

OFFICE OF CHIEF ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICER
Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Items
Consent Agenda
February 17, 2022

DIVISION OF EDUCATOR PREPARATION
DIVISION OF EDUCATOR LICENSURE

- H. Approval to revise Miss. Admin. Code 7-4: *Licensure Guidelines K-12* to modify the existing Master of Arts in Teaching Elementary Education (4-6) Mississippi State Board of Education approved Alternate Route Program to include an Elementary Education (K-6) option (Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process with public comments)

Background Information: On November 5, 2021, the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification, and Licensure and Development (Licensure Commission) granted approval to modify the existing Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) Elementary Education (4-6) Mississippi State Board of Education (SBE) approved alternate route program for the purpose of offering an Elementary Education (K-6) option. The prescribed coursework for obtaining an Elementary Education (K-6) license by way of the MAT licensure pathway shall include a minimum of 33 hours consisting of the following:

- Pre-teaching coursework (nine hours);
- Internship (six hours);
- K-12 Reading supplemental endorsement (12 hours): Early Literacy I, Early Literacy II, Integrating Reading and Writing Across the Curriculum, and Diagnosing and Assessing Reading Difficulties;
- Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) methods (three hours); and
- Research course (three hours).

The new MAT for Elementary Education alternate route licensure pathway shall lead to Class AA (Master's degree level) licensure for grades K-6. Candidates completing only the pre-teaching courses (nine hours) and Internship (six hours) will earn Class A (Bachelor's degree level) licensure grades 4-6 only.

The public comment period was open through 5:00 p.m. January 28, 2022. Two public comments received. There are no recommended changes to the *Licensure Guidelines K-12* in response to the public comments.

Recommendation: Approval

Back-up material attached

The Office of Teaching and Leading received the following APA comment(s) regarding revisions to Miss. Admin. Code 7-4: Licensure Guidelines K-12 for Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) K-6.

Summary of Comment	MDE Response
<p>Dr. David Rock, University of Mississippi</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please consider at least requiring 3 credits of Mathematics Methods rather than a compilation of STEM methods. <p>Dr. Donna Shea, Mississippi State University</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the EPP be allowed to recommend the candidate for the 3yr and the standard license for both 4-6 as well as whatever endorsement area in which the candidate has 18 hours? • Foundations of Reading Assessment should be a requirement to obtain the Three-Year Alternate Route and not an admission requirement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The MDE will allow EPPs the option of including a STEM or Math Methods course. • Policy will allow the EPP to recommend endorsements at the time the initial recommendation is made. Additional guidance will be provided to EPPs on the process. • A passing score on the Foundations of Reading Assessment is required prior to the issuance of a (3) year license. It is not required for program entry

Dr. Murphy,

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the **Proposed Changes to Miss. Admin. Code 7-4: Licensure Guidelines K-12**. Miss. Admin. Code 7-4: Licensure Guidelines K-12 to modify the existing Master of Arts in Teaching Elementary Education (4-6) Mississippi State Board of Education approved Alternate Route Program to include an Elementary Education (K-6) option.

The draft includes:

To earn the Elementary Education (K-6) Class AA license, candidates must complete a Mississippi Board of Education approved Master of Arts in Teaching degree program. The Master of Arts in Teaching Elementary Education (K-6) licensure requirements shall include at a minimum 33 coursework credit hours consisting of twelve (12) hours of Literacy, three (3) hours of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) methods, three (3) hours of Classroom Management, three (3) hours of an Introduction to Special Education, three (3) hours of Data, Analysis, and Evaluation, six (6) hours of internship, and three (3) hours of Research related to the teaching reading.

I am very concerned that the suggested minimum requirements only include a minimum of 3 credits of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). I agree literacy is extremely important. We are requiring the equivalent number of credit hours for an Alternate Route License with respect to Literacy as our traditional program. But as written, the candidate will not be assured to receive 3 full credits of how to teach mathematics. This is not serving in the best interest of K-6 children and K-6 teachers. Only a portion of a STEM methods class will be focused on mathematics. I believe this is a huge mistake. Math is critical. Please consider at least requiring 3 credits of Mathematics Methods rather than a compilation of STEM methods. Many people fear mathematics. We need to give our teachers the tools to be confident and successful.

DR

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Dr. Murphy,

Concerning: Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise Miss. Admin. Code 7-4: Licensure Guidelines K-12 to modify the existing Master of Arts in Teaching Elementary Education (4-6) Mississippi State Board of Education approved Alternate Route Program to include an Elementary Education (K-6) option

Page 4: Upon successful completion of the one-year teaching internship as the teacher of record, the EPP may recommend candidates for a standard five-year Elementary Education (4-6) Class A license.

