

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

**DIVISION OF EDUCATOR LICENSURE**  
**DIVISION OF EDUCATOR TALENT ACQUISITION AND EFFECTIVENESS**

- T. Approval of a temporary rule and to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise Miss. Admin. Code 7 – 4: Part 4: *Licensure Guidelines K-12* to include a Resident Teacher License for resident teachers once unconditionally admitted to a State Board of Education-approved Mississippi Teacher Residency program as recommended by the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and Development

Background Information: On July 8, 2022, the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and Development granted approval to include a Resident Teacher License for resident teachers once unconditionally admitted to a State Board of Education-approved Mississippi Teacher Residency program as recommended by the Division of Educator Licensure and the Division of Educator Talent Acquisition and Effectiveness.

The Office of Teaching and Leading, Division of Educator Licensure in collaboration with the Division of Educator Talent Acquisition and Effectiveness, continues to review all guidelines pertaining to the issuance of an educator license to ensure that all requirements remain relevant to the contextual framework of present day and necessary, while ensuring consistency in what is required across all pathways to licensure, as appropriate. As a result of recent stakeholder feedback and review of requirements related to residency programming, the Division of Educator Talent Acquisition and Effectiveness is seeking approval to include a Resident Teacher License for resident teachers within the *Licensure Guidelines K-12*.

The Resident Teacher License will provide a statewide structure to organize procedures related to resident teachers once unconditionally admitted to a State Board of Education-approved Mississippi Teacher Residency program. Such procedures are designed to:

- I. Protect the health, safety, and general welfare of students and educators;
- II. Ensure resident teacher access to effective mentorship and extended clinical practice;
- III. Provide opportunities for resident teachers to demonstrate knowledge and skills;
- IV. Assist resident teachers in understanding the Mississippi Educator Code of Ethics, Standards of Conduct, and hold them accountable under the Code;

- V. Require a teaching commitment for those individuals receiving full tuition through federal, state, and/or local district funds;
- VI. Require attainment of the Resident Teacher License for anyone participating in residency programs in Mississippi schools; and
- VII. Standardize the criminal background check process across the state for resident teachers eliminating those who are not eligible or suited to serve in the profession.

The temporary rule and final action are necessary to implement the policy revisions immediately upon its filing with the Secretary of State in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 25-43-3.113(2)(b)(ii). See *also* Miss. Code Ann. § 25-43-3.108. For a rule to become effective immediately upon its filing, the Board is required to make a finding that the rule only confers a benefit or removes a restriction on the public or some segment thereof.

Recommendation: Approval

Back-up material attached

## **MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION RESIDENT TEACHER LICENSE**

The Resident Teacher License provides a statewide structure to organize procedures related to resident teachers once unconditionally admitted to a State Board of Education-approved Mississippi Teacher Residency program. Such procedures are designed to:

- (a) Protect the health, safety, and general welfare of students and educators;
- (b) Ensure resident teacher access to effective mentorship and extended clinical practice;
- (c) Provide opportunities for resident teachers to demonstrate knowledge and skills;
- (d) Assist resident teachers in understanding the Mississippi Educator Code of Ethics, Standards of Conduct, and hold them accountable under the Code;
- (e) Require a teaching commitment for those individuals receiving full tuition through federal, state, and/or local district funds;
- (f) Require attainment of the Resident Teacher License for anyone participating in residency programs in Mississippi schools; and
- (g) Standardize the criminal background check process across the state for resident teachers eliminating those who are not eligible or suited to the profession.

### **Requirements.**

To qualify for the Resident Teacher License:

(a) An applicant must be admitted to a State Board of Education-approved Mississippi Teacher Residency program through a rigorous process designed to positively impact student achievement, which meets the following requirements:

1. Twenty-one (21) ACT (or SAT equivalent), or a qualifying passing score on the Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators examination, or minimum GPA of 3.0 on a minimum of 60-hours of course credit as established by the State Board of Education;
2. Access to an effective mentor teacher, as evidenced by a summative Professional Growth System observation rating of 3.00 or higher via district assurance;
3. Opportunities for resident teachers to demonstrate effective teaching knowledge and skills in a local school district placement throughout a one (1) year minimum teacher residency in either a teaching position or a teaching assistant position (if an assigned mentor serves as the teacher of record) via district assurance;
4. Training on the Mississippi Educator Code of Ethics, Standards of Conduct and hold Resident Teachers accountable under the Code throughout local school district placement via district assurance;

5. Completion of a qualifying score on the applicable Specialty Area Test (i.e., Praxis Subject Assessment) and the reading assessment requirement which is currently applicable to Elementary Education and Special Education only (i.e., Foundations of Reading). Please Note: Attainment of the SBE-approved qualifying score must be achieved for all applicable licensure tests prior to institutional recommendation can be made for a standard five (5)-year license;

AND

6. Completion of a two (2) year teaching commitment to a geographical critical shortage area for those individuals receiving full tuition through any combination of federal and state funds, pending successful program completion, via district recommendation;

OR

7. Completion of a two (2) year teaching commitment to the residency placement district for those individuals receiving full tuition through local district funds, pending successful program completion, via district recommendation.

