential to teachers who attain national certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS).

The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) was established in 1987 as an independent, nonprofit organization to establish high standards for teachers' knowledge and performance and for development and operation of a national voluntary system to assess and certify teachers who meet those standards. Participation in the program gives teachers the time and the opportunity to analyze in a systematic way their professional development as teachers, successful teaching strategies, and the substantive areas in which they teach. Participation also gives teachers an opportunity to demonstrate superior ability and to be compensated as superior teachers. To receive NBPTS certification, a teacher must successfully (i) complete a process of

developing a portfolio of student work and videotapes of teaching and learning activities and (ii) participate in NBPTS assessment center simulation exercises, including performance-based activities and a content knowledge examination.

(b) Definitions. – As used in this subsection:

(1) A "North Carolina public school" is a school operated by a local board of education, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Division of Juvenile Justice of the Department of Public Safety, or The University of North Carolina; a school affiliated with The University of North Carolina; or a charter school approved in accordance with Article 14A of this Chapter.

(2) A "teacher" is a person who:

a. Either:

1. Is certified to teach in North Carolina; or
2. Holds a certificate or license issued by the State Board of Education that meets the professional license requirement for NBPTS certification.

b. Is a State-paid employee of a North Carolina public school.

c. Is paid on the teacher salary schedule.

d. Spends at least seventy percent (70%) of his or her work time:

1. In classroom instruction, if the employee is employed as a teacher. Most of the teacher's remaining time shall be spent in one or more of the following: mentoring teachers, doing demonstration lessons for teachers, writing curricula, developing and leading staff development programs for teachers;
2. In work within the employee's area of certification or licensure, if the employee is employed in an area of NBPTS certification other than direct classroom instruction; or
3. As an instructional coach, as classified by the Department of Public Instruction, in a Title I school. As used in this sub-sub-subdivision, a Title I school is a school identified under Part A of Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended.

(c) Payment of the NBPTS Participation Fee; Paid Leave. – The State shall lend teachers the participation fee and shall provide up to three days of approved paid leave to all teachers participating in the NBPTS program who:

(1) Have completed three full years of teaching in a North Carolina public school; and

(2) Have (i) not previously received State funds for participating in any certification area in the NBPTS program, (ii) repaid any State funds previously received for the NBPTS certification process, or (iii) received a waiver of repayment from the State Board of Education.

Teachers participating in the program shall take paid leave only with the approval of their supervisors.

(d) Repealed by Session Laws 2009-451, s. 7.30(b), effective July 1, 2010, and applicable beginning with the 2010-2011 school year.

(d1) Repayment of the Application Fee. – A teacher shall repay the application fee to the State Education Assistance Authority within three years. The commencement of cash repayment shall begin 12 months following the disbursement of the loan funds. The State Education Assistance Authority may forgive the loan upon the death of the teacher or upon an injury deemed to leave the teacher totally and permanently disabled.

All funds appropriated to, or otherwise received by, the Authority to provide loans to teachers pursuant to this section, all funds received as repayment of loans, and all interest earned on these funds shall be placed in a trust fund. This fund shall be used only for loans made pursuant to this section and administrative costs of the Authority.

(e) Repealed by Session Laws 2009-451, s. 7.30(b), effective July 1, 2010, and applicable beginning with the 2010-2011 school year.

(e1) Repealed by Session Laws 2009-451, 7.41(a), effective June 30, 2011.

(f) Rules. – The State Education Assistance Authority shall adopt rules and guidelines regarding the loan and repayment of the NBPTS application fee. The State Board shall adopt policies and guidelines to implement the remainder of this section. (2000-67, s. 8.16; 2000-137, s. 3; 2008-86, s. 1; 2009-451, ss. 7.30(b), 7.41(a); 2009-575, s. 3H; 2010-31, s. 7.11(a); 2011-145, s. 19.1(h), (l); 2014-100, s. 8.21; 2017-186, ss. 2(ddddd), 3(a); 2018-142, s. 16; 2021-180, s. 19C.9(y); 2023-110, s. 1(r).)

§ 115C-296.2A. National Board for Professional Teaching Standards certification participation fee grant program.

(a) [Establishment of Grant Program. –] Notwithstanding G.S. 115C-296.2, to the extent the General Assembly provides funds for this purpose, the Department of Public Instruction shall establish a grant program for qualifying public schools to improve teacher quality and mitigate learning loss by reimbursing teachers for the cost of the participation fee for National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) certification.

(b) Definitions. – The following definitions shall apply in this section:

(1) Public school. – Any of the following:

a. A school in a public school unit.

b. A school providing elementary or secondary instruction operated by The University of North Carolina under Article 4 or Article 29 of Chapter 116 of the General Statutes.

(2) Qualifying public school. – A public school that meets any of the following criteria:

a. Is identified as a low-performing school pursuant to G.S. 115C-105.37 or G.S. 115C-218.94.

b. Enrolled a student body in the school year prior to the application for reimbursement consisting of at least ten percent (10%) of students identified by the Department as at-risk students.

(c) Grant Applications and Approval. – The governing board of a qualifying public school may apply to the Department of Public Instruction for grant funds to reimburse teachers employed in the qualifying public school for the cost of the participation fee for NBPTS certification. The Department shall develop criteria and guidelines for governing bodies of public schools that receive grant funds to follow when administering the reimbursements. The criteria shall include at least the following:

- (1) Governing bodies of public schools receiving grant funds shall prioritize reimbursements for teachers based on the need of the school where the teacher is employed at the time of the reimbursement, including at least the following criteria:
 - a. A teacher employed in a qualifying public school with more qualifying factors, as identified in sub-subdivisions a. and b. of subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of this section, shall receive priority over a teacher employed in a qualifying public school with fewer qualifying factors.
 - b. For teachers employed in qualifying schools pursuant to sub-subdivision b. of subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of this section, teachers employed in schools with a higher percentage of at-risk students shall receive priority over teachers employed in schools with a lower percentage of at-risk students.
 - (2) Governing bodies of public schools receiving grant funds shall not require a teacher to complete the NBPTS certification process in order to receive a reimbursement.
- (d) Report. – No later than January 15 of each year in which funds are awarded, the Department shall report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee and the Fiscal Research Division on the impact of the program, including at least the following information:
- (1) Governing bodies of public schools applying for and receiving grants.
 - (2) Number of teachers receiving reimbursements.
 - (3) Demographic information of teachers receiving reimbursements.
 - (4) Employment status of teachers receiving reimbursements, including the public school where the teacher is employed and whether the teacher remains employed with his or her original qualifying public school.
 - (5) Licensure areas of teachers receiving reimbursements.
 - (6) Effect of the program on the performance and growth of students taught by teachers receiving reimbursements. (2023-134, s. 7.40.)

§ 115C-296.3: Expired June 30, 2004, by operation of Session Laws 2003-284, s. 7.20(h).

§ 115C-296.4: Repealed by Session Laws 2011-145, s. 7.31(a), as added by Session Laws 2011-391, s. 17, effective July 1, 2011, and by Session Laws 2011-266, s. 1.37(a), effective July 1, 2011.

§ 115C-296.5. North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching; powers and duties of trustees; reporting requirement.

- (a) The North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching (hereinafter called "NCCAT"), through itself or agencies with which it may contract, shall:
- (1) Provide career teachers with opportunities to study advanced topics in the sciences, arts, and humanities and to engage in informed discourse, assisted by able mentors and outstanding leaders from all walks of life; and
 - (2) Offer opportunities for teachers to engage in scholarly pursuits through a center dedicated exclusively to the advancement of teaching as an art and as a profession.

(b) Priority for admission to NCCAT opportunities shall be given to teachers with teaching experience of 15 years or less.

(c) NCCAT may also provide training and support for beginning teachers to enhance their skills and in support of the State's effort to recruit and retain beginning teachers.

(d) The Board of Trustees of the North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching shall hold all the powers and duties necessary or appropriate for the effective discharge of the functions of NCCAT.

(e) The Executive Director shall submit a copy of the NCCAT annual report to the Chair of the State Board of Education at the time of issuance. (1985, c. 479, s. 74; 2006-66, s. 9.15(a); 2009-451, ss. 9.13(b), (c).)

§ 115C-296.6. Composition of board of trustees; terms; officers.

(a) The NCCAT Board of Trustees shall be composed of the following membership:

- (1) Two ex officio members: the Chairman of the State Board of Education and the State Superintendent of Public Instruction or their designees;
- (2) Two members appointed by the General Assembly upon the recommendation of the President Pro Tempore of the Senate;
- (3) Two members appointed by the General Assembly upon the recommendation of the Speaker of the House of Representatives; and
- (4) Eight members appointed by the Governor, one from each of the eight educational regions.