The proposed guidance (also on page 4) states that “Candidates for licensure shall hold at least a bachelor’s degree in an academic area with at least one (1) eighteen (18) hour concentration area of undergraduate and/or graduate level coursework with a grade of “C” or higher.” Would not the EPP recommend the candidate for the 3yr **and** the standard license for **both 4-6** as well as whatever endorsement **area in which the candidate has 18 hours?**

Page 5: **Specific restrictions apply:**

- ♣ The Educator Preparation Provider (EPP) shall only recommend the candidate for one licensure endorsement area for the three-year alternate route license unless the candidate has completed an approved supplemental endorsement area program that requires submission of a recommendation by the MBE approved EPP.
- ♣ Additional endorsements that may be added to the three-year alternate route license by way of the acceptable coursework credit hours option or obtaining a qualifying passing score on an MBE approved licensure subject assessment, shall be requested by the candidate only.

When putting in the recommendation for the 3yr license, we have historically recommended candidates for their initial area (and marked such as their initial area within notes in ELMS) as well as any other areas of which candidates are eligible. This is done as a service to our students as well as to the districts that we serve. When we do this, our students are able to obtain endorsements in all eligible licensure areas at the time that the 3yr license is awarded. Oftentimes candidates need the areas of endorsements as soon as possible, because districts hire them to teach in multiple areas. If we are no longer allowed to do this, our students will have to wait until the 3yr license is awarded and then request the additional areas of endorsement with a longer period of waiting for those to be issued. It seems that this would be extra work for analysts to go back a second time when this could be taken care of at the initial awarding of the 3yr license.

Page 6: Requirements include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. The candidate shall hold at least a bachelor’s degree (non-education) from an institution of higher education that was regionally/nationally accredited at the time the degree was conferred; and
2. The candidate shall submit official score report(s) from the appropriate testing company documenting qualifying admittance scores on required non-traditional educator preparation program admission tests such as: Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators*, or minimum score of Twenty-one (21) ACT or SAT equivalent, or verification of 3.0 overall GPA on a baccalaureate transcript or last 60 hours course credit; and licensure tests such as: Praxis Subject Assessment(s)** in the area in which the educator license is sought, and Foundations of Reading Assessment (if applicable to area of certification sought) ***.

*Candidates shall achieve the Mississippi Board of Education’s approved minimum passing score requirement for Reading, Writing, and Mathematics prior to non-traditional program admission.

**Candidates shall achieve the Mississippi Board of Education’s approved minimum passing score requirement for test(s) in the area for which the educator license is sought prior to non-traditional program admission.

***Candidates shall achieve the Mississippi Board of Education’s approved minimum passing score requirement for Foundations of Reading assessment prior to being recommended for the three-year Elementary Education (4- 6) certification.

For Elementary Education (4-6) candidates: Foundations of Reading Assessment should be a requirement to obtain the Three Year Alternate Route and **not an admission requirement**. EPPs need time to work with candidates around literacy in preparing them for the FoR exam **after** they are admitted. Since FoR is also mentioned in #2 above in reference to admission requirements, it is unclear as to whether FoR will be required for admission or at the point of obtaining the 3yr nonrenewable license.

Thank you,

Donna

Donna Shea, Ph.D.

Director

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**~~THREE-YEAR ALTERNATE ROUTE LICENSE
MASTER OF ARTS IN TEACHING
117 ELEMENTARY EDUCATION (4-6 GRADES)~~**

~~All educators completing an approved program for elementary education must achieve a passing score of 233 on the Foundations of Reading assessment to obtain an endorsement in elementary education.~~

License	Requirements	Validity	To Convert to a Five-Year Alternate Route Educator License
Class A	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hold a bachelor's degree (non-education) from a regionally/ nationally accredited institution of higher learning 2. Twenty-one (21) ACT (or SAT equivalent) or achieve a qualifying passing score on the Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators examination as established by the State Board of Education 3. Praxis Subject Assessment 4. Foundations of Reading Assessment 5. Apply for entrance into MAT Program (See Appendix H for information) 6. Complete 6 hours of pre-teaching courses in an approved MAT Program 7. * Secure Verification of Program Completion 8. Apply for a Three-Year Educator License—Alternate Route 	3 years	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Secure a teaching position. 2. Complete 6 additional hours of coursework to include supervised internship 3. Secure Verification of Program Completion 4. Apply for a Five-Year Alternate Route License

