APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

The NC INSPIRE Fellows Program invites all interested and qualified individuals to apply for the Fellowship. Applicants are encouraged to submit their completed application packets as early as possible. Review of applications will begin in when they are received. Please read all information and instructions carefully before submitting your application.

Eligibility Requirement

All applicants must meet the following criteria to be considered for an NC INSPIRE Fellowship. Please review all of the following requirements before you begin your application.

Eligibility Requirement

All NC INSPIRE Fellows Program applicants:

- Must be willing to teach in an NC INSPIRE partnering high-need school district/local education agency for a minimum of three years.
- Must hold a non-education bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university. *
  - Mathematics Teachers – Must hold a bachelor’s degree or higher in mathematics, or have 24 semester hours of mathematics coursework with a minimum grade of “C” in all courses, or pass the required Praxis II tests.
  - Science Teachers - Must hold a bachelor’s degree or higher in science, or have 24 semester hours of science coursework with a minimum grade of “C” in all courses, or pass the required Praxis II tests.
  - Special Education Teachers - Must hold a bachelor’s degree in any area and qualify to be a lateral entry teacher in North Carolina by passing the required Praxis II tests.

*College seniors scheduled to graduate in the spring may be conditionally selected as NC INSPIRE Finalists, pending proof of graduation.

- Must have at least a 2.8 cumulative GPA (on a 4.0 scale).
- Must have an acceptable score on either the GRE or MAT graduate admission test.
- Must not already have a teaching license.
- Must be able to demonstrate a strong commitment to teaching.
- Must demonstrate effective written and oral communication skills.
- Must be willing and able to participate in all program activities, including Summer/Winter Institutes and online and face-to-face professional development events.

Transcripts

Your application is not complete and cannot be reviewed until we have official copies of transcripts from all colleges and universities you have attended. To be considered official, your transcripts must arrive in an unopened envelope sealed by the university registrar.
You may request that transcripts be sent to you so that you can submit them with your other application materials, or have them sent directly to NC INSPIRE Fellow Program by the institution, but they must remain sealed in the original envelopes. Transcripts submitted to the NC INSPIRE Fellows Program become part of your permanent record and may be released to another institution or employer, with your permission. If your transcripts bear a former name, be sure to indicate that name on your application form. Transcripts from international universities must be submitted in English and must show a GPA on the 4.0 scale. International transcripts can be evaluated and translated by companies that specialize in that work, such as the National Association of Credential Evaluation Services or International Education Evaluators, Inc. It is the applicant’s responsibility to have this evaluation done and submitted to the NC INSPIRE Fellows Program.

**Testing Requirements**

There are two types of testing required for the NC INSPIRE Fellows Program. Testing required for licensure and testing required for graduate admission to the Master of Arts in Teaching programs.

**Testing Required for Licensure**

**Praxis II:**

Praxis II tests are required for all new teachers in North Carolina. Some licensure areas require two Praxis II tests, others only one. New lateral entry teachers who have degrees considered relevant to the subject area they will be teaching, have three years to take and pass the required Praxis II tests. Teachers who do not have a relevant degree in the subject area they want to teach may qualify for lateral entry with passing scores on the required Praxis II tests for that licensure area. All lateral entry Special Education teachers must pass the required Praxis II tests before they begin teaching.

Information and registration materials for the Praxis II may be obtained by visiting the ETS/Praxis website at [www.ets.org/praxis](http://www.ets.org/praxis). When registering for the Praxis II, please use the score recipient code **5455** to have scores sent directly to NC INSPIRE.

The table below lists the required Praxis tests and qualifying scores by licensure area.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Licensure Area</th>
<th>Test Title</th>
<th>Test Number</th>
<th>Qualifying Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Secondary Mathematics</td>
<td>Mathematics: Content Knowledge</td>
<td>5161</td>
<td>160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Principles of Learning and Teaching (7-12)</td>
<td>5624</td>
<td>157</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary Science</td>
<td>General Science: Content Knowledge</td>
<td>5435</td>
<td>151</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Principles of Learning and Teaching (7-12)</td>
<td>5624</td>
<td>157</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MG Science</td>
<td>Middle School Science</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>134</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MG Mathematics</td>
<td>Middle School Mathematics</td>
<td>5169</td>
<td>165</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Education</td>
<td>Special Education: Core Knowledge &amp; Mild to Moderate Applications</td>
<td>5543</td>
<td>158</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fundamental Subjects: Content Knowledge</td>
<td>5511</td>
<td>148</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
NC INSPIRE will offer Praxis II Preparation Workshops for Special Education Candidates in March and again in May. Dates and registration details for the workshops will be posted on the NC INSPIRE Fellows Program website. Additional Praxis II tests may be required depending on the actual teaching assignment an NC INSPIRE Fellow accepts.

