

OFFICE OF CHIEF ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICER
Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Item
Consent Agenda
July 21, 2022

DIVISION OF EDUCATOR LICENSURE

- S. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise Miss. Admin. Code 7 – 4: Part 4: *Licensure Guidelines K-12* to include requirements for the issuance of the Special License, Expert Citizen – Teacher License as set forth in House Bill 1388 of the 2022 legislative session; establish criteria for renewal of this Special License and Class Level at which license shall be issued

Background Information: House Bill 1388 of the 2022 legislative session, as now codified in Miss. Code Ann. § 37-3-2, sets forth core requirements for the issuance of the Special License, Expert Citizen – Teacher License to be granted in Career and Technical Education licensure areas only, based on a valid industry-recognized certification related to the subject area in which the individual will teach. House Bill 1388 further directs the Mississippi Department of Education to grant such license based on rules and regulations established by the State Board of Education.

The law establishes the following criteria:

- Special License, Expert Citizen – Teacher License to be issued with a five-year validity instead of one-year validity period
- High school diploma (prospective educator shall not be required to hold an associate or bachelor's degree, provided that he or she possesses the minimum qualifications required for his or her profession)
- Industry-recognized certification related to the subject area in which they are teaching (*If a school board hires a career technical education pathway instructor who does not have an industry certification in his or her area of expertise but does have the required experience, the school board shall spread their decision on the minutes at their next meeting and provide a detailed explanation for why they hired the instructor.*)
- Minimum of five (5) years of relevant experience

While the above core requirements are outlined in HB 1388, criteria for license renewal and license Class Level were not addressed. Therefore, on July 8, 2022, the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and Development voted to grant approval to include the subsequent proposed rules and regulations for addressing the areas not established in law and those criteria are now being presented to the State Board of Education for consideration for approval as follows:

- ***Class Level of License:*** The Class Level of this license is issued according to the applicant's highest level of educational attainment as evidenced and confirmed by the official academic transcript issued by a regionally/nationally accredited education institution.
Class A = Bachelor's level license (High School Diploma – Issued at Class Level A)
Class AA = Master's degree level license
Class AAA = Specialist degree level license
Class AAAA = Doctorate degree level license
- ***Validity:*** This license is valid for five-years and renewable in accordance with current Mississippi State Board of Education established Career and Technical Education teacher licensure renewal options.

Recommendation: Approval

Back-up material attached

**MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL LICENSE, EXPERT CITIZEN – TEACHER LICENSE**

The Special License, Expert Citizen – Teacher License is a five-year license that can only be requested by an employing local public school district or an eligible nonpublic school accredited or approved by the state of Mississippi in order to allow a school district to offer specialized or technical courses as outlined in Mississippi Code Ann. §37-3-2 (6)(c) and in accordance with rules and regulations established by the State Board of Education.

The Special License, Expert Citizen – Teacher License shall not be converted to any other license type issued by the Mississippi Department of Education. Should the Expert Citizen – Teacher License holder desires to obtain any other standard five (5) year license type, all current requirements of a Mississippi State Board of Education approved Traditional or Non-traditional teacher education preparation program must be met.

Requirements.

To qualify for the Special License, Expert Citizen – Teacher License an applicant shall meet the following:

1. Request initiated by a Mississippi-based local school district or nonpublic school accredited or approved by the state using the local district request application process
2. Completed licensure application
3. Verification of a minimum of five (5) years of relevant experience
4. Official academic transcript(s) verifying at least a high school diploma
5. Verification of valid Industry-recognized certification related to the subject area license is requested

OR

If candidate does not hold industry-recognized certification but does meet the required relevant experience criterion, the local school board shall document as part of their minutes, a detailed explanation for hiring an instructor that does not possess industry certification. The minutes shall be submitted as part of the completed licensure application packet.

Class Level of License: The Class Level of this license is issued according to the applicant’s highest level of educational attainment as evidenced and confirmed by the official academic transcript issued by a regionally/nationally accredited education institution.

Class A = Bachelor’s level license (High School Diploma – Issued at Class Level A)

Class AA = Master’s degree level license

Class AAA = Specialist degree level license

Class AAAA = Doctorate degree level license

Validity: This license is valid for five-years and renewable in accordance with current Mississippi State Board of Education established Career and Technical Education teacher licensure renewal options.

Specific restrictions apply:

- The license is not transferable between Districts or eligible nonpublic schools. For example, if a candidate is employed one (1) year and transfers to another school district, the license is no longer valid, unless a new Local District Request Application is received by the Division of Educator Licensure from the local district to which the candidate is transferring. The MDE Division of Educator Licensure must be notified via official correspondence, if the license holder should leave the original local public school district or eligible nonpublic school for any reason, in order that the current license be invalidated and to allow submission of a new application by another employing local public school district or an eligible nonpublic school.
- The license can only be requested in one (1) endorsement area.
- Additional endorsements will not be added to the Special, Expert Citizen-Teacher License.
- The license holder shall be bound by the MS Code of Ethics, Standards of Conduct.