The appointing authorities shall give consideration to assuring, through Board membership, the statewide mission of NCCAT.

(b) Members of the NCCAT Board of Trustees shall serve four-year terms. Members may serve two consecutive four-year terms. The Board shall elect a new chair every two years from its membership. The chair may serve two consecutive two-year terms as chair.

(c) The chief administrative officer of NCCAT shall be an executive director who shall be appointed by the NCCAT Board of Trustees. (1985, c. 479, s. 74; 1995, c. 490, s. 2; 2006-66, s. 9.15(b); 2009-451, s. 9.13(d), (e).)

§ 115C-296.7. North Carolina Teacher Corps.

(a) There is established the North Carolina Teacher Corps (NC Teacher Corps) to recruit and place recent graduates of colleges and universities and mid-career professionals as teachers in high needs public schools.

(b) The State Board of Education, in consultation with the Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina and the North Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities, shall develop and administer the NC Teacher Corps. In the development of the NC Teacher Corps, the State Board of Education shall consider examples of other successful teacher recruitment models used nationally and in other states.

(c) Applications shall be received annually for admission to the NC Teacher Corps. The State Board of Education shall establish application criteria, including, at a minimum, an award of a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university. The State Board of Education may establish a committee to annually evaluate and select candidates for admission to the NC Teacher Corps.

(d) The State Board of Education shall identify local school administrative units with unmet recruitment needs, especially for career and technical education teachers, and high needs schools and shall coordinate placement of NC Teacher Corps members in those schools.

(e) The State Board of Education, in coordination with the Board of Governors, shall develop an intensive summer training institute for NC Teacher Corps members to provide coursework and training on essential teaching frameworks, curricula, and lesson-planning skills, as well as identification and education of students with disabilities, positive management of student behavior, effective communication for defusing and deescalating disruptive and dangerous behavior, and safe and appropriate use of seclusion and restraint. The intensive summer training institute also shall address identification of difficulty with reading development and of reading deficiencies and the provision of reading instruction, intervention, and remediation strategies.

(f) The State Board of Education, in coordination with the Board of Governors, shall provide ongoing support to NC Teaching Corps members through coaching, mentoring, and continued professional development.

(g) NC Teaching Corps members shall be granted residency licenses pursuant to Article 17E of this Chapter.

(h) The State Board of Education is authorized to contract for the administration of the NC Teacher Corps. (2012-142, s. 7A.7(a); 2013-1, s. 2(a); 2013-360, s. 8.21(c); 2015-241, s. 8.41(i); 2017-189, s. 6(b).)

§§ 115C-296.8 through 115C-296.13: Repealed by Session Laws 2017-189, ss. 2(a)-(f), effective July 27, 2017, and applicable beginning with the 2017-2018 school year.

§ 115C-297: Repealed by Session Laws 1989, c. 385, s. 2.

§ 115C-298: Repealed by Session Laws 1997-18, s. 9.

§ 115C-298.5. Adjunct K-12 instructors in core academic subjects, fine and performing arts, and foreign languages.

(a) Adjunct Hiring Criteria for Faculty Members. – The State Board of Education shall develop minimum criteria of relevant education or employment experience for an individual who is currently employed at an institution of higher education as a faculty member to qualify that individual to contract as an adjunct instructor in specific core academic subjects, fine and performing arts, and foreign language courses in grades kindergarten through 12 and shall make such criteria available to local boards of education.

(a1) Adjunct Instructors with Teacher Preparation. – An individual with a related bachelor's degree or graduate degree who attends a community college or educator preparation program and completes courses concentrating in teacher preparation for at least one semester shall be eligible to contract with a local board of education to teach high school-level courses in core academic subjects, fine and performing arts, and foreign language in the individual's area of specialized knowledge or work experience pursuant to this section. For the purposes of this section, one semester of courses concentrating in teacher preparation shall mean at least nine credit hours taken in a semester in a program of study leading to a certificate, diploma, or associate degree in teacher preparation.

(b) Contracting With Adjunct Instructors. – Notwithstanding any provisions in this Article to the contrary and Part 3 of Article 22 of this Chapter, a local board of education may contract with

an individual to serve as an adjunct instructor who meets the adjunct hiring criteria established by the State Board of Education for specific core academic subjects. The local board of education may contract with an adjunct instructor on an annual or semester basis, subject to the following requirements:

- (1) An adjunct instructor may be employed for less than 20 hours per week or for less than six full consecutive months of employment. Adjunct instructors may be classified as temporary full-time or part-time employees. Based on the status as a temporary public school employee, an adjunct instructor shall not be eligible to earn paid leave, participate in the Teachers' and State Employees' Retirement System, or receive or purchase health benefits through the State Health Plan for Teachers and State Employees.
- (2) An adjunct instructor shall be subject to a criminal history check to ensure that the person has not been convicted of any crime listed in G.S. 115C-332.
- (3) An adjunct instructor shall not be required to hold or apply for licensure as a teacher.
- (4) If an adjunct instructor is not licensed as a teacher, the adjunct instructor shall complete preservice training, which may be offered through an educator preparation program or by a local school administrative unit, in all of the following areas prior to beginning instruction:
 - a. The identification and education of children with disabilities.
 - b. Positive management of student behavior.
 - c. Effective communication for defusing and de-escalating disruptive or dangerous behavior.
 - d. Safe and appropriate use of seclusion and restraint. (2017-91, s. 1; 2021-48, s. 1.)

§ 115C-299. Hiring of teachers.

(a) In the city administrative units, teachers shall be elected by the board of education of such administrative unit upon the recommendation of the superintendent of city schools.

Teachers shall be elected by the county and city boards of education upon the recommendation of the superintendent, in accordance with the provisions of G.S. 115C-276(j).

(b) No person otherwise qualified shall be denied the right to receive credentials from the State Board of Education, to receive training for the purpose of becoming a teacher, or to engage in practice teaching in any school on the grounds that such person is totally or partially blind; nor shall any local board of education refuse to employ such a person on such grounds. (1955, c. 1372, art. 5, s. 4; 1971, c. 949; 1981, c. 423, s. 1; 1985 (Reg. Sess., 1986), c. 975, s. 5.)

§ 115C-299.5. Duty to monitor the state of the teaching profession.

(a) Definitions. – As used in this section, the following definitions apply:

- (1) Hard-to-staff school. – Any school identified as low-performing, as provided in G.S. 115C-105.37.
- (2) Hard-to-staff subject area. – A subject area that is either of the following:
 - a. As defined by the United States Department of Education.
 - b. A subject area that has resulted in a long-term vacancy of 16 months or more at a particular school in a local school administrative unit.

- (3) Teacher vacancy. – A teaching position that a local board of education is unable to fill with a teacher licensed in that subject area, including a position that meets any of the following criteria:
- a. Is not filled by a teacher who has one of the following licenses in the subject area of the position:
 1. Continuing Professional License.
 2. Initial Professional License.
 3. Lifetime License.
 4. Limited License.
 5. Residency License.
 - b. Is not filled by a licensed teacher in a permanent assignment.
 - c. Is filled by a substitute teacher or interim teacher.
 - d. Is filled by a teacher with (i) an emergency license or (ii) another permit or license not included in sub-subdivision a. of this subdivision.

(b) State of the Teaching Profession Report. – The State Board of Education shall monitor and compile an annual report by December 15 annually on the state of the teaching profession in North Carolina that includes data on the decisions of teachers to leave the teaching profession and vacancies in teaching positions as provided in subsections (c) and (e) of this section. The State Board shall adopt standard procedures for each local board of education to use in requesting information required by this report and shall require each local board of education to report the information to the State Board in a standard format adopted by the State Board.

(c) Teachers Leaving the Profession. – The report shall include the following data on the decisions of teachers to leave the teaching profession in the prior school year:

- (1) The number of teachers who left the profession without remaining in the field of education and the reasons for teachers leaving the profession.
- (2) The number of teachers who left their employment to teach in other states.
- (3) The number of teachers who left their employment to work in another school in North Carolina, including nonpublic schools and charter schools.
- (4) The number of teachers who left a classroom position for another type of educational position.
- (5) The number of teachers who left employment in hard-to-staff schools.
- (6) The number of teachers who left employment in hard-to-staff subject areas.

(d) Teacher Effectiveness. – The annual teacher transition report by the State Board of Education shall disaggregate the data included in subsection (c) of this section by teacher effectiveness status at a statewide level. The report shall not disaggregate data on teacher effectiveness status at a local school administrative unit level. Notwithstanding Article 21A of this Chapter, local school administrative units shall provide to the State Board of Education, for the purposes of this report, any North Carolina Educator Evaluation System (NCEES) effectiveness status assigned to teachers who left employment. The State Board of Education shall not report disaggregated data that reveals confidential information in a teacher's personnel file, as defined by Article 21A of this Chapter, such as making the effectiveness status personally identifiable to an individual teacher.