~~***This license requires an online recommendation from the alternate route program. Once the online recommendation is made, the educator should apply for the license online.**~~

APPENDIX H
ALTERNATE ROUTE TEACHER LICENSURE PROGRAMS
Master of Arts in Teaching

Subject Areas of Licensure & Praxis II Specialty Area Test Codes	Art-5134, Biology-5235, Business-5101, Chemistry-5245, Chinese- 5665, ***Computer Science-5652, Economics-0911, English-5038, French-5174, German-5183, Health- 5551, Home Economics-5122, Latin-5601, Library Media-5311, Music-5113, Marketing-5561, Math-5161, Physics-5265, Physical Education-5091, Social Studies-5081, Spanish-5195, **Special Education-5354, Speech Communications-5221, *Elementary Education (4-6)-5018
Program Entrance Requirements	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bachelor’s degree from a regionally/nationally accredited institution of higher learning Twenty-one (21) ACT (or SAT equivalent) or achieve a qualifying passing score on the Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators examination as established by the State Board of Education; and 2. Praxis II (Specialty Area Test); and 3. *Foundations of Reading Assessment (applicable to Elementary Education (4-6) only: http://www.ms.nesinc.com/)
Requirements for Three Year Alternate Route License	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Complete six (6) hours pre-teaching course requirements from an approved Master of Arts in Teaching program 2. Program Completion Verification <p><i>MAT Program offers a three-year alternate route license.</i></p>
Location and Contact Information	<p>Alcorn State University Belhaven College Delta State University Jackson State University Mississippi College Mississippi Valley State University University of Mississippi (Grades 4-6 not offered) William Carey University Mississippi State University University of Southern Mississippi (Grades 4-6 not offered) Mississippi University for Women (Grades 4-6 not offered) Tougaloo College</p> <p><i>**William Carey University and Mississippi State University are the only locations approved to offer Special Education.</i></p> <p><i>***Mississippi State University is the only location approved to offer Computer Science.</i></p> <p><i>For contact information see Appendix F</i></p>
Requirements for Five Year Alternate Route License	Complete six (6) semester hours including the internship prescribed by the participating institution
Fees	Colleges charge normal fees for 12 semester hours
NOTE: Contact the institution offering the program for enrollment information, application deadlines, fees, starting dates, etc.	

Mississippi Department of Education
Three-Year Alternate Route License
Elementary Education (4-6) Certification Class A License
Master of Arts in Teaching Elementary Education (K-6) Class AA License

Prospective non-traditional educator preparation program candidates seeking licensure may be eligible to receive a three-year alternate route internship license upon the recommendation by a Mississippi Board of Education approved Educator Preparation Provider (EPP) for those candidates who have met all non-traditional program admittance criteria and successfully completed nine (9) hours of pre-teaching coursework consisting of three (3) hours of Classroom Management, three (3) hours of Introduction to Special Education, and three (3) hours of Data, Analysis, and Evaluation. During the three-year validity of the alternate route internship licensure period, candidates shall complete a year-long supervised teaching internship as the teacher of record whereby six (6) hours of course credit shall be earned. Upon successful completion of the one-year teaching internship as the teacher of record, the EPP may recommend candidates for a standard five-year Elementary Education (4-6) Class A license.

To earn the Elementary Education (K-6) Class AA license, candidates must complete a Mississippi Board of Education approved Master of Arts in Teaching degree program. The Master of Arts in Teaching Elementary Education (K-6) licensure requirements shall include at a minimum 33 coursework credit hours consisting of twelve (12) hours of Literacy, three (3) hours of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) methods, three (3) hours of Classroom Management, three (3) hours of an Introduction to Special Education, three (3) hours of Data, Analysis, and Evaluation, six (6) hours of internship, and three (3) hours of Research related to the teaching reading.

The three-year alternate route internship license is issued to prospective non-traditional teacher preparation program candidates who meet admission criteria and pre-teaching coursework requirements outlined in the subsequent section and other preconditions in effect at the time the complete application for licensure is received by the MDE Division of Educator Licensure:

- Candidates for licensure shall hold at least a bachelor's degree in an academic area with at least one (1) eighteen (18) hour concentration area of undergraduate and/or graduate level coursework with a grade of "C" or higher. Both the degree(s) and the one (1) eighteen (18) hour concentration area of undergraduate and/or graduate level coursework must have been earned from an institution of higher education that was regionally/nationally accredited at the time the degree was conferred. Remedial courses, also referred to as compensatory, developmental, or basic skills, will not be recognized for certification purposes and are usually numbered below 100 on the transcript.
- Candidates shall meet all requirements for the Class A five-year standard alternate route license prior to the expiration of the three-year alternate route internship license.

