

From: Office of the Governor Site Support
Sent: 4/13/2015 12:13:02 PM
To: Haley, Nikki
Cc:
Subject: teaching in South Carolia

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Message:

Dear Governor Haley,

I am emailing you with my concerns about the hiring process in the Department of Education for teachers. When I decided to retire from the Department of Education in North Carolina, I was so excited to be hired by Marlboro County Schools. I had read the reciprocity agreement between North and South Carolina which lead me to believe that I was Highly Qualified.

In the revised manual for hiring out of state teachers, it states the following:

R 43-51.VII VERIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY [RECIPROCITY]

R53-51. VII. Verification of Eligibility

The Office of Educator Certification of the State Department of Education may verify the eligibility of an applicant for certification by ascertaining

(a) that the applicant has verified his or her completion of a state approved teacher preparation program

OR

(b) that the applicant has a valid corresponding certificate from a state with which South Carolina has reciprocity through the Interstate Agreement on Qualifications of Educational Personnel

OR

(c) that the applicant has met the requirements for the Program of Alternative Certification for Educators (PACE) for certification.

After reading the agreement, I thought that because I had graduated from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte in 1983 with a degree in Early Childhood Education k-6, passed the National Teacher's Exam, and currently hold a valid teaching certificate for South and North Carolina, that I would be highly qualified.

Now, after teaching for thirty two years and receiving my South Carolina State Board of Education Educator License, and receiving three evaluations from my current employer with an overall ranking of exceeds expectations, I am being told that I must take the Praxis II to return to work. I can't tell you how upsetting this is. I am a highly qualified teacher in North Carolina, but here in South Carolina I am not. The Department of Public Instruction in North Carolina tells me that I should not have to take the test, if the Department of South Carolina is following the Reciprocity Agreement is being followed.

I would love to return to Marlboro County Schools. McColl Elementary Middle School is such a great place to work with wonderful leadership. Please help me with this problem and fix it so that teachers from other states who have taught thirty plus years can enter South Carolina and teach without having to take the Praxis II Test. I have worked in South Carolina for almost one year with exceeds expectations evaluations, so truly I should be classified highly qualified according to the reciprocity agreement. I apologize for taking up your time ,but numerous teachers from North Carolina want to come to South Carolina to teach, but they do not understand if they are considered HQ in North Carolina, why they aren't in South Carolina???? Please help North Carolina Teachers so that we can teach in your wonderful state.

Yours in Education,

Kay E. Gardner