(e) Teacher Vacancies. – The report shall include data on teacher vacancies by the fortieth school instructional day of the local school administrative unit's calendar. The report shall aggregate all data to provide both statewide information and information specific to each local school administrative unit, including the following:

- (1) The number of teacher vacancies by subject area.
 - (2) The number of teacher vacancies by school with identification of hard-to-staff schools.
- (f) Teacher Licensure. – The report shall include the number of teachers in each of the following licensure categories, by subject area, aggregated to provide statewide information and information specific to each local school administrative unit and school:
- (1) Continuing Professional License.
 - (2) Initial Professional License.
 - (3) Lifetime License.
 - (4) Limited License.
 - (5) Residency License.
 - (6) Emergency License.
- (g) Report Consolidation. – The report required by this section shall be consolidated with the State of the School Administration Profession Report required by G.S. 115C-289.2. (2017-189, s. 5(b); 2020-3, s. 2.15(b); 2021-180, s. 7.78(a); 2023-134, s. 7.77(c).)

§ 115C-300. In-service training.

Local boards of education are authorized to provide for the professional growth of teachers while in service and to pass rules and regulations requiring teachers to cooperate with their superintendent for the improvement of instruction in the classroom and for promoting community improvement. (1955, c. 1372, art. 5, s. 29; 1981, c. 423, s. 1.)

§ 115C-300.1. New teacher induction programs.

(a) Induction Program. – The State Board of Education shall develop a new teacher induction program to provide ongoing support for teachers entering the profession.

(b) New Teacher Guidelines. – For the purpose of helping local boards to support new teachers, the State Board shall develop and distribute guidelines that address optimum teaching load, extracurricular duties, student assignment, and other working condition considerations. These guidelines shall provide that teachers holding initial professional licenses not be assigned extracurricular activities unless they request the assignments in writing and that other noninstructional duties of these teachers be minimized.

(c) Mentor Teacher Training. – The State Board shall develop and coordinate a mentor teacher training program. The State Board shall develop criteria for selecting excellent, experienced, and qualified teachers to be participants in the mentor teacher training program as follows:

- (1) Mentor teachers shall be either of the following:
 - a. Teachers rated, through formal evaluations, at least at the "proficient" level as part of the North Carolina Teacher Evaluation System.
 - b. Retired teachers.
- (2) The principal shall determine which mentor teacher best meets the needs of each new teacher and shall assign the most appropriate mentor teacher to that new teacher, with priority consideration for those mentor teachers rated as "distinguished" and "accomplished."
- (3) If a principal determines that a teacher rated as "proficient" or a retired teacher is the most appropriate mentor for a new teacher, the principal shall maintain records of the reasons for that determination.

- (4) A teacher may be a mentor at a different school building from which the mentor is assigned if the following criteria are met:
 - a. The principals of each school and the mentor teacher approve of the assignment.
 - b. The mentor teacher is rated, through formal evaluations, at least at the "accomplished" level as part of the North Carolina Teacher Evaluation System.
 - c. The new teacher's principal maintains a record of the reasons for selecting the mentor from a different school building. (2017-189, ss. 3(b), 6(o).)

§ 115C-301. Allocation of teachers; class size.

(a) Request for Funds. – The State Board of Education, based upon the reports of local boards of education and such other information as the State Board may require from local boards, shall determine for each local school administrative unit the number of teachers and other instructional personnel to be included in the State budget request.

(a1) Teacher Position Allotments. – Funds for classroom teachers in the State Public School Fund shall consist of the following position allotments:

- (1) Classroom teachers for kindergarten through twelfth grade, which shall include funds for program enhancement teachers for sixth through twelfth grade, self-contained exceptional children teachers, math, science, and computer teachers, and matching benefits.
- (2) Program enhancement teachers for kindergarten through fifth grade.

(b) Allocation of Positions. – The State Board of Education is authorized to adopt rules to allot instructional personnel and teachers, within funds appropriated.

(c) Maximum Class Size for Kindergarten Through Third Grade. – The average class size for kindergarten through third grade in a local school administrative unit shall at no time exceed the funded allotment ratio of teachers to students in kindergarten through third grade. At the end of the second school month and for the remainder of the school year, the size of an individual class in kindergarten through third grade shall not exceed the allotment ratio by more than three students. The funded class size allotment ratio for kindergarten through third grade shall be as follows:

- (1) For kindergarten, one teacher per 18 students.
- (2) For first grade, one teacher per 16 students.
- (3) For second grade, one teacher per 17 students.
- (4) For third grade, one teacher per 17 students.

In grades four through 12, local school administrative units shall have the maximum flexibility to use allotted teacher positions to maximize student achievement.

(c1) Class Size Exceptions for Kindergarten Through Third Grade. – Class size requirements for kindergarten through third grade provided in subsection (c) of this section shall not apply to the following classes:

- (1) Dual language immersion classes. For the purposes of this subsection, dual language immersion classes are classes in which (i) at least one-third of the students' dominant language is English and (ii) instruction involves both English and a target foreign language with a minimum of fifty percent (50%) of core content taught in the target foreign language in order to promote dual language proficiency for all students.

- (2) Program enhancement classes.
- (c2) Program Enhancement Teacher Allotment for Kindergarten Through Fifth Grade. –
 - (1) Definitions. – For the purposes of this section, "program enhancement" refers to any of the following:
 - a. Arts disciplines, including dance, music, theater, and the visual arts.
 - b. Physical education and health programs.
 - c. World languages.
 - d. Other supplemental classes as defined by the State Board of Education.

(2) Allotment ratio calculation. – The allotment ratio for kindergarten through fifth grade program enhancement teachers shall be one teacher per 191 students.

(3) Appropriation. – Beginning with the 2019-2020 fiscal year, there is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Public Instruction for the allotment for program enhancement teachers for kindergarten through fifth grade an amount equal to the percentage of the total funds required to allot program enhancement teacher positions for kindergarten through fifth grade on a basis of one teacher per 191 students for each fiscal year as follows:

Fiscal Year	Appropriation
2019-2020	50%
2020-2021	75%
2021-2022 and each subsequent fiscal year thereafter	100%.

When developing the base budget, as defined by G.S. 143C-1-1, for each fiscal year specified in this subdivision, the Director of the Budget shall include the appropriated amount for that fiscal year.

(d), (e) Repealed by Session Laws 2013-363, s. 3.3(a), effective July 1, 2013.

(f) Biannual Reports. – At the end of October and end of February of each school year, each local board of education, through the superintendent, shall file a report, based on information provided by the principal, for each school within the local school administrative unit with the Superintendent of Public Instruction. The report shall be filed in a format prescribed by the Superintendent of Public Instruction and shall include the organization for each school in the local school administrative unit, including the following information:

- (1) For each class in each grade level at each school, the following:
 - a. The duties of the teacher.
 - b. The source of funds used to pay for the teacher.
 - c. The number of students assigned to the class, including all exceptions to individual class size maximums in kindergarten through third grade that exist at that time.
- (2) For each school, the following:
 - a. The number of program enhancement teachers.
 - b. The source of funds used to pay each program enhancement teacher.
- (3) The average class size for each grade from kindergarten through third grade in the local school administrative unit.
- (4) Any other information the Superintendent of Public Instruction may require.

The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall conduct periodic audits of the information reported by the local superintendent under this subsection to confirm the accuracy of reporting at the local school administrative unit and school level of the average and individual class size for students in kindergarten through third grade. If the Superintendent of Public Instruction finds that a local

board of education is exceeding class size requirements without application to the State Board for an allotment adjustment or a waiver of those class size requirements, the State Board may impose the penalty set forth in subsection (j) of this section until such time the local board of education receives a waiver or the schools in the unit meet the class size requirements for kindergarten through third grade.

(g) Waivers and Allotment Adjustments. – Local boards of education shall report exceptions to the class size requirements set out for kindergarten through third grade and significant increases in class size at other grade levels to the State Board and shall request allotment adjustments at any grade level, waivers from the requirements for kindergarten through third grade, or both. Within 45 days of receipt of reports, the State Board of Education, within funds available, may allot additional positions at any grade level. The State Board shall not grant waivers for excess class size in kindergarten through third grade, except under the following circumstances:

- (1) Emergencies or acts of God that impact the availability of classroom space or facilities.
- (2) An unanticipated increase in student population of an individual school in excess of two percent (2%) of the average daily membership of that school.
- (3) Organizational problems in geographically isolated local school administrative units in which the average daily membership is less than one and one-half per square mile.
- (4) Classes organized for a solitary curricular area.
- (5) A charter school closure.

