

MEMORANDUM

To: Local Superintendents of Education, Officials of Eligible Non-public Schools,
and All Other Education Stakeholders

From: Dr. Cory M. Murphy, Executive Director
Office of Teaching and Leading

Date: Tuesday, March 30, 2021

Subject: Licensure – Track Preparation Programs Completed Outside of Mississippi – Policy
Implementation Clarification

On January 21, 2021, at its regular meeting, the Mississippi State Board of Education (SBE) granted approval, as a necessary protection, to require that all Mississippi's prospective and practicing educators, administrators, and supplemental service providers seeking to obtain initial licensure in the state of Mississippi by way of completion of a licensure-track program outside of Mississippi, shall first be licensed in the state where the preparation occurred. Upon obtaining the out-of-state license, the candidate shall submit an application with required supporting documentation to the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) Division of Educator Licensure for the purpose of determining eligibility to obtain a Mississippi license via Reciprocity guidelines in effect on the date the complete application is received by the MDE.

This new policy is effective as of February 22, 2021 and shall be implemented in accordance with the subsequent implementation process. Applicants for licensure will fall into one (1) of the three (3) categories and are subject to the process that most closely describes their situation at the time the policy became effective, February 22, 2021. Implementation criteria are as follows as approved by the SBE on Thursday, March 11, 2021:

- Those prospective and practicing educators, administrators, and supplemental service providers that were unconditionally admitted to and actively enrolled in a licensure-track educator, administrator, or supplemental service provider preparation program outside of Mississippi on or before February 22, 2021, shall have until June 30, 2023 to submit a complete application with all supporting documentation to the MDE Division of Educator Licensure in order to be considered for initial licensure by way of completion of a preparation program outside of the state of Mississippi. Effective July 1, 2023 and thereafter, the applicant shall adhere to all guidelines in effect on the date the complete application is received by the MDE. This is to serve as a good faith effort to allow as many candidates as possible, a window of time for program completion and licensure application submission to potentially obtain a Mississippi license prior to being subject to the newly established policy.

- Effective February 22, 2021, all other prospective and practicing educators, administrators, and supplemental service providers that were not unconditionally admitted to and actively enrolled in a licensure-track educator, administrator, or supplemental service provider preparation program outside of Mississippi on or before February 22, 2021, shall first be licensed in the state where the preparation occurred in order to be considered for initial licensure in the state of Mississippi by way of completion of a program outside of Mississippi. Upon obtaining the out-of-state license, the candidate shall submit a complete application with required supporting documentation to the MDE Division of Educator Licensure for the purpose of determining eligibility to obtain a Mississippi license via Reciprocity guidelines in effect on the date the complete application is received by the MDE.
- Note of Clarification: Those prospective and practicing educators, administrators, and supplemental service providers that completed a licensure-track educator, administrator, or supplemental service provider preparation program outside of Mississippi before February 22, 2021, shall have until December 31, 2021 to submit a complete application with all supporting documentation to the MDE Division of Educator Licensure in order to be considered for initial licensure by way of completion of a preparation program outside of the state of Mississippi. Effective January 1, 2022 and thereafter, the applicant shall adhere to all guidelines in effect on the date the complete application is received by the MDE.

Please assist us with disseminating and orally communicating the contents of this memorandum to all prospective and practicing educators. Please do not hesitate to contact a member of the Educator Licensure team for assistance via email at teachersupport@mdek12.org or telephone at (601) 359-3483. We value and appreciate the opportunity to serve you.

c: Dr. Paula A. Vanderford