

The board recognizes that an effective staff is critical to the smooth operations of the school district and to creating a learning environment where students can succeed. The board further believes that students will not excel in performance unless those who most directly affect students, including school administrators, teachers and other licensed professionals, excel in their performance.

A. Standard for Career Status

Career status with this system should be reserved for individuals of proven ability who strive for excellence. It is the intent of the board to grant career status only to those teachers who, based upon the superintendent's recommendation, exhibit a pattern of teaching behavior that exemplifies above-average performance at the end of the probationary period. The superintendent must be able to substantiate any recommendation for career status with evaluation data, as described in policy 7810. Career status will not be granted unless the board is satisfied that the probationary employee has met the standards established by the board. Career status may be denied on any legally permissible basis following statutorily prescribed procedures.

A teacher may not be recommended for career status unless the teacher was rated at least "proficient" on all standards of the teacher's most recent summative rating form. The Board seeks performance in excess of "proficient" and seeks to employ and retain professionals who are performing at the highest levels of competence.

B. Election of a Teacher to Career Status

The board, near the end of a teacher's probationary period, will vote on whether to grant the teacher career status. The awarding of career status is not an entitlement based on four consecutive years of service, but a status which may be earned through the exhibition of high performance during a teacher's probationary period.

At least 30 days prior to the board meeting in which career status will be considered, the superintendent will submit to the board a list of the names of any teachers who are eligible for career status. The superintendent will also make the names available to teachers and the public. Any teacher who believes he or she should be eligible for career status but whose name does not appear on the list should notify the superintendent immediately, but must notify the superintendent no later than ten days before the board meeting. The board will vote on whether to grant career status to a teacher and will give the teacher written notice of the decision by June 15.

An employee who has obtained career status with the school district is expected to continue to strive for excellence, meet all performance standards established by the board, and pursue appropriate professional development, as provided in policy 7800, Professional Development and Assistance. Any employee who is unable or unwilling to meet reasonable standards of the board may be subject to demotion or dismissal, as provided in policy 7930, Professional Employees: Demotion and Dismissal.

Legal References: [G.S. 115C-47\(18\)](#), [-325](#); State Board of Education Policy TCP-C-004.

Cross References: Professional and Staff Development (policy 7800), Evaluation of Licensed Employees (policy 7810), Professional Employees: Demotion and Dismissal (policy 7930)