NC Foundations of Reading/General Curriculum Tests:
Effective October 1, 2014 the Praxis II Fundamental Subjects: Content Knowledge test (5511) will be replaced with two new tests: the NC Foundations of Reading and the NC General Curriculum.

Information about the tests, test preparation resources, and registration instructions are available on the NC Foundations of Reading/General Curriculum website at http://www.nc.nesinc.com/index.asp. Finalists must submit copies of their passing score reports to NC INSPIRE when received.

Individuals employed as lateral entry teachers prior to October 1, 2014 will not be required to take these two new tests.

Limited funds are available for reimbursement of required licensure testing fees. Please contact the NC INSPIRE office for more information.

Testing Required for Master of Arts in Teaching Admission
Applicants must take the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) Revised General Test or the Miller Analogies Test (MAT). (Applicants for Special Education must take the GRE)

To obtain the most current registration information and test site locations in North Carolina, please visit the websites listed in the table below. When registering for the GRE or MAT, please use the score recipient codes in the table to have scores sent directly to NC INSPIRE.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test</th>
<th>Website</th>
<th>Score Recipient Code</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GRE</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ets.org/gre">www.ets.org/gre</a></td>
<td>7419 UN Carolina NC INSPIRE Flwshp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAT</td>
<td><a href="http://www.milleranalogies.com">www.milleranalogies.com</a></td>
<td>4044 NC INSPIRE Fellows</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Personal Statement of Purpose
Please write a one to two page personal statement of purpose that addresses the following questions:
- Why do you want to become a teacher?
- What strengths and skills will you bring to teaching?
- What is your philosophy of education?

Please include the statement in your application packet.
Letters of Recommendation

You must arrange to have three Reference Rating Forms and Reference Letters completed and submitted by people who can evaluate your academic achievement or your professional success, your ability to complete a graduate degree program, and your potential as a teacher. You should provide each reference with a stamped envelope addressed to the NC INSPIRE Fellows Program. References from family members are not acceptable. Reference Evaluation forms and letters must be mailed directly to the NC INSPIRE Fellows Program with your recommender’s signature over the flap. Recommendation forms that do not arrive in an envelope that is sealed and signed by the recommender will not be accepted. Please complete the Applicant Disclosure Rights section of the Reference Evaluation Instructions/Waiver Form and write your name in the space at the top of the Reference Rating Form before giving them to your reference. Your reference should mail both forms and a letter of reference on their letterhead to the NC INSPIRE Fellows Program in the self-addressed envelope provided by you.

Application Deadline

Applications will be accepted through June 30th of each year or until all fellowships available for the year have been awarded. Applications should be submitted as soon as possible to have the best chance of receiving a fellowship. Please understand that School Districts begin interviewing applicants for teaching positions as early as April each year for the next school year.

Required Documents

Applications to the NC INSPIRE Fellows program are a collection of materials that chronicle an applicant’s academic preparation, intellectual ability, experience, and motivation to undertake the rigorous program of study required for the program.

Applications cannot be reviewed until all the following application documents are received:

- Completed NC INSPIRE Fellows application form – all pages
- A personal statement of purpose
- A current resume
- The NC INSPIRE Fellows Program Applicant Acknowledgements Form
- The LEA Preference Form
- Three Letters of Reference and Reference Rating Forms from individuals who know you well.
- Official transcripts from all colleges and universities attended
- GRE or MAT test scores. (Applicants for Special Education must take the GRE) (GRE or MAT test scores must be submitted directly from the testing organizations. Please submit all other application documents as soon as possible, even if you have not yet taken the GRE or MAT)

Note: GRE/MAT scores are waived for applicants who already hold a master’s degree or higher/

How NC INSPIRE Fellows are Selected

The NC INSPIRE Fellows Program has a maximum of forty (40) fellowships to award each year statewide, so the selection process is quite competitive. Interested individuals are encouraged to submit complete application packets as soon as possible. NC INSPIRE
applications will be screened for eligibility as they are received. Eligible candidates will be notified via email and an interview with the NC INSPIRE Fellows Selection Committee will be scheduled.