The State Board shall report on all waivers to the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations within 30 days of the grant of the waiver. The report shall include the local school administrative unit, school, and class or classes for which the waiver was granted, the statutory grounds for the waiver, and the terms of the waiver. A waiver for excess class size in kindergarten through third grade shall not become effective until the State Board submits the report to the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations.

Upon notification from the State Board that the reported exception does not qualify for an allotment adjustment or a waiver, the local board of education shall take action to correct the exception within 30 days. Within 60 days of notification by the State Board, the Superintendent of Public Instruction shall request an updated report from the local board of education on the size of each class in kindergarten through third grade for each school within the local school administrative unit. If the Superintendent of Public Instruction finds that a local board of education is continuing to exceed class size requirements, the State Board may impose the penalty set forth in subsection (j) of this section until such time the schools in the unit meet the class size requirements for kindergarten through third grade.

(g1) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, the State Board of Education shall allot additional classroom teachers to schools containing grades kindergarten through 12 when consolidation is not feasible due to the geographic isolation of the school and the school meets at least one of the following criteria for geographic isolation:

- (1) The school is located in a local school administrative unit in which the average daily membership is less than 1.5 per square mile.
- (2) The school is located in a local school administrative unit for a county containing more than 150,000 acres of national forest owned by the federal

government and managed by the United States Forest Service pursuant to G.S. 104-5.

The State Board shall allot teachers to geographically isolated schools pursuant to this subsection on the basis of one classroom teacher per grade level and shall allot teachers to the remainder of the local school administrative unit in accordance with the formulas for the regular classroom teacher allotment.

(h) State Board Rules. – The State Board of Education shall adopt rules necessary for the implementation of this section.

(i) Repealed by Session Laws 2013-363, s. 3.3(a), effective July 1, 2013.

(j) Penalty for Noncompliance. – A local superintendent shall complete a sworn affidavit attesting that the superintendent has complied with the requirements of subsections (c) through (g) of this section and include that affidavit with the biannual reports on individual class size required by subsection (f) of this section. If the State Board of Education determines that a local superintendent has willfully failed to comply with the requirements of this section, no State funds shall be allocated to pay the superintendent's salary for the period of time the superintendent is in noncompliance. The local board of education shall continue to be responsible for complying with the terms of the superintendent's employment contract. (1955, c. 1372, art. 6, s. 6; 1963, c. 688, s. 3; 1965, c. 584, s. 6; 1969, c. 539; 1973, c. 770, ss. 1, 2; 1975, c. 965, s. 3; 1977, c. 1088, s. 4; 1981, c. 423, s. 1; 1983 (Reg. Sess., 1984), c. 1034, ss. 12, 13; 1985, c. 479, s. 55(b)(3)b; 1987, c. 738, s. 181; 1987 (Reg. Sess., 1988), c. 1025, s. 15; c. 1086, s. 89(a); 2010-31, s. 7.22(a); 2013-363, s. 3.3(a); 2015-241, s. 8A.3(a); 2016-94, s. 8.33(a); 2017-9, s. 2(b); 2017-57, ss. 7.15(d), 7.19; 2017-157, s. 1(b); 2018-2, ss. 3(a)-(e), 5(d).)

§ 115C-301.1. Duty-free instructional planning time.

All full-time assigned classroom teachers shall be provided duty-free instructional planning time during regular student contact hours. The duty-free instructional planning time shall be provided to the maximum extent that (i) the safety and proper supervision of children may allow during regular student contact hours and (ii) insofar as funds are provided for this purpose by the General Assembly. If the safety and supervision of children does not allow duty-free instructional planning time during regular student contact hours for a given teacher, the funds provided by the General Assembly for the duty-free instructional planning time for that teacher shall revert to the general fund. Principals shall not unfairly burden a given teacher by making that teacher give up his or her duty-free instructional planning time on an ongoing, regular basis without the consent of the teacher. (1983, c. 761, s. 88; 1999-163, s. 1; 2006-153, s. 3.)

§ 115C-302: Repealed by Session Laws 1997-443, s. 8.38(d).

§ 115C-302.1. Salary.

(a) Prompt Payment. – Teachers shall be paid promptly when their salaries are due provided the legal requirements for their employment and service have been met. All teachers employed by any local school administrative unit who are to be paid from local funds shall be paid promptly as provided by law and as State-allotted teachers are paid.

(b) Salary Payments. – State-allotted teachers shall be paid for a term of 10 months. Except for career and technical education agriculture teacher personnel positions as provided for in this subsection, State-allotted months of employment for career and technical education to local boards shall be used for the employment of teachers of career and technical education for a term of

employment to be determined by the local boards of education. Beginning with the 2018-2019 school year, career and technical education agriculture teacher personnel positions serving students in grades nine through 12 shall be for a term of employment for 12 calendar months. A local board of education may fund these positions using any combination of State funds, local funds, or any other funds available to the local board.

Each local board of education shall establish a set date on which monthly salary payments to State-allotted teachers shall be made. This set pay date may differ from the end of the month of service. The daily rate of pay for teachers shall equal midway between one twenty-first and one twenty-second of the monthly rate of pay. Except for teachers employed in a year-round school or paid in accordance with a year-round calendar, or both, the initial pay date for teachers shall be no later than August 31 and shall include a full monthly payment. Subsequent pay dates shall be spaced no more than one month apart and shall include a full monthly payment.

Teachers may be prepaid on the monthly pay date for days not yet worked. A teacher who fails to attend scheduled workdays or who has not worked the number of days for which the teacher has been paid and who resigns, is dismissed, or whose contract is not renewed shall repay to the local board any salary payments received for days not yet worked. A teacher who has been prepaid and continues to be employed by a local board but fails to attend scheduled workdays may be subject to dismissal under G.S. 115C-325 or G.S. 115C-325.4 or other appropriate discipline.

Any individual teacher who is not employed in a year-round school may be paid in 12 monthly installments if the teacher so requests. The request shall be filed in the local school administrative unit which employs the teacher. Local school administrative units shall fulfill this requirement through a payroll deduction plan. The payment of the annual salary in 12 installments instead of 10 shall not increase or decrease the teacher's annual salary nor in any other way alter the contract made between the teacher and the local school administrative unit.

Notwithstanding this subsection, the term "daily rate of pay" for the purpose of G.S. 115C-12(8) or for any other law or policy governing pay or benefits based on the teacher salary schedule shall not exceed one twenty-second of a teacher's monthly rate of pay.

(b1) The State Board of Education shall maintain the same policies related to masters pay for teachers that were in effect for the 2008-2009 fiscal year.

(b2) Waiver of 12 Months of Employment for Career and Technical Education Agriculture Teacher Personnel. – Notwithstanding subsection (b) of this section, a local board of education may apply on an annual basis to the Department of Public Instruction and the North Carolina State University, Agricultural and Extension Education, for a waiver of the months of employment requirement for any upcoming school year when it is impracticable for the local board to provide adequate funds to support 12 months of employment for career and technical agriculture teachers.

(b3) Pay for Newly Employed Teachers with Experience Credit. – Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a local board of education shall determine experience credit for a teacher in that teacher's first year of employment with the board for the purposes of paying the teacher with State-allotted funds in accordance with the State salary schedule. Notwithstanding subsection (f) of this section, the local board of education and the teacher shall not be responsible for the repayment of any overpayment of State funds due to misapplication of experience credit for the State salary schedule for the first year of employment when the determination of experience credit was done in good faith based on the teacher's verified prior employment record and the guidelines established by the State Board of Education for awarding experience credit. However, a local board of education that does not use due diligence to verify prior employment will be responsible for the repayment of any overpayment of State funds. A teacher paid in accordance with this subsection (i)

shall not be entitled to the same pay on the State salary schedule for teachers for subsequent years of employment after the State Board determines the appropriate experience credit for that teacher and (ii) shall not be deemed to be demoted under Part 3 of Article 22 of this Chapter if the State Board's determination of experience credit results in a reduction in salary in subsequent years of employment.

(c) Vacation. – Included within the 10-month term shall be annual vacation leave at the same rate provided for State employees, computed at one-twelfth of the annual rate for State employees for each month of employment. Local boards shall provide at least 10 days of annual vacation leave at a time when students are not scheduled to be in regular attendance. However, instructional personnel who do not require a substitute may use annual vacation leave on days that students are in attendance. Career and technical education teachers who are employed for 11 or 12 months may, with prior approval of the principal, work on annual vacation leave days designated in the school calendar and may use those annual vacation leave days during the eleventh or twelfth month of employment. Local boards of education may adopt policies permitting instructional personnel employed for 11 or 12 months in year-round schools to, with the approval of the principal, take vacation leave at a time when students are in attendance; local funds shall be used to cover the cost of substitute teachers.