The following shall be applied as appropriate:

- (1) The three-year alternate route internship license shall be invalidated upon the issuance of the five-year standard renewable license
- (2) The three-year alternate route internship license shall be rescinded if the candidate withdraws or is removed from, or transfers to a different MBE approved non-traditional educator preparation program or Educator Preparation Provider (EPP). It is the responsibility of the EPP that made the initial recommendation for the three-year internship license to notify the MDE Division of Educator Licensure in writing by way of official letter, under the signature of the Dean of Education or Education Department Chairperson, regarding any changes in the program enrollment status for a candidate that holds an active three-year alternate route internship license issued at the recommendation of that EPP.
- (3) A candidate previously unconditionally admitted to an MBE approved non-traditional educator preparation program that withdrew or was removed from or transferred to a different MBE approved non-traditional educator preparation program or Educator Preparation Provider (EPP) and is re-admitted to the non-traditional educator preparation program may be recommended by the admitting MBE approved EPP for one of the following, as appropriate:
 - i. A second and final three-year alternate route internship license if the candidate transfers to a different MBE approved non-traditional educator preparation program or Educator Preparation Provider (EPP). The candidate shall meet all requirements in effect on the date the complete application for re-admittance is received by the MBE approved EPP. The three-year validity period will begin upon unconditional re-admission and the issuance of the second and final three-year alternate route internship license.

OR

- ii. A one-time one-year extension of the current or expired three-year alternate route internship license upon the request of the MBE approved Educator Preparation Provider (EPP) that made the initial recommendation. Under these circumstances the one time one-year extension will only be issued if the candidate meets all requirements in effect on the date the complete application for re-admittance is received by the MBE approved EPP and the individual has secured a teaching position for the purpose of completing the internship criterion. The one-year validity period will begin upon unconditional re-admission and the issuance of the one-time one-year extension of the three-year alternate route internship license.

NOTE: A candidate that was removed from a program shall not be deemed eligible to receive the one-year one-time extension nor the second and final three-year alternate route internship license until justification for removal from the program is approved by the MDE Division of Educator Licensure.

Specific restrictions apply:

- The Educator Preparation Provider (EPP) shall only recommend the candidate for one licensure endorsement area for the three-year alternate route license unless the candidate has completed an approved supplemental endorsement area program that requires submission of a recommendation by the MBE approved EPP.
- Additional endorsements that may be added to the three-year alternate route license by way of the acceptable coursework credit hours option or obtaining a qualifying passing score on an MBE approved licensure subject assessment, shall be requested by the candidate only.

NOTE: Non-traditional educator preparation program providers shall ensure that candidates have met all requirements in effect at the time the application for admission to a Mississippi Board of Education approved non-traditional educator preparation program is received.

Requirements include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. The candidate shall hold at least a bachelor's degree (non-education) from an institution of higher education that was regionally/nationally accredited at the time the degree was conferred; and
2. The candidate shall submit official score report(s) from the appropriate testing company documenting qualifying admittance scores on required non-traditional educator preparation program admission tests such as: Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators*, or minimum score of Twenty-one (21) ACT or SAT equivalent, or verification of 3.0 overall GPA on a baccalaureate transcript or last 60 hours course credit; and licensure tests such as: Praxis Subject Assessment(s)** in the area in which the educator license is sought, and Foundations of Reading Assessment (if applicable to area of certification sought) ***.

*Candidates shall achieve the Mississippi Board of Education's approved minimum passing score requirement for Reading, Writing, and Mathematics prior to non-traditional program admission.

**Candidates shall achieve the Mississippi Board of Education's approved minimum passing score requirement for test(s) in the area for which the educator license is sought prior to non-traditional program admission.

***Candidates shall achieve the Mississippi Board of Education's approved minimum passing score requirement for Foundations of Reading assessment prior to being recommended for the three-year Elementary Education (4-6) certification.

Meeting testing requirements is one criterion for completing the multi-step educator licensure process for obtaining a five (5) year renewable license in the state of Mississippi.

Please visit the Educator Licensure Section of the MDE website to obtain the most accurate and up-to-date information at www.mde.k12.ms.us/k12.org/OEL