After the interview is completed, selected candidates will be submitted for a comprehensive background check. Provided the background check results are acceptable, selected candidates will be notified that they are finalists for the NC INSPIRE Fellowship and enrolled in the next available Online Professional Development for Lateral Entry Teachers course through Western Carolina University. Upon completion of the course, finalists will be advised to begin applying for teaching positions at NC INSPIRE partnering LEAs. NC INSPIRE will notify partnering LEAs that the finalist is planning to apply to their districts.

The first forty finalists to secure teaching positions will be awarded a fellowship and advised to apply for admission to the appropriate MAT program. It is required that fellows attend the NC New Teacher Support Summer Institute typically scheduled during the first week of August. Finalists will be notified of the actual dates so that they may set aside that week to attend the Summer Institute if they are hired by the deadline.

**The Interview**

Each eligible candidate will be interviewed by the NC INSPIRE Selection Committee. The purpose of the interview is to evaluate each applicant in the following areas:

- **Thinking Approach**: Applicant’s answers demonstrate the ability to think critically and to compare, apply, analyze, and synthesize ideas. Applicant’s responses evidence advanced decision-making and problem-solving skills.
- **Clarity of Expression**: Applicant demonstrates strong communication skills, with answers that are expressed clearly and succinctly, with original ideas.
- **Self-Confidence**: Applicant is knowledgeable of desired content area, understands the expectations of the classroom, and believes he or she will be an effective teacher.
- **Enthusiasm**: Applicant is energetic and is open to a new career in teaching.
- **Commitment**: Applicant shows interest in and commitment to teaching and evidences a clear understanding of the age group that he or she wishes to teach. The applicant also demonstrates a commitment to diversity and a belief that all students can learn.
- **Sense of Purpose**: Applicant communicates a sense of purpose and goals that extend beyond the immediate to larger implications and contexts
- **Interpersonal Skills**: Applicant demonstrates a positive, caring, accepting, and empathic demeanor

Candidates will also be asked to prepare and teach a brief ten minute lesson during the interview on a topic of their choosing, either academic or a general topic for which they have expertise.
Tuition and Fees

Tuition for your MAT courses is paid directly to the university, and is based on each university's graduate distance education tuition rate. Therefore, tuition varies among the universities. Please visit the university's website for specific information about tuition and fees. Participants are also responsible for the cost of licensing examinations, the initial license, internet access, textbooks, and tuition for any additional content courses. The NC INSPIRE Fellows Program offers tuition assistance of one hundred percent (100%) of the in-state tuition for each course up to a maximum of $4,200.00 per fellow.

Fellows classified as out-of-state students for tuition purposes by the university will be responsible for the difference between out-of-state tuition and in-state tuition until their in-state residency for tuition purposes has been established. NC requires permanent residency in North Carolina for twelve months to qualify for in-state tuition.

After the $4200.00 has been exhausted, all Fellows will be responsible for 100% of the tuition and fees for the remainder of the MAT coursework. The $4200.00 represents approximately fifty percent (50%) of the in-state cost of the MAT.

Service Commitment

All NC INSPIRE Fellows must commit to teach in a partnering LEA for a minimum of three years. Failure to complete this commitment will require that the Fellow repay all tuition assistance received from NC INSPIRE.

Financial Aid

As a university student you may be eligible for several types of scholarships and federal loans. For specific information about financial aid, contact the financial aid office at your university. Additionally, local school districts or LEAs may offer graduate tuition reimbursement.

Statement on Educational Opportunity

The NC INSPIRE Program is committed to equality of educational opportunity and does not discriminate against applicants, students, or employees based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, or disability. Any complaints alleging the failure of this institution to follow this policy should be brought to the attention of the Director of NC INSPIRE. Moreover, the program is open to people of all races and actively seeks to promote racial integration by recruiting and enrolling students from underrepresented minority groups.