On a day that pupils are not required to attend school due to inclement weather, but employees are required to report for a workday, a teacher may elect not to report due to hazardous travel conditions and to take an annual vacation day or to make up the day at a time agreed upon by the teacher and the teacher's immediate supervisor or principal. On a day that school is closed to employees and pupils due to inclement weather, a teacher shall work on the scheduled makeup day.

All vacation leave taken by the teacher will be upon the authorization of the teacher's immediate supervisor and under policies established by the local board of education. Annual vacation leave shall not be used to extend the term of employment.

Notwithstanding any provisions of this subsection to the contrary, no person shall be entitled to pay for any vacation day not earned by that person.

(c1), (c2) Repealed by Session Laws 2002-126, s. 7.11(a), effective July 1, 2002, and applicable only to leave days accruing after September 30, 2002.

(c3) Teachers may accumulate annual vacation leave days without any applicable maximum until June 30 of each year. In order that only 30 days of annual vacation leave carry forward to July 1, on June 30 of each year any teacher or other personnel paid on the teacher salary schedule who has accumulated more than 30 days of annual vacation leave shall convert to sick leave the remaining excess accumulation.

Upon separation from service due to service retirement, resignation, dismissal, reduction in force, or death, an employee shall be paid in a lump sum for accumulated annual leave not to exceed a maximum of 30 days. In addition to the maximum of 30 days pay for accumulated annual leave, upon separation from service due to service retirement, any teacher or other personnel paid on the teacher salary schedule with more than 30 days of accumulated annual vacation leave may convert some or all of the excess accumulation to sick leave for creditable service towards retirement. Employees going onto term disability may exhaust annual leave rather than be paid in a lump sum.

(d) Personal Leave. – The following shall apply to personal leave:

(1) Calculation and Benefits. – Teachers earn personal leave at the rate of .20 days for each full month of employment not to exceed two days per year. Personal leave may be accumulated without any applicable maximum until June 30 of

each year. A teacher may carry forward to July 1 a maximum of five days of personal leave; the remainder of the teacher's personal leave shall be converted to sick leave on June 30. At the time of retirement, a teacher may also convert accumulated personal leave to sick leave for creditable service towards retirement. Teachers may transfer personal leave days between local school administrative units. The local school administrative unit shall credit a teacher who has separated from service and is reemployed within 60 months from the date of separation with all personal leave accumulated at the time of separation. Local school administrative units shall not advance personal leave.

(2) Use. – Personal leave may be used only upon the authorization of the teacher's immediate supervisor, as follows:

a. Unless the request is approved by the principal, a teacher shall not take personal leave on the first day the teacher is required to report for the school year, on a required teacher workday, on days scheduled for State testing, or on the day before or the day after a holiday or scheduled vacation day.

b. On days other than those referenced in sub-subdivision a. of this subdivision, if the request is made at least five days in advance, the request shall be automatically granted subject to the availability of a substitute teacher, and the teacher cannot be required to provide a reason for the request.

(3) Pay. – The cost of personal leave shall be assessed as follows:

a. Teachers using personal leave on teacher workdays shall receive full salary.

b. Teachers using personal leave on days other than those referenced in sub-subdivision a. of this subdivision shall receive full salary as long as the teacher provides a reason for the request. If the teacher does not provide a reason for the request, the teacher shall receive full salary less the full cost of hiring a substitute for the teacher. If no substitute is hired for a teacher, any substitute reduction shall be refunded to that teacher.

(e) Teachers in Year-Round Schools. – Compensation for teachers employed in year-round schools shall be the same as teachers paid for a 10-month term, but those days may be scheduled over 12 calendar months. Annual leave, sick leave, workdays, holidays, salary, and longevity for teachers who are employed at year-round schools shall be equivalent to those of other teachers employed for the same number of months, respectively. Teachers paid for a term of 10 months in year-round schools shall receive their salary in 12 equal installments.

(f) Overpayment. – Each local board of education shall sustain any loss by reason of an overpayment to any teacher paid from State funds.

(g) Service in Armed Forces. – The State Board of Education, in fixing the State standard salary schedule of teachers as authorized by law, shall provide that teachers who entered the Armed Forces or auxiliary forces of the United States after September 16, 1940, and who left their positions for such service shall be allowed experience increments for the period of such service as though the same had not been interrupted thereby, in the event such persons return to the position of teachers, principals, and superintendents in the public schools of the State after having been honorably discharged from the Armed Forces or auxiliary forces of the United States.

(g1) Payment During Military Duty. – The State Board of Education shall adopt rules relating to leaves of absence, without loss of pay or time, for periods of military training and for State or federal military duty or for special emergency management service. The rules shall apply to all public school employees, including, but not limited to, school teachers, administrators, guidance counselors, speech language pathologists, nurses, and custodians employed by local boards of education or by charter schools. The rules shall provide that (i) the State pays any salary differential to all public school employees in State-funded positions, (ii) the employing local board of education pays any pay differential to all public school employees in locally funded positions, (iii) the employing charter school pays any pay differential to all public school employees in the charter school, and (iv) the employing local board of education pays the local supplement.

(h) Teachers Paid From Other Funds. – Every local board of education may adopt, as to teachers not paid out of State funds, a salary schedule similar to the State salary schedule, but it likewise shall recognize a difference in salaries based on different duties, training, experience, professional fitness, and continued service in the same school system. If a local board of education does not adopt a local salary schedule, the State salary schedule shall apply. No teacher shall receive a salary higher than that provided in the salary schedule, unless by action of the board of education a higher salary is allowed for special fitness, special duties, or under extraordinary circumstances.

When a higher salary is allowed, the minutes of the board shall show what salary is allowed and the reason. A board of education may authorize the superintendent to supplement the salaries of all teachers from local funds, and the minutes of the board shall show what increase is allowed each teacher.

(i) Longevity Pay. – Longevity pay shall be based on the annual salary on the employee's anniversary date.

(j) Parental Leave. – In addition to paid parental leave authorized by G.S. 126-8.6, a teacher may use annual leave, personal leave, or leave without pay to care for a newborn child or for a child placed with the teacher for adoption or foster care. A teacher may also use up to 30 days of sick leave to care for a child placed with the teacher for adoption. The leave may be for consecutive workdays during the first 12 months after the date of birth or placement of the child, unless the teacher and local board of education agree otherwise. (1997-443, s. 8.38(e); 1999-237, s. 28.26(a), (b); 2002-126, s. 7.11(a); 2002-159, s. 37.5(a); 2003-301, s. 1; 2004-124, s. 7.20; 2004-180, s. 2; 2007-378, s. 1; 2008-107, s. 26.21(a); 2008-187, s. 45.5; 2008-209, ss. 1(a), 2; 2009-451, s. 7.35; 2011-183, s. 78; 2011-379, s. 5; 2012-13, s. 1; 2012-142, s. 7.14(a); 2013-240, s. 1; 2015-241, s. 8.22; 2017-57, s. 7.23H(g); 2017-157, s. 2(g); 2019-71, s. 3; 2021-170, s. 2(a); 2021-180, s. 7.67(a); 2023-14, s. 5.1(c).)

§ 115C-302.2: Repealed by Session Laws 2003-358, s. 1, effective January 1, 2004.

§ 115C-302.3. Salary credit for service in the Armed Forces.

(a) The State Board of Education shall establish rules for awarding credit for salary purposes to principals, assistant principals, and teachers, who (i) served in the Armed Forces of the United States; (ii) have retired or who have received an Honorable Discharge; and (iii) have not been previously employed by a public school located in North Carolina. The rules shall include the following provisions:

- (1) One full year of experience credit shall be awarded for each year of full-time relevant nonteaching work experience completed (i) while on active military

duty in the Armed Forces of the United States and (ii) after earning a bachelor's degree.

- (2) One full year of experience credit shall be awarded for each two years of full-time relevant nonteaching work experience completed (i) while on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States and (ii) before earning a bachelor's degree.
- (3) One full year of experience credit shall be awarded for every two years of full-time instructional or leadership duties while on active military duty in the Armed Forces of the United States, regardless of academic degree held while in instruction or leadership roles.

(b) The State Board of Education shall establish specific criteria within the rules for determining the relevance of nonteaching work experience earned while on active military duty that shall be credited toward an individual's total licensure experience rating for salary purposes. The criteria shall include the following components:

- (1) A clearly defined process to explore, identify, recognize, and quantify the breadth and depth of career experiences, formal professional military education, and pertinent credentials of military veterans.
- (2) A transparent and timely decision-making process for awarding complete credit for pertinent experience and education.
- (3) A process for reviewing and accepting military transcripts and corresponding American Council on Education (ACE) recommendations for awarding academic and experiential credit.

