

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 include as the primary method the use
11 of early and direct intensive systematic phonics. 'Early and direct intensive systematic
12 phonics' is a method of teaching beginners to read, pronounce, and spell words by
13 learning the letter sounds associations of individual letters, letter groups, and especially
14 syllables, as well as the principles governing these associations.

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

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

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

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

- 43 (1) Require each applicant for an initial certificate or graduate certificate to
44 demonstrate academic and professional preparation by achieving a

1 prescribed minimum score at least equivalent to that required by the
2 Board on November 30, 1972, on a standard examination appropriate
3 and adequate for that purpose. If the Board specifies the National
4 Teachers Examination for this purpose, the required minimum score
5 shall not be lower than that which the Board required on November 30,
6 1972.

7 (2) Establish certification standards for physical education teachers and for
8 health education teachers that are not lower than the standards in effect
9 on June 1, 1988.

10 (3) Effective January 1, 1997, require each applicant for an initial certificate
11 or graduate certificate who may teach reading in the public schools to
12 have completed satisfactorily courses that include specific competencies
13 in early and direct intensive systematic phonics.

14 (4) Require all teachers who are certified by December 31, 1996, and who
15 teach reading in the public schools to receive in-service training in early
16 and direct intensive systematic phonics and to pass a competency test
17 that includes the elements of early and direct intensive systematic
18 phonics. Effective January 1, 1998, the certificates of these teachers
19 who do not successfully complete the in-service training and pass the
20 competency exam shall not be renewed."

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

22 **"§ 115C-298. Colleges may assist teachers in certification.**

23 Each and every college or university of the State is hereby authorized to aid public
24 school teachers or prospective teachers in securing, raising, or renewing their certificates,
25 in accordance with the rules ~~and regulations~~ of the State Board of Education. The rules of
26 the State Board of Education shall require institutions of higher education to require
27 students who may teach reading in the public schools to complete satisfactorily courses
28 that include specific competencies in early and direct intensive systematic phonics as a
29 prerequisite for Board approval of the institution's teacher education program. Effective
30 January 1, 1997, no institution of higher education shall recommend for certification any
31 applicant who may teach reading in the public schools who has not completed
32 satisfactorily courses that include specific competencies in early and direct intensive
33 systematic phonics."

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