Policy on Nondiscrimination

It is the policy of NC INSPIRE that educational and employment decisions should be based on an individual’s abilities and qualifications and should not be based on irrelevant factors or personal characteristics that have no connection with academic abilities or job performance. Among the traditional factors that are generally "irrelevant" are race, sex, religion, and national origin.
Applicant Name _____________________________________________________

Please use the checklist below to insure that your application is complete.

Please mail the following items in a single envelope to the NC INSPIRE address below:

- Completed NC INSPIRE Fellows Application form – all pages
- The NC INSPIRE Applicant Acknowledgements Form
- A personal statement of purpose – see instructions
- A current resume
- The LEA Preference Form

Please have the following items sent directly to NC INSPIRE from the reference, institution, or testing organization.

- Three sealed letters of reference and Reference Rating Form mailed to NC INSPIRE directly from the reference.
- Official transcripts from all colleges and universities attended mailed directly from the institution.
- GRE or MAT test scores submitted directly from the testing organization. Please submit all other application documents even if you have not taken these tests.

- GRE or MAT test scores must be submitted directly from the testing organizations. Please use the Score Recipient Codes provided in the Testing Requirements section when you register for the tests, or when ordering test results to be sent to NC INSPIRE.

Important Notes:
- Applicants for Special Education must take the GRE.
- GRE/MAT testing is waived for all applicants who hold a master’s degree or higher from a regionally accredited college or university.

Applications must be mailed in a single envelope as soon as possible, but no later than June 30, 2014. Mail your completed application to:

NC INSPIRE Fellows Application
UNC Center for School Leadership Development
140 Friday Center Drive, Suite 271
Chapel Hill, North Carolina, 27517
**SECTION I  Biographical Information**

Name: □ Mr. □ Ms. □ Mrs. □ Dr. □ Miss  
Date ______________________________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Last</th>
<th>First</th>
<th>Middle</th>
<th>(Jr., Sr., etc.)</th>
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</thead>
</table>

Former Name(s) ______________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

(Other names that may appear on educational records)

Date of Birth: _______ / _______ / _______  
Gender: □ Male □ Female

Are you a US citizen? □ Yes □ No  
US Citizens and lawful permanent residents must present evidence of citizenship or permanent residence status.

Do you claim legal residence in NC for tuition purposes? □ Yes □ No  
(NC INSPIRE tuition assistance for the MAT program is based on in-state tuition rates. Fellows are responsible for establishing their NC residency for tuition purposes. Those classified as out-of-state for tuition purposes are responsible for the difference between in-state and out-of-state tuition.)

**SECTION II  Address/Contact Information**

Primary Phone: ( ) _______  
Mobile Phone ( ) _______  
Work Phone ( ) _______

Preferred Email Address: ________________________________  
Secondary Email Address: ________________________________

Address: ____________________________________________  
Number & Street, P.O. Box, Apt. #, etc.

__________________________________________________________________________  
City __________________________ State ______ Zip ______

**SECTION III  Licensure Areas** (Please indicate which areas in which you would like to seek licensure.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Middle Grades Mathematics</th>
<th>High School Mathematics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Middle Grades Science</td>
<td>High School Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle Grades Language Arts</td>
<td>Middle Grades Social Studies</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**SECTION IV  Academic History (undergraduate/graduate)** (list all colleges and universities where you have earned credit hours, starting with the most recent. Use additional sheet if necessary.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College/University</th>
<th>City, State</th>
<th>Dates of Attendance</th>
<th>Degree Date Awarded</th>
<th>Major</th>
<th>Overall GPA</th>
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**SECTION VI  Graduate Admissions Test Score Information**  (official report of all test scores must be sent directly from the testing agency)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>V %</th>
<th>Q %</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GRE</td>
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<tr>
<td>MAT</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**SECTION V  Employment History**  (list most recent first and add additional sheets if necessary)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Employer, City, State</th>
<th>Dates of Employment</th>
<th>Job Title</th>
<th>Reason for Leaving</th>
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<tbody>
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</tbody>
</table>

**SECTION VI  Teaching Related Experience/Activities**  (attach additional sheet if necessary)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agency, Address, Phone</th>
<th>From / To</th>
<th>Type of Activity</th>
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</table>

**SECTION VII  Extra-curricular Activities/Information**  (attach additional sheet if necessary)

Fellowships, scholarships, academic honors received:

____________________________________________________________________________

Relevant experience, skills, work, publications, travel:

____________________________________________________________________________

Relevant technology related skills:

____________________________________________________________________________
SECTION VIII  Personal Statement  (attach your one-two page response to the last page of this application form and include your full name at the top for identification purposes)

On one-two pages, please type (double spaced, at least 10-12 pt. font, 1 inch margins) your response to these questions:

1. Why do you want to become a teacher?
2. What strengths and skills will you bring to teaching?
3. What is your Philosophy of Education?