(c) The State Board shall have continuing authority to cap nonteaching experience credit for Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps instructors as their pay formula includes both a State and federal funding component. (2013-268, ss. 1-3; 2014-100, s. 8.12.)

§ 115C-302.4: Expired pursuant to Session Laws 2019-110, s. 6, effective June 30, 2021. (2019-110, s. 1; 2019-212, s. 7(a).)

§ 115C-302.5: Reserved for future codification purposes.

§ 115C-302.6: Reserved for future codification purposes.

§ 115C-302.7. Salary supplement for highly qualified teaching graduates.

(a) For purposes of this section, a "highly qualified graduate" or "graduate" is an individual entering the teaching profession who has graduated from an approved educator preparation program located in North Carolina who has both of the following:

- (1) A grade point average of 3.75 or higher on a 4.0 scale, or its equivalent.
- (2) A score of the following or higher on an edTPA assessment or an equivalent score on a nationally normed and valid pedagogy assessment used to determine clinical practice performance:
 - a. A score of 42 for the World Languages and Classical Languages edTPA assessment.
 - b. A score of 57 for the Elementary Education edTPA assessment.
 - c. A score of 48 for all other edTPA assessments.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, to the extent funds are made available for this purpose, a highly qualified graduate who is employed by a local board of education shall receive a salary supplement each month at the highest level for which the graduate qualifies as follows:

- (1) A graduate who accepts initial employment at a school identified as low-performing by the State Board of Education pursuant to G.S. 115C-105.37 shall receive a salary supplement during the graduate's first three years of employment as a teacher, without a break in service, equivalent to the difference between the State-funded salary of the graduate and the State-funded salary of a similarly situated teacher with three years of experience on the "A" Teachers Salary Schedule, as long as the graduate (i) remains teaching at the same school or (ii) accepts subsequent employment at another low-performing school or local school administrative unit identified as low-performing.
- (2) A graduate licensed and employed to teach in the areas of special education, science, technology, engineering, or mathematics shall receive a salary supplement during the graduate's first two years of employment as a teacher, without a break in service, equivalent to the difference between the State-funded salary of the graduate and the State-funded salary of a similarly situated teacher with two years of experience on the "A" Teachers Salary Schedule, as long as the graduate continues teaching in one of those areas.
- (3) All other graduates shall receive a salary supplement during the graduate's first year of employment as a teacher, without a break in service, equivalent to the difference between the State-funded salary of the graduate and the State-funded salary of a similarly situated teacher with one year of experience on the "A" Teachers Salary Schedule. (2021-180, s. 7A.2(a).)

§ 115C-302.8. Small county and low-wealth signing bonus.

(a) Definitions. – For purposes of this section, the following definitions shall apply:

- (1) Eligible employee. – A person who meets all of the following criteria:
 - a. Accepts employment as a teacher with an eligible employer.
 - b. Was not employed by the eligible employer identified in sub-subdivision a. of this subdivision in the prior fiscal year.
 - c. Is employed by the eligible employer identified in sub-subdivision a. of this subdivision as of October 1 of the school year for which the teacher accepts employment.
- (2) Eligible employer. – The governing board of a local school administrative unit that receives at least one of the following in the year in which the teacher accepts employment pursuant to sub-subdivision c. of subdivision (1) of this subsection:
 - a. Small county school system supplemental funding.
 - b. Supplemental funding for local school administrative units in low-wealth counties.
- (3) Local funds. – Matching funds provided by an eligible employer to enable an eligible employee to qualify for the signing bonus program established by this section.
- (4) Teacher. – Teachers and instructional support personnel.

(b) **Signing Bonus Program.** – To the extent funds are provided for this purpose, the Department of Public Instruction shall establish and administer a signing bonus program for teachers. Signing bonuses shall be provided each school year to all eligible employees who are employed by an eligible employer as long as they are matched on the basis of one dollar (\$1.00) in State funds for every one dollar (\$1.00) in local funds, up to one thousand dollars (\$1,000) in State funds.

(c) **Limited Exclusion from Future Signing Bonuses.** – A teacher who receives a signing bonus pursuant to this section is ineligible to receive another signing bonus pursuant to this section or a similar enactment of the General Assembly for at least two full school years. This section shall not apply to any legislatively mandated bonuses received by teachers that are not signing bonuses.

(d) **Bonuses as Additions.** – The bonuses awarded pursuant to this section shall be in addition to any regular wage or other bonus a teacher receives or is scheduled to receive.

(e) **Not for Retirement.** – Notwithstanding G.S. 135-1(7a), the bonuses awarded pursuant to this section are not compensation under Article 1 of Chapter 135 of the General Statutes, Retirement System for Teachers and State Employees. (2023-134, s. 7A.5(a).)

§ 115C-302.9: Reserved for future codification purposes.

§ 115C-302.10. Qualifications for certain education-based salary supplements.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, only the following teachers and instructional support personnel shall be paid on the "M" salary schedule or receive a salary supplement for academic preparation at the six-year degree level or at the doctoral degree level:

- (1) Certified school nurses and instructional support personnel in positions for which a master's degree is required for licensure.
- (2) Teachers and instructional support personnel who were paid on that salary schedule or received that salary supplement prior to the 2014-2015 school year.
- (3) Teachers and instructional support personnel who (i) complete a degree at the master's, six-year, or doctoral degree level for which they completed at least one course prior to August 1, 2013, and (ii) would have qualified for the salary supplement pursuant to State Board of Education policy TCP-A-006, as it was in effect on June 30, 2013. (2013-360, s. 8.22; 2014-100, s. 8.3(a); 2021-180, s. 7A.1(h).)

§ 115C-303. Withholding of salary.

(a) No teacher shall be placed on the payroll of a local school administrative unit unless he holds a certificate as required by law, and unless a copy of the teacher's contract has been filed with the superintendent. No teacher may be paid more than he is due under the local school salary schedule in force in the local school administrative unit. Substitute and interim teachers shall be paid under rules of the State Board of Education.

(b) The board of education may withhold the salary of any teacher who delays or refuses to render such reports as are required by law, but when the reports are delivered in accordance with law, the salary shall be paid forthwith. (1955, c. 1372, art. 6, ss. 11, 13; 1975, c. 437, ss. 8, 9; 1981, c. 423, s. 1; 1985 (Reg. Sess., 1986), c. 975, s. 19.)

§ 115C-303.1. Public recognition program for teachers who have taught for 40 years.

The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall develop a program to publicly recognize individuals who have engaged in at least 40 years of licensed teaching in North Carolina. Beginning with the 2017-2018 school year and annually thereafter, the program shall include public recognition of any qualifying teachers. (2017-189, s. 3(g).)

§ 115C-304: Repealed by Session Laws 2013-360, s. 9.7(h), effective July 1, 2014.

§ 115C-305: Repealed by Session Laws 2001-260, s. 2.

§ 115C-306: Repealed by Session Laws 1983, c. 770, s. 16.

§ 115C-307. Duties of teachers.

(a) To Maintain Order and Discipline. – It shall be the duty of all teachers, including student teachers, substitute teachers, voluntary teachers, and teacher assistants when given authority over some part of the school program by the principal or supervising teacher, to maintain good order and discipline in their respective schools. A teacher, student teacher, substitute teacher, voluntary teacher, or teacher assistant shall report to the principal acts of violence in school and students suspended or expelled from school as required to be reported in accordance with State Board policies.

(b) To Provide for General Well-Being of Students. – It shall be the duty of all teachers, including student teachers, substitute teachers, voluntary teachers, and teacher assistants when given authority over some part of the school program by the principal or supervising teacher, to encourage temperance, morality, industry, and neatness; to promote the health of all pupils, especially of children in the first three grades, by providing frequent periods of recreation, to supervise the play activities during recess, and to encourage wholesome exercises for all children.

(c) To Provide Some Medical Care to Students. – It is within the scope of duty of teachers, including substitute teachers, teacher assistants, student teachers or any other public school employee when given such authority by the board of education or its designee to provide medical care to students as provided in G.S. 115C-375.1.

(d) To Teach the Students. – It shall be the duty of all teachers, including student teachers, substitute teachers, voluntary teachers, and teacher assistants when given authority over some part of the school program by the principal or supervising teacher, to teach as thoroughly as they are able all branches which they are required to teach; to provide for singing in the school, and so far as possible to give instruction in the public school music.

