



# School Psychology Update

North Carolina Department of Public Instruction

August 1, 2018

As many may recall, during the recent 2018 short legislative session, the [House Select Committee on School Safety](#) recommended legislation ([HB 933](#)) that would direct the State Board of Education to grant a license to practice as a school psychologist to any individuals who hold the [Nationally Certified School Psychologist \(NCSP\)](#) credential. The [standards](#) to receive a Nationally Certified School Psychologist credential from the National Association of School Psychologists meet the current NC standards for licensure as a school psychologist. [32 other states](#) currently have similar reciprocity agreements in place. The legislation was proposed to help improve the school psychology practice pipeline in NC and to fill the [existing ~75 vacancies](#) across the state. Unrelated language was later inserted into this bill causing it to become controversial, which led to the bill's failure to be passed into law.

On August 1, during their monthly meeting, the [NC State Board of Education](#) approved a proposal for the [Professional Educator Preparation and Standards Commission \(PEPSC\)](#)<sup>1</sup> to review and bring back a proposal for a licensure reciprocity agreement for school psychologists in NC.

- This reciprocity agreement does not require legislation to be enforced and can be put in place through State Board of Education policy.
  - o The NC State Board of Education would like PEPSC to review [Edition 2 of HB 933](#) and, if deemed appropriate, bring back a proposed policy to the State Board of Education at the **September 2018** meeting.
- In addition, the State Board of Education would like PEPSC to review ALL school support personnel next and then any teaching licenses for other potential reciprocity agreements that can be put into place without lowering standards. PEPSC to return to the SBE any reciprocity proposals for licensing of other positions that would also benefit from similar agreements.

#### **Information and access to State Board of Education meetings:**

- The [NC State Board of Education](#) generally meets on the first Thursday of the month, with committee meetings held on the Wednesday preceding.
- All meetings are open to the public with the exception of Closed Session discussions which will be noted on the agenda.
- To access materials for meetings and to link to the audio-streaming, click on 'Meetings' in the blue banner on the SBE homepage to see a list of all eBoard meetings, including those for the State Board of Education. Select the date of interest for a past or upcoming SBE meeting.
  - o Note that the two days of the Board's meetings are posted separately
  - o Agendas and materials are posted approximately one week prior to a Board meeting

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<sup>1</sup> The Professional Educator Preparation and Standards Commission (PEPSC) was created on September 1, 2017 as a part of the passing of Senate Bill 599 (Section 1.(a), Article 17.C.115C-268.1.).

The purpose of the Commission as an advising body to the North Carolina State Board of Education (SBE) is to do the following:

- involve stakeholders in establishing high standards for North Carolina educators
- make rule recommendations for the SBE regarding all aspects of preparation, licensure, continuing education, and standards of conduct of public school educators
- exercise its powers and duties independently of - while located administratively under - the SBE