(b) The educator preparation provider (EPP) shall request the Resident Teacher License on behalf of the applicant according to procedures outlined in the Mississippi Educator Licensure Guidelines compendium; and

(c) An applicant shall submit appropriate documentation indicating cleared criminal background check.

**Validity.** The Resident Teacher License is valid for three (3) years, with the following exceptions:

(a) Obtainment of a standard five (5)-year renewable license;

(b) Rescinded if an individual withdraws, transfers or is removed from the Mississippi Teacher Residency;

1. Previously enrolled candidates who withdraw, transfer, or are removed from a Mississippi Teacher Residency program and are subsequently re-admitted to the program or admitted to a different Mississippi Teacher Residency program are eligible for the Resident Teacher License;

2. Under these circumstances the three (3)-year validity period begins again upon re-admission and issuance of the new license. Requirements listed above must be met after re-admission to a different Mississippi Teacher Residency program in order to reissue the Resident Teacher License;

(c) May be extended at the request of the EPP.

**NOTE:** Resident Teacher License holders are in-field to participate in supervised field experience, clinical practice, or residency work consistent with the grade levels of certification sought. Individuals holding valid Mississippi Licenses in teaching fields are also in-field to participate in these activities. These experiences provide license holders with an intensive and extensive culminating activity. License holders are immersed in the learning community and provided opportunities to develop and demonstrate competence in the professional roles for which they are preparing. Holding a Resident Teacher License, even upon successful completion of an educator preparation program, does not automatically result in movement to the standard renewable license.

### **Program Entrance Requirements.**

1. Admittance to a State Board of Education-approved Mississippi Teacher Residency program; and

2. Twenty-one (21) ACT (or SAT equivalent), or a qualifying passing score on the Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators examination, or minimum GPA of 3.0 on a minimum of 60-hours of course credit as established by the State Board of Education.

### **Requirements for a Three-Year Teacher Resident License.**

1. Verification of Twenty-one (21) ACT (or SAT equivalent), or a qualifying passing score on the Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators examination, or minimum GPA of 3.0 on a minimum of 60-hours of course credit as established by the State Board of Education;
2. Official, sealed academic transcript(s) from an institution of higher education that was regionally/nationally accredited at the time the degree was conferred;
3. Access to an effective mentor teacher, as evidenced by a summative Professional Growth System observation rating of 3.00 or higher via district assurance;
4. Opportunities for resident teachers to demonstrate effective teaching knowledge and skills in a local school district placement throughout a one (1) year minimum teacher residency in either a teaching position or a teaching assistant position (if an assigned mentor serves as the teacher of record) via district assurance;
5. Training on the Mississippi Educator Code of Ethics, Standards of Conduct and hold Resident Teachers accountable under the Code throughout local school district placement via district assurance; and
6. Institutional recommendation documenting completion of initial requirements of a State Board of Education-approved Mississippi Teacher Residency program through a regionally/nationally accredited institution of higher education.

### **Requirements for a Five-Year License.**

1. Verification of a qualifying score on the applicable Specialty Area Test (i.e., Praxis Subject Assessment) and the reading assessment requirement which is applicable to Elementary Education and Special Education only (i.e., Foundations of Reading). Please Note: Attainment of the SBE-approved qualifying score must be achieved for all applicable licensure tests prior to institutional recommendation can be made for a standard five (5)-year license;
  2. Institutional recommendation documenting completion of a State Board of Education-approved Mississippi Teacher Residency program through a regionally/nationally accredited institution of higher education;
- AND
3. Completion of a two (2) year teaching commitment to a geographical critical shortage area for those individuals receiving full tuition through any combination of federal and state funds, pending successful program completion, via district recommendation;
- OR
4. Completion of a two (2) year teaching commitment to the residency placement district for those individuals receiving full tuition through local district funds, pending successful program completion, via district recommendation.