

The North Carolina Parenting Education Network (NCPEN) first introduced the NC Parenting Educators Credential nearly a decade ago. Since then, NCPEN has awarded credentials to hundreds of parent educators in NC and other states. Recently NCPEN heard from parent educators in the state who felt it was time to review the credential and revise and update it. After much research and many discussions with parent educators (those credentialed by NCPEN and other who are not), graduate students, and colleagues in related fields, NCPEN is proud to propose the following revisions to the NC credential for parenting educators.

Please note that the revisions 1.) maintain use of the National Extension Parent Educators Framework (NEPEF), 2.) borrow terminology from NC MH/SS/DD system, 3.) include a credential designation for those offering peer support, which recognizes lived experience, 4.) include a draft of NC Parent Educator ethics guidelines, 5.) propose recognizing areas of specialization, 6.) include a revised continuing education form, which recognizes multiple activities that can count towards increased continuing education requirements.

<b>NEPEF AREAS</b>	<b>Knowledge (Education/Training)</b>	<b>Date/Duration</b>	<b>Experience</b>	<b>Date/Duration</b>
<p><a href="http://cvfernet.org/ncsu_fcs/NEPEF/index.htm">http://cvfernet.org/ncsu_fcs/NEPEF/index.htm</a></p> <p>The National Extension Parenting Educators Framework outlines 12 areas that professional family life/parenting educators should have knowledge and skills: <b>Content Areas (WHAT):</b> Care for Self, Understand, Guide, Nurture, Motivate, and <b>Process Areas (HOW TO):</b> Advocate; Grow, Frame, Develop, Embrace, Educate, and Build.</p>	<p><b>Education:</b> educational activities where credit is earned for course/program completion. Examples include: earning a high school diploma or GED, college degrees, undergraduate coursework (completed), graduate coursework (completed).</p> <p><b>Training:</b> non-credit, non-degree educational activities. Examples include: earning CEUs attending a professional conference with breakout sessions, in-house staff professional development, etc.</p>		<p><b>Experience:</b> independent or collaborative efforts to assess, design, implement, or evaluate outreach to parents or families. Includes consulting, direct instruction, coaching, writing/publishing, curriculum development, etc. Also can include personal experiences, and mentor/supervisory relationships with a skilled professional working in the field.</p>	

<b>Grow:</b> includes engaging in activities that help you gain knowledge and skills related to working with families, gain greater insight into yourself as an individual and a professional; provides a framework for personal development; includes activities where you interact with and/or are mentored by other professionals in the field				
Frame				
Develop				
Educate				
Embrace				
Build				
Care for Self				
Understand				
Guide				
Nurture				
Motivate				
Advocate				

NEPEF can be used in many ways. Some people use it to frame parenting programs. Others use it as a professional development guide. While all parent educators can use NEPEF to guide their work, the twelve (12) competency areas can also be used to identify personal and professional strengths and areas where growth is needed. NCPEN suggests that **Qualified Professional Parent Educators** have some training/experiences in **10+** of the NEPEF areas. **Associate Professional Parent Educators** should have formal training/professional experience in **8+ areas**. **Para-professional Parent Educators** should have formal training/professional experience in **6+** areas. **Peer Parent Educators** should have formal training/professional experience in **4+** areas. Once you have completed your application for NCPEN credential, use the chart below when selecting professional development opportunities/activities that will help you gain greater competence as a parent educator.