SECTION IX References  (Please list the names and addresses of individuals who will submit references in support of your application)

Name: ___________________________________________ Position or Title: __________________________
Company or Institution: ___________________________ Phone #: __________________________
Address: ________________________________________

Name: ___________________________________________ Position or Title: __________________________
Company or Institution: ___________________________ Phone #: __________________________
Address: ________________________________________

Name: ___________________________________________ Position or Title: __________________________
Company or Institution: ___________________________ Phone #: __________________________
Address: ________________________________________

SECTION X  Additional Information  (Please check the appropriate answers below)

Yes  No
___  ___  Have you ever been suspended, dismissed, fired, or discharged from a position of employment?
___  ___  Have you ever had a teaching license suspended or revoked?
___  ___  Have you ever been asked to resigned from a position of employment?
___  ___  Have you ever been convicted of an offense other than a minor traffic ticket? (DUI and DWI convictions are not minor and must be reported)
___  ___  Have you ever been arrested for a felony?
___  ___  Have you ever been charged for a felony?
___  ___  Have you ever been convicted for a felony?
___  ___  Have you ever been arrested (even if no contest or charges dropped or pled down) for a sex related offense:
___  ___  Have you ever been charged (even if no contest or charges dropped or pled down) for a sex related offense:
___  ___  Have you ever been convicted (even if no contest or charges dropped or pled down) for a sex related offense:
___  ___  Have you ever been arrested (even if no contest or charges dropped or pled down) for a drug related offense:
___  ___  Have you ever been charged (even if no contest or charges dropped or pled down) for a drug related offense:
___  ___  Have you ever been convicted (even if no contest or charges dropped or pled down) for a drug related offense:
___  ___  Have you ever been arrested for an act of violence, including domestic violence?
___  ___  Have you ever been charged for an act of violence, including domestic violence?
___  ___  Have you ever been convicted for an act of violence, including domestic violence?
___  ___  Do you have criminal charges or procedures pending?

If you answer to any of the above questions is yes, please explain on a separate page and include this application.

___  ___  Are you a U.S. citizen, a U.S. permanent resident, or other eligible non-citizen?

Any falsification of information or your failure to disclose a criminal conviction shall constitute grounds for non-consideration of your application, or you dismissal if you are selected before the falsification or failure to disclose is discovered.

Driver’s License Number ___________________________ State ___________ Class ________________
SECTION XI Applicant’s Waiver/Release and Affirmation

I hereby expressly authorize the NC INSPIRE Fellows Program, its agents, and its employees to make any investigation of my personal or employment history, expressly including, but not limited to federal and/or state criminal, law enforcement, or traffic records. I further authorize any former employer, person, firm, corporation, administrative body or governmental agency to give the NC INSPIRE Fellows Program, its agents, or its employees any information they may have regarding me. In consideration of the review of my application by the NC INSPIRE Fellows Program, its agents, or its employees, I hereby release the NC INSPIRE Fellows Program and any and all providers of information to whom this release is sent, from any liability as a result of furnishing or receiving this information.

This release includes the sources cited above and specific examples as follows: Local Law Enforcement Agencies, Department of Motor Vehicles, information from the North Carolina Criminal Information Center and the Division of Criminal Information of either data on all criminal convictions or certification that no data or criminal convictions are maintained, information from the Department of Social Services Child Protective Services Unit pertaining to any findings of child abuse or neglect involving me.

I understand that a background check is required for all NC INSPIRE Fellows Program Candidates. I also understand that if my background check reflects that I do not meet the standards of the NC INSPIRE Fellows Program, my application will be withdrawn from consideration.

I have read the information contained in the application carefully and certify that the information I have given is correct and complete. I understand that if I am selected as an NC INSPIRE Fellows Program Finalist, false statements on this application shall be considered sufficient cause for dismissal from the program. I also understand that the application, references, and other related information become the property of the NC INSPIRE Fellows Program and are classified as confidential information.

