

OFFICE OF CHIEF ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICER
Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Items
Consent Agenda
September 19, 2019

OFFICE OF TEACHING AND LEADING

- K. Approval to revise Miss. Admin. Code 7 - 4: *Licensure Guidelines K-12* to include a statement of reprieve applicable to the Special Non-renewable License for Prospective Non-traditional Teacher Preparation Program Completers
(Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process without public comments)

The special, non-renewable license for prospective non-traditional teacher preparation program completers is a one-year license that can only be requested by an employing local school district or an eligible nonpublic school in the state of Mississippi for a candidate who has not met all certification requirements under the Miss. Code Ann. § 37-3-2(6)(a), (b), and (c), at the time the application is submitted to the Division of Educator Licensure. The special, non-renewable license for prospective non-traditional teacher preparation program completers provides local school officials with the ability to employ a candidate who has the potential to obtain a standard Mississippi teaching license by the completion of a Mississippi State Board of Education approved alternate route teacher education preparation program.

Based on the newly revised version of the Praxis Core Mathematics Assessment available September 1, 2019, the Office of Teaching and Leading is requesting approval to allow a one-time reprieve that would grant candidates who held the Year One *Special, Non-renewable License for Prospective Non-traditional Teacher Preparation Program Completers* during the 2016-2017, 2017-2018, or 2018-2019 school years and never held a Year Two or Year Three *Special Non-renewable License*, a period of one additional school year to meet all requirements for obtaining unconditional admittance to a Mississippi State Board of Education approved alternate route teacher preparation program. The limited extension of the Year One *Special Non-renewable License for Prospective Non-traditional Teacher Preparation Program Completers* only applies to local district Year One license requests made for the purpose of filling teacher vacancies during the 2019- 2020 school year. For the 2020-2021 school year at the expiration of the one-year reprieve, all requirements for the *Special Non-renewable License for Prospective Non-traditional Teacher Preparation Program Completers* will be reinstated and apply to all licensure requests.

There are no proposed changes to current criteria approved for the issuance of the Year One, Year Two and Year Three license. If the requested reprieve is approved, a special note will be cited appropriately within the policy for *Special Non-renewable License for Prospective Non-traditional Teacher Preparation Program Completers* as illustrated in the attached associated backup material.

The temporary rule and final action is necessary to implement the policy revisions to Miss. Admin. Code 7 - 4: *Licensure Guidelines K-12* for the 2019-2020 school year immediately upon its filing with the Secretary of State in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. §25- 43-3.113(2)(b)(ii). 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
SPECIAL, NON-RENEWABLE LICENSE FOR PROSPECTIVE NON-TRADITIONAL TEACHER
PREPARATION PROGRAM COMPLETERS**

The special, non-renewable license for prospective non-traditional teacher preparation program completers is a one-year license that can only be requested by an employing local school district or an eligible nonpublic school in the state of Mississippi for up to three (3) years for a candidate who has not met all certification requirements under the Miss. Code Ann. § 37-3-2(6)(a), (b), and (c), at the time the application is submitted to the Division of Educator Licensure. The special, non-renewable license for prospective non-traditional teacher preparation program completers provides local school officials with the ability to employ a candidate who has the potential to obtain a standard Mississippi teaching license by the completion of a Mississippi State Board of Education approved alternate route teacher education preparation program.

This provisional licensure option provides local school district officials with the ability to employ candidates who possess the potential to earn full educator certification while temporarily addressing the ongoing teacher shortage.

This Special, Non-renewable License type can be requested for a prospective non-traditional teacher preparation program completer who meets one of the following conditions in addition to criteria outlined in the subsequent sections based on application year:

A. Holds at least a bachelor's degree in the endorsement area in which the license is requested from an institution of higher education that was regionally/nationally accredited at the time the degree was conferred;
or

B. Holds at least a bachelor's degree in any area and twenty-one (21) hours of undergraduate and/or graduate level coursework with a grade of "C" or higher in the endorsement area in which the license is requested. Both the degree(s) and the twenty-one (21) hours 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 (**Elementary Education is not included under option B**); or

C. Holds at least a bachelor's degree in any area from an institution of higher education that was regionally/nationally accredited at the time the degree was conferred and a passing score on the appropriate Mississippi State Board of Education approved licensure Subject Area Assessment in the endorsement area in which the license is requested;

The candidate must meet all licensure requirements for a standard, five (5) year renewable license by the end of the third year.

