16 NCAC 06C .0369 is proposed for adoption as follows:

**16 NCAC 06C .0369 REQUIREMENTS FOR AN EDUCATOR TO BE GRANTED MASTER’S DEGREE LEVEL PAY**

(a) The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) may authorize salary on the master’s degree level salary schedule for professional educators who hold master’s degrees or advanced degrees that do not lead to a professional educator license if the following criteria are met:

1. The master’s or higher-level degree is from a regionally accredited Educator Preparation Program (EPP);
2. The master’s or higher-level degree is in an education or subject area directly related to an existing area of licensure and current teaching assignment or instructional support responsibilities; and
3. The educator’s assignment for 50% or more of the school day is in the area for which the master’s or higher-level degree applies.

(b) Teachers and student services personnel who complete a degree at the master's, six-year, or doctoral degree level must have:

1. Completed at least one course toward that degree prior to August 1, 2013; or
2. Qualified for the salary supplement on or before June 30, 2013.

(c) The recognized regional accreditation bodies include the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, and the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

_History Note:_ Authority G.S. 115C-12; 115C-268.1; 115C-268.5; 115C-270.5; 115C-302.1; 
Interim Rule status conferred Eff. June 27, 2018, pursuant to S.L. 2018-114, sec. 27.(b); 