



**Early Educator Support, Licensure &  
Professional Development (EESLPD)  
Office, Early Education Unit  
Education & Quality Section**

## **Teacher Education and Licensure Terms Glossary**

**Beginning Teacher Support Program (BTSP)** - A required three-year program for initially licensed teachers that provides mentoring, coaching and evaluation services.

**Birth-through-Kindergarten (BK) License** - Birth-Kindergarten programs are designed to prepare educators to work with children, birth through age five, with and without disabilities. Each institution of higher education (4-year colleges/ universities) offers an inclusive, interdisciplinary course of study leading to the North Carolina BK teacher license. Individuals completing the requirements for this license will be prepared to enter the profession of teaching infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and kindergartners in public schools, child care programs, and developmental day centers. Teachers will also acquire skills to assist the families of young children. The interdisciplinary approach includes early childhood education, special education, child and family studies, and elementary education.

**Birth-through-Kindergarten Teacher Education Standards** - Standards and Indicators for Teacher Education Programs ([http://ncchildcare.nc.gov/pdf\\_forms/NCPre-K\\_NC\\_BK\\_Specialty\\_Standards.pdf](http://ncchildcare.nc.gov/pdf_forms/NCPre-K_NC_BK_Specialty_Standards.pdf)).

**Continuing Licensure** - A professional educator license that must be renewed every 5 years (Standard Professional II).

**Early Childhood Program** - Any nonpublic school that serves young children (private child care center, NC Pre-Kindergarten, Developmental Day or Head Start program) and for which the EESLPD Office provides services and supports to the licensed teachers.

**Early Educator Support, Licensure and Professional Development (EESLPD) Office**- Located within the Early Education Unit in the Division of Child Development and Early Education, NC Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), the EESLPD Office administers and manages the initial Lateral Entry Teacher Support Program (LETP), the Beginning Teacher Support Program (BTSP), and the License Renewal Program for Early Childhood Education (ECE) teachers in nonpublic schools (NC Pre-K, Developmental Day, Head Start and other Early Childhood Programs). The EESLPD Office collaborates with the NC DPI through the Licensure Division and the NC Educator Recruitment and Development Division to ensure that ECE teachers in nonpublic schools meet teacher licensure requirements as set forth in NC State Board of Education policy.



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**Evaluator** - An individual assigned to formally and informally observe licensed teachers, using a formative and summative evaluation.

**Formative Evaluation** - Ongoing assessments of an educator's strengths and areas for development, used to identify strategies for professional growth.

**IHEs** - Institutions of Higher Education (four-year colleges/universities) with approved teacher education programs.

**Initial Licensure** - The first license granted to practice the teaching profession in North Carolina based upon successful completion of an approved Institution of Higher Education (4-year college/university) preparation program. Initial licensure includes the lateral entry provisional BK and BK Standard Professional I licenses.

**Initially Licensed Teacher (ILT) file** - A collection of evidences regarding the performance of a beginning teacher. "Initially Licensed" refers to teachers who are completing the three-year Beginning Teacher Support Program (BTSP). The BTSP requires each teacher to maintain a cumulative file (also referred to as "professional portfolio").

**Lateral Entry Teacher Program (LETP)** - A process for granting entry into the teaching profession (lateral entry license) for up to three school years, while the individual completes requirements for the designated teaching area (requires the educator/teacher to complete a minimum 6 semester hours per year).

**Licensure Only Plan** - A plan issued to a teacher candidate with a BA/BS degree who is not employed in a teaching position. A Licensure Only Plan is written by a four-year college or university outlining courses and requirements that must be successfully completed to attain teacher licensure.

**Mentor** - An individual assigned to provide emotional, instructional, and organizational support to a beginning (initially licensed) teacher through the Beginning Teacher Support Program. Mentors receive formal training to support effective instructional practices.