(e) To Enter into the Superintendent's Plans for Professional Growth. – It shall be the duty of all teachers, including student teachers, substitute teachers, voluntary teachers, and teacher assistants when given authority over some part of the school program by the principal or supervising teacher, to enter actively into the plans of the superintendent for the professional growth of the teachers.

(f) To Discourage Nonattendance. – Teachers shall cooperate with the principal in ascertaining the cause of nonattendance of pupils that he may report all violators of the compulsory attendance law to the school social worker in accordance with rules promulgated by the State Board of Education.

(g) To Make Required Reports. – A teacher shall make all reports required by the local board of education. The superintendent shall not approve the voucher for a teacher's pay until the required monthly and annual reports are made.

The superintendent may require a teacher to make reports to the principal.

A teacher shall be given access to the information in the student information management system to expedite the process of preparing reports or otherwise providing information. A teacher shall not be required by the local board, the superintendent, or the principal to (i) provide information that is already available on the student information management system; (ii) provide the same written information more than once during a school year unless the information has changed during the ensuing period; or (iii) complete forms, for children with disabilities, that are not necessary to ensure compliance with the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Notwithstanding the forgoing, a local board may require information available on its student information management system or require the same information twice if the superintendent determines that there is (i) a compelling need and (ii) no more expeditious manner of providing the information to the local board. A school improvement team may request that the superintendent consider the elimination of a redundant reporting requirement for the teachers at its school if it identifies in its school improvement plan a more expeditious manner of providing the information to the local board. The superintendent shall recommend to the local board whether the reporting requirement should be eliminated for that school. If the superintendent does not recommend elimination of the reporting requirement, the school improvement team may request a hearing by the local board as provided in G.S. 115C-45(c).

Any teacher who knowingly and willfully makes or procures another to make any false report or records, requisitions, or payrolls, respecting daily attendance of pupils in the public schools, payroll data sheets, or other reports required to be made to any board or officer in the performance of their duties, shall be guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor and the certificate of such person to teach in the public schools of North Carolina shall be revoked by the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

(h) To Take Care of School Buildings. – It shall be the duty of every teacher to instruct children in proper care of property and to exercise due care in the protection of school property, in accordance with the provisions of G.S. 115C-523. (1955, c. 1372, art. 17, ss. 4, 6; 1959, cc. 1016, 1294; 1969, c. 638, ss. 2, 3; 1971, c. 434; 1981, c. 423, s. 1; 1985, c. 642; c. 686, s. 2; 1989, c. 585, s. 4; 1993, c. 539, s. 884; 1994, Ex. Sess., c. 24, s. 14(c); 1997-443, s. 8.29(k); 2000-67, s. 8.18(a); 2005-22, s. 2(a); 2013-226, s. 11(b).)

§ 115C-308. Rules for teacher's conduct.

The conduct of teachers, the kind of reports they shall make, and their duties in the care of school property are subject to the rules and regulations of the local board, as provided in G.S. 115C-47(18). (1981, c. 423, s. 1.)

§§ 115C-309, 115C-310: Repealed by Session Laws 2017-189, s. 2(g) and (h), effective July 27, 2017, and applicable beginning with the 2017-2018 school year.

§ 115C-311. Teacher compensation models and advanced teaching roles.

(a) Purpose. – The State Board of Education shall establish a program (program) to develop advanced teaching roles and organizational models that link teacher performance and professional growth to salary increases for classroom teachers in selected local school administrative units. For the purposes of this section, a classroom teacher is a teacher who works in the classroom providing instruction at least seventy percent (70%) of the instructional day and who is not instructional support personnel. The purpose of the program shall be to do the following:

- (1) Allow highly effective classroom teachers to teach an increased number of students by assuming accountability for additional students, by becoming a lead classroom teacher accountable for the student performance of all of the students taught by teachers on that lead classroom teacher's team, or by leading a larger effort in the school to implement new instructional models to improve school-wide performance.
- (2) Enable local school administrative units to provide salary supplements to classroom teachers in advanced teaching roles. Selection of an advanced teaching role classroom teacher and award of related salary supplements shall be made on the basis of demonstrated effectiveness and additional responsibilities.
- (3) Enable local school administrative units to create innovative compensation models that focus on classroom teacher professional growth that lead to measurable improvements in student outcomes.
- (4) Utilize local plans to establish organizational changes related to compensation in order to sustain evidence-based teaching practices that have the capacity to be replicated throughout the State.

(b) Request for Proposal. – By September 15, 2020, and annually thereafter, the State Board of Education shall issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the program. Local boards of education shall submit their proposals by October 15. The RFP shall require that proposals include the following information at a minimum:

- (1) Description of the program structure, including both of the following:
 - a. The process for teacher advancement based on performance, professional growth, or the specific teacher roles assumed by the teacher.
 - b. Plans for how the local school administrative unit will utilize and train classroom teachers in advanced teaching roles. These plans shall draw a direct correlation between the proposed use and training of classroom teachers in advanced teaching roles and improved student outcomes.
- (2) Descriptions of the advanced teaching roles, including minimum qualifications for the positions that shall include at least two of the following:
 - a. Advanced certifications, such as National Board for Professional Teaching Standards Certification, or a master's degree in the area in which the classroom teacher is licensed and teaching.
 - b. A rating of at least accomplished on each of the Teacher Evaluation Standards 1-5 on the North Carolina Teacher Evaluation instrument.
 - c. Evidence that the teacher has an average Education Value-Added Assessment System (EVAAS) student growth index score from the three previous school years of 1.5 or greater and no individual EVAAS student growth index score below zero.
 - d. Equivalent demonstrated mastery of teaching skills as required by the new local compensation model.
- (3) Job responsibilities that include at least one of the following:
 - a. Teaching an increased number of students and being accountable for their performance as the teacher of record for those students.

- b. Becoming a lead classroom teacher among a group of teachers and participating in EVAAS according to a model developed by the Department of Public Instruction. The model shall be published and explained on the Department's Web site no later than August 1, 2020, and, thereafter, within 30 days of any change made to the model.
 - c. Leading a school-wide effort to implement data-driven instructional models that include blended learning environments, utilizing digital learning and resources, and focusing on methods of improvement for school-wide performance issues.
 - d. Providing in-house professional development or functioning as an instructional content area coach or a coach in another professional development area following the completion of certification training. The training shall ensure that the professional development or coaching the teacher provides is faithfully implemented in the classroom.
- (4) Description of how the local school administrative unit will inform all employees and the public on the criteria and selection for the advanced teaching roles, the continued eligibility requirements for the advanced teaching roles, and how the individuals selected for the advanced teaching roles will be evaluated.
 - (5) Description of how the local school administrative unit will inform all employees and the public on the criteria for movement on the proposed new local compensation model.
 - (6) The process for the voluntary relinquishment of an advanced teaching role, including the associated additional duties. Voluntary relinquishment of the advanced teaching role shall not be considered a demotion under Part 3 of Article 22 of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes.
 - (7) Salary supplement information including the following:
 - a. The amount of the salary supplements that will be provided to those selected for the advanced teaching roles. The supplements may be up to thirty percent (30%) of the State teacher salary schedule.
 - b. A statement by the local school administrative unit that the salary supplements will be paid as a supplement to the classroom teacher's regular salary and not be included in the average salary calculation used for budgeting State allotments.
 - c. A statement by the local school administrative unit that if a classroom teacher in an advanced teaching role (i) fails to maintain the minimum criteria established for the position, (ii) is not successfully performing the additional duties associated with the advanced teaching role, or (iii) voluntarily relinquishes the advanced teaching role, the teacher shall only be paid the salary applicable to that individual on the State teacher salary schedule and any other local supplements that would otherwise apply to the classroom teacher's compensation.
 - d. Loss of an advanced teaching role shall not be considered a demotion under Part 3 of Article 22 of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes.
 - e. The amount of the salary supplements at all levels of the proposed new compensation model in relation to the State teacher salary schedule.

- (8) The implementation plan, including the number of schools in the local school administrative unit that will have advanced teaching roles and any new proposed compensation model, the number of advanced teaching roles at each of those schools, the number of students whose teacher of record will be a teacher in an advanced teaching role, and the number of teachers overall who would be eligible for the proposed new compensation model.
- (9) Plans for long-term financial sustainability once any grant money that may be awarded to the local school administrative unit is no longer available. This plan shall include a description of how the unit intends to provide supplemental compensation for teachers in an advanced teaching role without grant money.
- (10) A description of how the local school administrative unit could partner with local educator preparation programs, institutions of higher education, or community colleges to improve teacher effectiveness and student outcomes.