A copy of this consent and release shall be considered as a duplicate original. I understand that local Boards of Education are allowed to employ only United States citizens or nationals, U.S. permanent residents, or other eligible non-citizens. Therefore, the NC INSPIRE Fellows Program will only select individuals who meet these requirements.

Date _____________________________  Signature _______________________________________________________________________________ __________
Reference Evaluation Instructions/Waiver Form

INSTRUCTIONS FOR NC INSPIRE FELLOWS PROGRAM APPLICANT:

1. Complete this Waiver form.
2. Complete the top portion of the Reference Rating form.
3. Give the Waiver form, Reference Rating form, and a stamped envelope addressed to the NC INSPIRE Fellows Program to the person who will complete the reference for you. Ask the person to complete the reference rating form and to write a reference letter evaluating your performance as a professional; your potential as a K12 teacher; your communication skills (oral and written); and your potential to succeed in a graduate program. The reference letter should be written on the reference's personal or professional letterhead stationery. The waiver form, reference rating form and the reference letter should be mailed in the addressed and stamped envelope you provide to the person who will complete the reference.
4. The Reference Evaluation Form and letter should be completed and mailed to the NC INSPIRE Fellows Program office at 140 Friday Center Drive, Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27517 as soon as possible. Applications are not complete until all Reference Evaluation documents are received.

APPLICANT DISCLOSURE RIGHTS

____________________________________________
Applicant’s Full Name

Check one box and sign below:

☐ I waive my right to read this completed reference.
☐ I do not waive my right to read this completed reference.

____________________________________________  ____________________
Applicant’s Signature                          Date

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE REFERENCE

Please indicate your frank opinion of the applicant's qualifications and potential on the accompanying reference rating form and in your letter of endorsement.

Please include with the Reference Rating Form, a letter of endorsement on your personal or professional letterhead stationery, in which you evaluate:

1. the applicant's performance as a professional;
2. potential as a K12 teacher;
3. communication skills (oral and written); and
4. potential to succeed in a graduate program.

Please mail the original Reference Evaluation/Waiver Form, Reference Rating Form, and your letter of endorsement to the NC INSPIRE Fellows Program in the addressed and stamped envelope provided by the applicant. Also, please sign the envelope across the sealed flap.

Waiver form and Reference Rating form without signed letters are not complete and cannot be considered.

**Copies of forms, or forms sent by FAX, cannot be accepted.*
**REFERENCE RATING FORM**

**APPLICANT:** Please fill in your name below. For the convenience of the reference, provide a stamped envelope addressed to the NC INSPIRE Fellows Program.

**Name:** ____________________________________________________ is an applicant for the NC INSPIRE Fellows Program, a teacher recruitment and preparation program funded by a Transition-to-Teaching grant from the US Department of Education. To assist the NC INSPIRE Selection Committee in evaluating this applicant’s credentials, your frank opinion of the applicant’s qualifications and potential is appreciated. For each skill or characteristic listed below, please mark the rating that you believe best describes this applicant compared to other individuals you have known in a similar capacity. Thank you for your thoughtful response.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Please rate the following:</th>
<th>Outstanding</th>
<th>Above Average</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Below Average</th>
<th>Not Observed</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General intelligence</td>
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<td>Ability to complete a graduate program</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oral communication skills</td>
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<td>Written communication skills</td>
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<td>Analysis and problem-solving skills</td>
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<td>Leadership potential</td>
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<td>Creativity</td>
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<td>Sensitivity to others</td>
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<td>Tact and judgment</td>
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<td>Rapport with co-workers</td>
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<td>Rapport with supervisors</td>
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<td>Ethical conduct</td>
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<td>Knowledge of subject matter</td>
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<td>Enthusiasm for teaching</td>
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<td>Self-control and poise</td>
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<td>Character (general conduct, ethics, morals)</td>
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<td>Adaptability to new ideas</td>
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<td>Professionalism</td>
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<td>Commitment to teaching</td>
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**Overall rating**

In what capacity do you know this applicant? ______________________________________________________________

Would you hire (or rehire) this person for a position in your organization? ____________________________

**Signature:** __________________________________________________________ **Date:** ____________________________

**Name:** __________________________________________________________ **Title:** ____________________________

**Organization:** __________________________________________________________

**Address:** __________________________________________________________

**Telephone Number:** __________________________ **Email Address:** __________________________

**REMEMBER:** Please attach a signed letter of endorsement on your letterhead stationery in which you evaluate 

* a) the applicant’s performance as a professional; 

* b) potential as a K-12 teacher; 

* c) his/her communication skills (oral and written); and 

* d) his/her potential to succeed in a graduate program. 

