

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2003**

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**SENATE BILL 931  
Second Edition Engrossed 5/1/03  
House Committee Substitute Favorable 5/13/03**

Short Title: No Portfolio Required/Teacher Certification.

(Public)

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Sponsors:

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Referred to:

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April 3, 2003

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT ELIMINATING THE PORTFOLIO REQUIREMENT FOR TEACHER  
CERTIFICATION.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

**SECTION 1.** G.S. 115C-296(b) reads as rewritten:

"(b) It is the policy of the State of North Carolina to maintain the highest quality teacher education programs and school administrator programs in order to enhance the competence of professional personnel certified in North Carolina. To the end that teacher preparation programs are upgraded to reflect a more rigorous course of study, the State Board of Education, as lead agency in coordination and cooperation with the University Board of Governors, the Board of Community Colleges and such other public and private agencies as are necessary, shall continue to refine the several certification requirements, standards for approval of institutions of teacher education, standards for institution-based innovative and experimental programs, standards for implementing consortium-based teacher education, and standards for improved efficiencies in the administration of the approved programs. The certification program shall provide for initial certification after completion of preservice training, continuing certification after three years of teaching experience, and certificate renewal every five years thereafter, until the retirement of the teacher. The last certificate renewal received prior to retirement shall remain in effect for five years after retirement.

The State Board of Education, as lead agency in coordination with the Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina and any other public and private agencies as necessary, shall continue to raise standards for entry into teacher education programs.

The State Board of Education, in consultation with the Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina, shall evaluate and develop enhanced requirements for continuing certification. The new requirements shall reflect more rigorous standards for continuing certification and to the extent possible shall be aligned with quality

1 professional development programs that reflect State priorities for improving student  
2 achievement. These rigorous standards shall not include a portfolio requirement for  
3 teachers.

4 The State Board of Education, in consultation with local boards of education and the  
5 Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina, shall reevaluate and enhance  
6 the requirements for renewal of teacher certificates. The State Board shall consider  
7 modifications in the certificate renewal achievement and to make it a mechanism for  
8 teachers to renew continually their knowledge and professional skills. The State Board  
9 shall adopt new standards for the renewal of teacher certificates by May 15, 1998.

10 The standards for approval of institutions of teacher education shall require that  
11 teacher education programs for students who do not major in special education include  
12 demonstrated competencies in the identification and education of children with learning  
13 disabilities. The State Board of Education shall incorporate the criteria developed in  
14 accordance with G.S. 116-74.21 for assessing proposals under the School Administrator  
15 Training Program into its school administrator program approval standards.

16 All North Carolina institutions of higher education that offer teacher education  
17 programs, masters degree programs in education, or masters degree programs in school  
18 administration shall provide performance reports to the State Board of Education. The  
19 performance reports shall follow a common format, shall be submitted according to a  
20 plan developed by the State Board, and shall include the information required under the  
21 plan developed by the State Board."

22 **SECTION 2.** The State Board, in consultation with the Board of Governors  
23 of The University of North Carolina, shall revise the standards for continuing  
24 certification so that the portfolio requirement for teachers is no longer required. The  
25 standards shall continue to be rigorous and aligned with the State's priorities for  
26 improving student achievement.

27 **SECTION 3.** Section 28.19(b) of S.L. 2001-424 is repealed.

28 **SECTION 4.** No new requirement added by the State Board of Education to  
29 the teacher certification process may be required for licensure now or in the future  
30 without explicit legislative authorization.

31 **SECTION 5.** This act is effective when it becomes law.