<b>Qualified Professional Parent Educator</b>	<b>Associate Professional Parent Educator</b>	<b>Para-professional Parent Educator</b>	<b>***Peer Parent Educator-Novice</b>	<b>***Peer Parent Educator-Intermediate</b>	<b>***Peer Parent Educator-Master</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ph.D. or masters degree in a *related field</li> <li>• Minimum of one (1) year experience working with families</li> <li>• Documentation of education and experience in NEPEF areas</li> <li>• Contact information for 3 peer/professional references who can support your application.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>OR</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Baccalaureate degree or higher in an related field*</li> <li>• Completion of North Carolina Family Support Credential Training Program, NCFR's Certified Family Life Educator Credential (CFLE), a graduate certificate in parenting education, or other approved related certificate program</li> <li>• Minimum of two (2) years experience working with</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bachelor degree or higher in *related field</li> <li>• Minimum of two (2) years experience working with families</li> <li>• Documentation and education and experience in NEPEF areas</li> <li>• Contact information for three (3) peer/professional references that can support your application.</li> <li>• Reference from supervisor about your experience working with families.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>OR</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bachelor degree or higher in an unrelated field</li> <li>• Associates degree, certificate, minor, graduate certificate, concentration or at least 9 hours of graduate coursework, or 100 clock hours of parenting education training.</li> <li>• Minimum of three (3) years working</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High school diploma or GED</li> <li>• Minimum of two (2) years experience with families and parents</li> <li>• 20 clock hours of parent education training.</li> <li>• Documentation of education/training and experience in NEPEF areas</li> <li>• Contact information for 3 (three) peer/professional references who can support your application</li> <li>• Reference from supervisor about your experience working with families.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• &gt;5 years lived experience. A minimum of 20 contact hours of parent education training. Less than two (2) years experience working with families as a program assistant or volunteer.</li> <li>• Documentation of education/training and experience in NEPEF areas</li> <li>• Contact information for three (3) peer/professional references who can support your application</li> <li>• Reference from supervisor about your experience working with families.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5-10 years lived experience. A minimum of 40 contact hours of parent education training. Two (2) or more years experience working with families as a program assistant or volunteer.</li> <li>• Documentation of education/training and experience in NEPEF areas</li> <li>• Contact information for three (3) peer/professional references who can support your application</li> <li>• Reference from supervisor about your experience working with families.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10+ years lived experience. A minimum of 80 contact hours of parent education training. Five (5) or more years experience working with families as a program assistant or volunteer.</li> <li>• Documentation of education/training and experience in NEPEF areas</li> <li>• Contact information for three (3) peer/professional references who can support your application</li> <li>• Reference from supervisor about your experience working with families.</li> </ul>

<p>families</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Documentation of education/training and experience in NEPEF areas</li> <li>• Contact information for 3 peer/professional references that can support your application.</li> </ul>	<p>with families</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Documentation of formal education or training directly related to parent education.</li> <li>• Documentation of education and experience in NEPEF areas</li> <li>• Contact information for three (3) peer/professional references who can support your application.</li> <li>• Reference from supervisor about your experience working with families.</li> </ul>				
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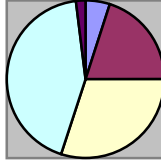
\*Related field: human development, child and family studies, psychology, sociology, etc.

\*\*Targeted coursework: practices in designing, marketing, and evaluating parenting education and parent involvement programs including attention to human development (typical and atypical), family types, parenting styles, parenting stages, family culture, family systems, family dynamics, community systems, and services for parents

\*\*\*A **Peer Parent Educator** may be a **Family Partner**, which is a youth or adult who has received services or who is a caregiver/parent of someone who has received services and therefore has firsthand experience within the system.

## Levels of Family Involvement

Based on Doherty, W. J. Boundaries between parent and family education and family therapy. Family Relations, 44, 353-358 (1995)



- Level I: Minimal Emphasis on Family
- Level II: Information and Advice
- Level III: Feelings and Support
- Level IV: Brief Focused Intervention
- Level V: Family Therapy

The following statements help to define professional guidelines (standards) for how parent educators should relate in general and specific terms to families, other professionals, and themselves to ensure their work with families is ethically appropriate:

### In General:

Parenting education aims to enhance the competence of parents, couples, or other family members in their parenting or co-parenting roles.

Parent educators focus on parents' strengths and assist them in realizing their personal and family goals.

Parent educators' outreach efforts are based in good educational practices and on individual family goals.

Parent educators know and honor boundaries of professional practice when working with families. They possess the necessary qualifications (competence, education, and training) to work with families.

### Relating to Families:

Parent educators promote the welfare of the families they serve. They seek ALWAYS to do no harm.

Parent educators seek to establish caring and respectful relationships with individuals and families, and are ever mindful of the balance of power within relationships.