*Reference forms without signed endorsement letters are not complete and will not be considered.*
Applicant Acknowledgements

Applicant Name _______________________________________________________________________________

Please read the following and initial on the line acknowledging that you have read and understand each.

_____ I understand that if I am selected as an NC INSPIRE Fellows Program finalist, I will be required to apply for employment as a teacher of record at one or more of the NC INSPIRE partnering LEAs, more commonly called school districts, in the licensure area appropriate for my undergraduate degree. I also understand that to be awarded an NC INSPIRE Fellowship, I must be hired by a high-need school in one of the NC INSPIRE partnering LEAs.

_____ I understand that if I am selected as an NC INSPIRE finalist, I will be required to apply for and be admitted to the appropriate Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) degree program at the NC INSPIRE partnering UNC system campus offering that program.

_____ I understand that there are many factors, such as background checks, recommendations, interviews, etc. involved in the decisions made by institutions of higher education (IHEs) and local education agencies (LEAs) with respect to admissions and hiring. I also understand that NC INSPIRE makes no guarantee that finalists will be admitted by partnering UNC system campuses, or hired by NC INSPIRE partnering LEAs.

_____ I understand that if I am selected as an NC INSPIRE finalist for a K-12 Special Education Fellowship, I will be required to take and pass the appropriate Praxis II tests (two required) before I can be hired as a teacher of record.

_____ I understand that if I am selected as an NC INSPIRE Fellow, NC INSPIRE will assist with fifty percent (50%) of the in-state tuition for each Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) course up to a maximum of $4,200.00 per fellow. Fellows classified as out-of-state students for tuition purposes by the university will be responsible for the difference between out-of-state tuition and in-state tuition.

_____ I authorize the NC INSPIRE Fellows Program to share the information contained in this application with any partnering local education agency or UNC system campus to which I apply.

_____ I hereby authorize any partnering UNC system campus to which I am admitted to share personally identifiable information with the NC INSPIRE Fellows Program, including my academic records and any other information necessary for the administration of the NC INSPIRE Fellows program and coordination of financial aid and support services.

I have read and understand each of the above statements.

______________________________________________________    ____________
Signature of Applicant                                Date
NC INSPIRE Fellows Program – Candidate LEA Preference Form

Name ____________________________

The NC INSPIRE Fellows Program is partnering with twenty-one Local Education Agencies (LEAs) across North Carolina which typically have open teaching positions in Mathematics, Science, and Special Education. These LEAs have agreed to interview NC INSPIRE Fellows Program Finalists who have a genuine interest in working in their school systems, and hire those who they determine to be a good fit for their systems. Please carefully consider which LEAs you would be open to working in if you are offered a position. Keep in mind that some LEAs may not have openings in your licensure area, so the more LEAs you are willing to apply to the better your chances of being hired.

Please list below the NC INSPIRE partnering LEAs you would **definitely** like to work in if offered a teaching position. Partnering LEAs are listed on page two of this document. To learn about each LEA, visit the NC INSPIRE website for links to each of their websites.

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

Please list below any NC INSPIRE partnering LEAs that you might also **consider** working in if offered a position.

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
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________________________________________________________________________
NC INSPIRE Fellows Program - Partnering and Eligible School Districts

Partnering LEAs

- Alamance-Burlington
- Bladen County Schools
- Buncombe County Schools
- Caldwell County Schools
- Cleveland County Schools
- Durham Public Schools
- Franklin County Schools
- Gates County Schools
- Halifax County Schools
- Harnett County Schools
- Hickory Public Schools
- Hoke County Schools
- Jackson County Schools
- Johnston County Schools
- McDowell County Schools
- Montgomery County Schools
- Person County School
- Pitt County Schools
- Polk County Schools
- Roanoke Rapids City Schools
- Rockingham County Schools
- Rowan-Salisbury Schools
- Rutherford County Schools
- Swain County Schools
- Thomasville City Schools
- Transylvania County Schools
- Warren County Schools