

## OVERVIEW OF RECENT EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAM LEGISLATION (SB 599/HB 107)

Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee

Brian Gwyn  
Legislative Analysis Division  
North Carolina General Assembly  
February 4, 2020

1

### WHAT IS AN EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAM (EPP)?

- An entity that prepares, trains, and recommends students for teacher licensure.
- The State Board of Education (SBE) will not license a student who finishes an EPP in NC unless that program was State approved or nationally accredited.

2

## RECENT EPP LEGISLATION

- S.L. 2017-189 (SB 599) (Excellent Educators for Every Classroom)
- S.L. 2019-149 (HB 107) (PED Oversight/EPP Changes)

3

## BEFORE SB 599

- The SBE set the standards for EPP approval.
- Only institutions of higher education (IHEs) could be approved EPPs.
- EPPs submitted annual performance reports and SBE issued annual report cards based on that data.
- SBE had discretion to put an EPP on probation or revoke approval based on broad criteria.
- Lateral entry teachers had three years to complete necessary coursework, which could be taken at any IHE (enrollment in a single EPP was not necessary).

4

## SB 599 HIGHLIGHTS

- Created the Professional Educator Preparation and Standards Commission (PEPSC).
- Created standards for EPP State approval aligned with those of the Council for Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP).
- Required residency license teachers (formerly lateral entry) to enroll in EPPs.
- Created exceptions to the 2.7 GPA requirement for EPP applicants.
- Created mandatory sanctions for EPPs that fail to meet performance standards.
- Authorized entities other than IHEs to be EPPs, provided they meet the same standards.

5

## PEPSC

- Made up of 18 members that represent various stakeholder groups.
- 2 ex officio, 8 appointed by House, and 8 appointed by Senate.
- PEPSC independently recommends standards for educator preparation, licensure, continuing education, and conduct to SBE.
- Specifically, PEPSC must recommend:
  - Appropriate pedagogy to be included in residency programs.
  - Appropriate courses to be used in the calculation of an EPP applicant's GPA.

6

## RESIDENCY TEACHERS MUST BE ENROLLED IN AN EPP

- Replaced lateral entry license with residency license.
- Required residency teachers to meet content requirements before teaching.
- Required residency applicants to meet all the same requirements for admission as other students.
- Required residency teachers to have a school-based mentor and an EPP-based mentor, similar to interns (student-teachers).

7

## GPA EXCEPTIONS

- State law already required EPPs to have minimum admissions requirements that include the following:
  - A passing score or prescribed minimum score set by the SBE on a preprofessional skills test, or a bachelor's degree.
  - A minimum GPA of 2.7 (with an average of at least 3.0 for each cohort).
- SB 599 created two GPA exceptions:
  - Individuals with at least 10 years of relevant experience are exempted from the individual GPA requirement.
  - Individuals applying to a Career and Technical Education program can be exempted from the individual GPA requirement with at least 5 years of relevant experience.

8

## MANDATORY SANCTIONS

- Instead of permissive authority to sanction, required SBE to sanction EPPs that fail to meet performance standards, either as a whole or for particular subgroups of students.
- Required SBE to establish performance standards on the following indicators:
  - Performance of EPP graduates on annual teacher evaluations.
  - Proficiency and growth of students taught by EPP graduates.
  - Satisfaction of EPP graduates after their first year of teaching.
  - Quality of students entering the EPP (later removed by HB 107).

9

## MANDATORY SANCTIONS, CONT.

- Required SBE to annually evaluate EPPs.
- Required EPPs that do not meet performance standards to be assigned one of the following accountability statuses:
  - Warned
  - Probation
  - Revoked (EPP can no longer recommend candidates for licensure)
- Added additional data that must be submitted with annual reports.

10

## PHASE-IN

- The act applied beginning with the 2017-2018 school year, including requirements regarding admissions, pedagogy, and mentoring for EPPs, though some elements continue to be phased in.
- As of the 2018-19 school year, all programs had to submit annual performance reports meeting the new standards.
- Accountability requirements will be gradually phased in, with no EPPs being assigned revoked status before 2023-2024.

11

## HB 107 HIGHLIGHTS

- Removed “quality of students entering the EPP” as a performance standard.
- Directed the SBE to study the inclusion as a performance measure of the two-year retention rate for individuals who have completed the EPP and become initially licensed and employed in a North Carolina public school.
- Modified the criteria by which an EPP can be sanctioned (less emphasis on the low performance of one subgroup).

12

## HB 107 HIGHLIGHTS, CONT.

- Directed the SBE to adopt a rule creating a small group reporting exception any time data are at risk of being individually identifiable.
- Directed the SBE to develop a formulaic, performance-based weighted model.

13

## QUESTIONS?

14