**NC Standards for Mentors** - Standards adopted by the NC State Board of Education in 2010 that define what mentors should know and be able to do to support effective classroom instructional practices. These standards can be found at:  
[http://ncchildcare.nc.gov/pdf\\_forms/NCPre-K\\_Mentor\\_Standards.pdf](http://ncchildcare.nc.gov/pdf_forms/NCPre-K_Mentor_Standards.pdf)

**NC Pre-Kindergarten Program (NC Pre-K)** - High-quality pre-k program that serves children who are at risk and prepares them for success in school.



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**NC Department of Public Instruction, Licensure Division** – North Carolina Department of Public Instruction/ Licensure Section is authorized by the North Carolina State Board of Education to carry out the policy established for teacher licensure in North Carolina ([http://www.ncpublicschools.org/state\\_board/](http://www.ncpublicschools.org/state_board/)).

**North Carolina Professional Teaching Standards** – Standards adopted by the NC State Board of Education (SBE) in 2007. These standards reflect what teachers need to know and do to be able to teach students in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. These standards are reflected in the teacher’s Professional Development Plan (PDP) and can be found at: <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/docs/effectiveness-model/ncees/standards/prof-teach-standards.pdf>.

**Rubric for Evaluating North Carolina Teachers** – A validated instrument used to assess teaching practices. The instrument is designed to promote effective leadership, quality teaching, and student learning while enhancing professional practice and leading to improved instruction. Initially licensed Early Childhood Education teachers are observed by the evaluator four times each year of the Beginning Teacher Support Program (BTSP), and during the fifth year of the five-year license renewal cycle for SPII licensed teachers.

**Plan of Study** – A plan issued by a four-year college or university or a NC Regional Alternative Licensing Center that outlines courses and requirements that a lateral entry or provisionally licensed teacher must complete (or clear) to attain teacher licensure.

**Professional Development** – NAEYC Professional Development Glossary defines the intersection of training, technical assistance, consultation and formal education to support effective early childhood practices

**Professional Development Plan (PDP)** – A formal document developed by the licensed teacher in cooperation with mentor, evaluator and site administrator/director. This document outlines the professional growth goals for the teacher, and proposes strategies for increasing one’s skills.

**Professional Development (PD) Series** – (a) Prerequisites required before a prospective lead teacher can be assigned a mentor and/or evaluator to support the BK licensure continuum. (b) Inservice requirements for educators who hold a Standard Professional II license that must be completed during a designated 5-year cycle.

**Regional Accrediting Agencies** – Council for Higher Education or CHEA. Accreditation is a process of external quality review used by higher education to scrutinize colleges, universities and educational programs for quality assurance and quality improvement. In the United States, accreditation is carried out by private, non-profit organizations designed for this specific purpose. Institutions and educational programs seek accredited status as a means of demonstrating their academic quality to



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students and the public and to become eligible for federal funds. **For more information see <http://www.chea.org/search/>**

**Regional Alternative Licensing Center (RALC)** - Regional Offices established by the NC State Board of Education (SBE) are authorized to evaluate and prescribe plans of study that will lead to teacher licensure in North Carolina.

**Standard Professional I (SP I) Licensure** - A three-year license, which allows the teacher to begin practicing the profession. To be issued a **Standard Professional I License**, an individual must complete an approved teacher education program and meet the federal requirements to be designated "highly qualified." This designation (HQ) is not applicable to BK licensed teachers assigned to teach in pre-k classrooms.

**Standard Professional II (SP II) License** - A continuing license that allows the teacher to serve on an ongoing basis. A **Standard Professional II License** must be renewed every five years. Teachers are observed and evaluated annually. Also referred to as "Career Status."

**Summative Evaluation and Rating** - Assessment and rating of performance in relation to established criteria (NC Professional Teaching Standards) at the end of the school year. Data are gathered through teacher self-assessment, classroom observations, pre- and post conferences, professional development plan, and review of artifacts.

**Team** - Designated EESLPD Office mentor/evaluator, eligible teacher and Site Administrator/Director who work together in completing the requirements for the licensure process. The team may also include the teacher assistant in the classroom where the teacher is receiving services and other technical assistance practitioners to ensure cross-sector support is informed by the NC Professional Teaching Standards and the NC Standards for Mentors.