

1 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

2 Section 1. This act shall be known as the "Literacy Restoration Act of 1995".

3 Sec. 2. G.S. 115C-81(a1) reads as rewritten:

4 "(a1) The Basic Education Program shall describe the education program to be
5 offered to every child in the public schools. It shall provide every student in the State
6 equal access to a Basic Education Program. Instruction shall be offered in the areas of
7 arts, communication skills, physical education and personal health and safety,
8 mathematics, media and computer skills, science, second languages, social studies, and
9 vocational education. Instruction in the language arts component of communications
10 skills in kindergarten through the third grade shall be through the use of intensive
11 systematic phonics.

12 Instruction in vocational and technical education under the Basic Education Program
13 shall be based on factors including:

- 14 (1) The integration of academic and vocational and technical education;
15 (2) A sequential course of study leading to both academic and occupational
16 competencies;
17 (3) Increased student work skill attainment and job placement;
18 (4) Increased linkages, where geographically feasible, between public
19 schools and community colleges, so the public schools can emphasize
20 academic preparation and the community colleges can emphasize
21 specific job training; and
22 (5) Instruction and experience, to the extent practicable, in all aspects of the
23 industry the students are prepared to enter."

24 Sec. 3. G.S. 115C-296(a) reads as rewritten:

25 "(a) The State Board of Education shall have entire control of certifying all
26 applicants for teaching positions in all public elementary and high schools of North
27 Carolina; and it shall prescribe the rules and regulations for the renewal and extension of
28 all certificates and shall determine and fix the salary for each grade and type of certificate
29 which it authorizes: Provided, that the State Board of Education shall require each
30 applicant for an initial certificate or graduate certificate to demonstrate his academic and
31 professional preparation by achieving a prescribed minimum score at least equivalent to
32 that required by the Board on November 30, 1972, on a standard examination appropriate
33 and adequate for that purpose: Provided, further, that in the event the Board shall specify
34 the National Teachers Examination for this purpose, the required minimum score shall
35 not be lower than that which the Board required on November 30, 1972: Provided,
36 further, that the State Board of Education shall not decrease the certification standards for
37 physical education teachers or health education teachers below the standards in effect on
38 June 1, 1988.

39 The State Board of Education shall require all teachers who teach reading in the
40 public schools to receive in-service training in intensive systematic phonics. The State
41 Board of Education shall also require all teachers who teach reading in the public schools
42 to pass a competency test that includes the elements of intensive systematic phonics. The

1 certification of teachers who do not successfully complete the in-service training or pass
2 the competency test within a two-year period shall be revoked."

3 Sec. 4. G.S. 115C-298 reads as rewritten:

4 **"§ 115C-298. Colleges may assist teachers in certification.**

5 Each and every college or university of the State is hereby authorized to aid public
6 school teachers or prospective teachers in securing, raising, or renewing their certificates,
7 in accordance with the rules and regulations of the State Board of Education. The rules
8 of the State Board of Education shall require prospective reading teachers to complete a
9 one-year course in intensive systematic phonics as a prerequisite for graduation."

10 Sec. 5. This act becomes effective July 1, 1995.