Parent educators respect the privacy of individuals and families and maintain in confidence information about the families they serve. **\*Note: Parent educators are mandated reporters. Disclosure of information or evidence pertaining to allegations of neglect or abuse, and disclosure of suicidal ideation are exceptions to the confidentiality requirements.**

Parent educators recognize diversity among families and respect families' ideas, values, and traditions.

### Relating to Self

Parent Educators take care of personal needs so that they don't interfere or compromise their professional effectiveness when working with families.

Parent educators distinguish between personal and professional values in professional interactions.

Parent Educators commit to grow professionally.

### Relating to Others

Parent educators promote high quality parenting education that is widely accessible.

Parent educators advocate for the advancement of the field.

Parent educators establish and maintain professional relationships with colleagues.

Parent educators are knowledgeable about resources to assist families.

Parent educators make referrals when necessary and appropriate.

\*Doherty's five (5) Levels of Family Involvement, from minimal involvement to therapy, are adapted for parent and family life educators. The levels can be used to help parent educators define and adhere to professional boundaries when working with parents and other family members who are dealing with children.

NC MH/DD/SAS system equivalency:

Qualified Professional:	<b>Qualified Professional Parent Educator</b>
Associate Professional:	<b>Associate Professional Parent Educator</b>
Paraprofessional:	<b>Para-professional Parent Educator</b>
Peer Support Specialist:	<b>Peer Parent Educator</b>

Specialization areas: additional \$10 fee

PEs can apply to have an area of specialization recognized. Documentation of completion of an associate's degree, graduate certificate program, graduate degree concentration, or other family related program of study is needed to qualify for a specialization certificate. Specialization certificates are proposed in the following areas. More may be added in the future.

- Family Life Coaching
- Family Literacy
- Family Resource Management
- Family, Media & Technology
- Financial Literacy
- Parent Advocacy
- Gerontology/Grandparenting
- Pre- and Postnatal Parenting
- Early Childhood Parenting
- Middle Childhood Parenting
- Adolescent Parenting
- Family Health (Health Care, Nutrition, & Safety)
- Parenting Program Development & Evaluation
- Foster Family Training & Support
- Incarcerated Parent Training & Support
- Family & School/Community Connections
- Diversity & Family Life
- Fatherhood
- Parent Education in Higher Education
- Parent Education among Youth and Teens

## NC Parent Educators Credential Re-Certification Documentation Form

NC Parent Educators credentials are good for three (3) years from the date the initial credential was awarded. To apply for re-certification at the same level, parent educators must complete the form below AND submit supporting documentation (copy of certificate, program or detailed marketing material, syllabus, letter from sponsor, etc.) for each activity included.

Please remit with renewal payment (\$25) with a check completed to NCPEN. Mail completed continuing education documentation form and copies of supporting documents to: NC Parent Educators Credentialing Committee Chair, Stephanie Jones, 110 SW 21<sup>st</sup> St., Oak Island, NC 28465.

Applications deadlines are November 15, March 15 and June 15. Applications are reviewed in December, April and July.

Re-certification requirements are listed below:

**Qualified Professional Parent Educator:** 250 clock hours (A minimum of 75 hours is required in “*Attend.*”)

**Associate Professional Parent Educator:** 175 clock hours (A minimum of 52.5 required in “*Attend.*”)

**Para-professional Parent Educator:** 100 clock hours (A minimum of 30 clock hours is required in “*Attend.*”)

**Peer Parent Educator:**

*Master*-75 clock hours (A minimum of 22.5 clock hours is required in “*Attend.*”)

*Intermediate*-50 clock hours (A minimum of 15 clock hours is required in “*Attend.*”)

*Novice*-25 clock hours (A minimum of 7.5 clock hours is required in “*Attend.*”)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Current Credential \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Date	Title of Continuing Education/ Professional Development Activity	Brief Description of Continuing Education/Professional Development Activity	Sponsor	Credit or Non-Credit	A: Attend C: Consult E: Evaluate P: Publish T: Teach W: Write	Clock Hours
<b>TOTAL CLOCK HOURS</b>						HRS