

The School Maintenance Electrician Certification is specifically for school employees to perform electrical work in a public school system. The certification is not intended to be a step in the process to obtain an electrical contracting license from the NC Board of Examiners of Electrical Contractors; although obtaining a certificate by examination is relatively similar to that of the electrical contracting license.

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 87-43 requires that no person shall engage in the business of installing, maintaining, altering or repairing any electric work, wiring, devices, appliances or equipment within the State of North Carolina without having first received an appropriate license from the NC Board of Examiners of Electrical Contractors. However, N.C. Gen. Stat. § 87-43.1(6) exempts the aforementioned licensure requirements for State institutions and private educational institutions which maintain a private electrical department. This exemption in the licensure board statutes is appropriate because N.C. Gen. Stat. § 115C-525(a)(2) requires that all electrical work within a public school be performed by a licensed electrical contractor, or by a maintenance electrician regularly employed by the board of education and approved by the Commissioner of Insurance.

Thus, electrical work in a public school can either be contracted to a person that holds an appropriate license from the NC Board of Examiners of Electrical Contractors, or be performed by a person that holds a School Maintenance Electrician Certification; however, a person cannot be an employee and a contractor simultaneously. Therefore, during working hours an employee of a school system that holds an appropriate license from the NC Board of Examiners of Electrical Contractors and is performing electrical work within the school system must also have obtained a School Maintenance Electrician Certification because that person is not contracting.

There are three ways to obtain a School Maintenance Electrician Certification:

1. pass either a Limited, Intermediate, or Unlimited examination given by the NC Board of Examiners of Electrical Contractors;
2. obtained a Journeyman Certification from a duly authorized Journeyman Electrical Examining Board in NC; or
3. through examination from the NC Department of Insurance after proving 2 years of experience.