(c) Selection by State Board of Education. – By December 15, 2020, and annually thereafter, the State Board of Education shall review proposals and select local school administrative units to participate in the program, beginning in the subsequent school year, in accordance with the following criteria:

- (1) Selected local school administrative units must meet minimum criteria established by the State Board of Education consistent with this section.
- (2) Repealed by Session Laws 2021180, s. 7.38(a), effective November 18, 2021.
- (3) The State Board shall approve the proposal of any local school administrative unit that is submitted by October 15, 2020, if the following criteria are met:
 - a. The local school administrative unit is participating in an approved advanced teaching roles program pursuant to Section 8.7 of S.L. 2016-94 in the 2020-2021 school year.
 - b. The application of a local school administrative unit is not inconsistent with this section.

(d) Advanced Teaching Roles Designation. – Any local board of education that is selected to participate in the program pursuant to subsection (c) of this section shall designate participating schools within the unit as "Advanced Teaching Roles" schools. Advanced Teaching Roles schools shall receive class size flexibility subject to subsection (i) of this section and budget flexibility subject to subsection (j) of this section.

(e) Material Revisions of Plans. – Material revisions of a plan submitted to the State Board of Education by a local board of education with at least one Advanced Teaching Roles school shall be made only upon the approval of the State Board of Education.

(f) Renewal and Termination of Program Participation. – The initial selected local school administrative units shall implement their approved plans beginning with the 2021-2022 school year. Every five years after a local school administrative unit begins implementing its plan, the State Board of Education shall review the unit to ensure the unit is complying with the approved plan. As part of the review, the State Board shall consider at least the following information:

- (1) The number of teachers in advanced teaching roles in the unit and the number of students receiving instruction from those teachers.
- (2) Growth scores for students calculated pursuant to G.S. 115C-83.15.
- (3) Achievement scores for students calculated pursuant to G.S. 115C-83.15.
- (4) Retention of effective teachers.
- (5) Results of the Teacher Working Conditions Survey.

(6) Ratings of teachers through the North Carolina Teacher Evaluation System.

After the review, the State Board may, in its discretion, renew or terminate the plan of any local school administrative unit that fails to meet criteria established by the State Board in accordance with this section and may renew or terminate the Advanced Teaching Roles designation of any school within that unit. Throughout the program, a local school administrative unit shall provide any information or access requested by (i) the State Board of Education or (ii) the independent research organization selected by the State Board of Education to evaluate the program pursuant to this section.

(g) Term; Use of State Funds. – Any funds awarded to a local school administrative unit pursuant to this section shall be subject to availability and awarded for a term of up to three years, in the discretion of the State Board. A local school administrative unit shall not be eligible to receive funding for more than two terms. The State Board of Education shall authorize a second term of State funds in accordance with subsection (g1) of this section. The State Board shall award funds to local school administrative units as follows:

- (1) The State Board shall prioritize the award of available State funds for the following categories of local school administrative units:
 - a. Up to five units with an average daily membership from the previous school year of 4,000 or fewer students.
 - b. Up to five units with an average daily membership from the previous school year of between 4,001 and 20,000 students.
 - c. Up to five units with an average daily membership from the previous school year of 20,001 or more students.
- (2) State funds shall be used for any of the following purposes, as defined by the State Board:
 - a. Development of advanced teaching role plans.
 - b. Development of professional development courses for teachers in advanced teaching roles that lead to improved student outcomes.
 - c. Transition costs associated with designing and implementing advanced teaching role models. Transition costs may include employing staff members or contractors to assist with design and implementation of the plan.
 - d. Development of the design and implementation of compensation plans that focus on teacher professional growth and student outcomes and the transition costs associated with designing and implementing new compensation plans, including employing staff members or contractors to assist with design and implementation of the plan.

(g1) Renewal of Award of State Funds. – A local school administrative unit that received an initial award of State funds pursuant to subsection (g) of this section may apply to the State Board of Education for an award of State funds for a second term of up to three years, in the discretion of the State Board. The local school administrative unit may apply at any time (i) after the initial award of State funds expires or (ii) within 90 days prior to the date the initial award of State funds is set to expire. Upon receipt of an application for renewal of State funds from a local school administrative unit, the State Board shall do the following:

- (1) Review the unit to ensure the unit is complying with the approved plan and criteria established by the State Board.
- (2) Grant or deny the application within 60 days of its receipt.

(h) Program Evaluation. – The State Board of Education shall evaluate how the advanced teaching roles and new compensation plans have accomplished, at a minimum, the following:

- (1) Improvement in the quality of classroom instruction and increases in school-wide growth or the growth of teachers who are mentored or impacted by a teacher in an advanced teaching role.
- (2) An increase in the attractiveness of teaching.
- (3) Recognition, impact, and retention of high-quality classroom teachers.
- (4) Assistance to and retention of beginning classroom teachers.
- (5) Improvement in and expansion of the use of technology and digital learning.
- (6) Improvement in school culture based on school climate survey results.

The State Board shall contract with an independent research organization to perform this evaluation in the first two years of the program and provide reports no later than October 15 in 2022, 2023, and 2024. The State Board shall perform the evaluation and provide the report beginning October 15, 2025, and annually thereafter. The State Board shall provide any report required in accordance with this subsection to the offices of the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Senate Appropriations/Base Budget Committee, the House Committee on Appropriations, the Senate Appropriations Committee on Education/Higher Education, the House Appropriations Committee on Education, the Fiscal Research Division, and the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee.

(i) Class Size Flexibility. – Notwithstanding G.S. 115C-301, with the approval of the State Board of Education, Advanced Teaching Roles schools selected to participate in the program may exceed the maximum class size requirements for kindergarten through third grade during any term of up to three years in which State funds are awarded to the local school administrative unit where the school is located. At the conclusion of the term, any class size flexibility approved for an Advanced Teaching Roles school pursuant to this subsection shall expire.

(j) Budget Flexibility. – Subject to the budget flexibility limitations identified in G.S. 115C-105.25(b), the State Board of Education shall authorize local boards of education participating in the program to use any available State funds to provide salary supplements to classroom teachers in an advanced teaching role as long as the local school administrative unit complies with policies of the State Board of Education, federal law, and any State programs with specific restrictions on the use of funds, including bonus and grant programs. (2020-78, s. 2.6(b); 2021-180, s. 7.38(a); 2022-71, s. 5(a).)

§ 115C-312. Salary supplements for teachers in Advanced Teaching Roles schools.

(a) For purposes of this section, the following definitions shall apply:

- (1) Adult leadership teacher. – A teacher who meets the following criteria:
 - a. Works in the classroom providing instruction for at least thirty percent (30%) of the instructional day.
 - b. Leads a team of between three and eight teachers.
 - c. Shares responsibility for the performance of the students of all teachers on the team identified in sub-subdivision b. of this subdivision.
 - d. Is not a school administrator.
- (2) Advanced teaching role. – Additional responsibility for a teacher in an Advanced Teaching Roles school, as developed by a local board of education pursuant to G.S. 115C-311.

- (3) Advanced Teaching Roles unit. – A local school administrative unit with at least one Advanced Teaching Roles school.
- (4) Classroom excellence teacher. – A teacher who meets the following criteria:
 - a. Is a teacher in an advanced teaching role.
 - b. Assumes and maintains responsibility for at least twenty percent (20%) of additional students as compared to the most recent prior school year in which the teacher did not receive a salary supplement pursuant to this section.
 - c. Is a member of a team of teachers led by an adult leadership teacher pursuant to sub-subdivision b. of subdivision (1) of this subsection.
- (5) Teacher. – A classroom teacher in an Advanced Teaching Roles school who is not instructional support personnel.

(b) Notwithstanding G.S. 115C-311, to the extent funds are made available for this purpose, the State Board of Education shall award funds to local school administrative units for annual salary supplements for teachers in accordance with this section. Advanced Teaching Roles units shall designate up to fifteen percent (15%) of the teachers in each Advanced Teaching Roles school as adult leadership teachers and five percent (5%) of the teachers in each Advanced Teaching Roles school as classroom excellence teachers. Advanced Teaching Roles units shall provide salary supplements for those teachers as follows:

- (1) Ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) for adult leadership teachers.
- (2) Three thousand dollars (\$3,000) for classroom excellence teachers.

(c) The following additional requirements apply to salary supplements received pursuant to this section:

- (1) Loss of a salary supplement received pursuant to this section for any reason shall not be considered a demotion under Part 3 of Article 22 of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes.
- (2) A teacher is eligible to continue receiving a salary supplement pursuant to this section as long as he or she remains an adult leadership teacher or a classroom excellence teacher.
- (3) A teacher is eligible to receive no more than one annual salary supplement pursuant to this section at any time. (2023-134, s. 7.66.)

§ 115C-313: Reserved for future codification purposes.

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