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 wishes to transfer 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. If the educator is nonrenewed by the local school district after the first year, the educator will not be issued a license for another district for the remaining two (2) years.
- The license can only be requested in one (1) endorsement area.
- Additional endorsements will not be added to the special, non-renewable license.

Obtaining the initial Special, Non-renewable License for prospective non-traditional teacher preparation program completers requires completion of the application process as outlined below in the Year One category. Subsequent year requirements addressing verification of progress toward the standard, five (5) year renewable license are specified under the Year Two and Year Three categories.

Year One Documentation Requirements

The employing local school district or eligible nonpublic school must submit the following documentation for each candidate who meets the following criteria to be granted the year one special, non-renewable license:

- a) Standard Mississippi Licensure Application; **and**
- b) Local District Request Packet; **and**
- c) Letter of Request and Justification; **and**
- d) Vita or résumé; **and**
- e) Official, sealed transcript showing completion of at least bachelor's degree from an institution of higher education that was regionally/nationally accredited at the time the degree was conferred; **and**
- f) Official, sealed transcript showing degree conferred in the endorsement area in which the license is requested; **or**
- g) Official, sealed transcript(s) documenting twenty-one (21) hours of undergraduate and/or graduate level coursework with a grade of "C" or higher in the endorsement area in which the license is requested; **or**
- h) Official test score report(s) documenting a passing score on the appropriate Mississippi State Board of Education approved licensure Subject Area Assessment in the endorsement area in which the license is requested.

Special Note Applicable to 2019-2020 Year One Licensure Requests for filling teacher vacancies during the 2019-2020 School Year: Candidates who held the Year One Special, Non-renewable License for Prospective Non-traditional Teacher Preparation Program Completers during the 2016-2017, 2017-2018, or 2018-2019 school years and never held a Year Two or Year Three Special Non-renewable License are granted a period of one additional school year to meet all requirements for obtaining unconditional admittance to a Mississippi State Board of Education approved alternate route teacher preparation program. The limited extension of the Year One Special Non-renewable License for Prospective Non-traditional Teacher Preparation Program Completers only applies to local district Year One license requests made for the purpose of filling teacher vacancies during the 2019-2020 school year. For the 2020-2021 school year at the expiration of the one-year reprieve, all requirements for the Special Non-renewable License for Prospective Non-traditional Teacher Preparation Program Completers will be reinstated and apply to all licensure requests.

There are no proposed changes to current criteria approved for the issuance of the Year One, Year Two and Year Three license.

Year Two Documentation Requirements

The employing local school district or eligible nonpublic school must submit documentation indicating that the special, non-renewable license holder is making sufficient progress toward the completion of requirements for obtaining full state certification to be granted the year two special, non-renewable license:

- a) Official test score report(s) documenting achievement of qualifying passing scores on all required applicable Mississippi State Board of Education approved testing requirements; **and**
- b) Official letter of unconditional acceptance to a Mississippi State Board of Education approved non-traditional teacher preparation program from the appropriate State Board approved program provider. The Mississippi teacher preparation program provider must ensure that the candidate has met all minimum admission requirements prior to enrolling the candidate in the non-traditional teacher preparation program-- Official letter must be completed by the Dean of Education or Certification Officer; **and**

- c) Standard Licensure Application; **and**
- d) Local District Request Packet; **and**
- e) Letter of Request and Justification.

Year Three Documentation Requirements

The employing local school district or eligible nonpublic school must submit documentation indicating that the special, non-renewable license holder is making sufficient progress toward the completion of requirements for obtaining full state certification to be granted the year three special, non-renewable license:

- a) Official test score results from attempt(s) to meet all testing requirements during the time the year two Special, Non-renewable License was valid (*only applicable if year two license was held during 2017-2018 school year*); **and/or**
- b) Official letter of unconditional acceptance into a Mississippi State Board of Education approved non-traditional educator preparation program from the appropriate State Board approved program provider. The Mississippi educator preparation program provider must ensure that candidate has met all minimum admission requirements prior to enrolling the candidate in the non-traditional educator preparation program - Official letter must be completed by the Dean of Education or Certification Officer (*only applicable if year two license was held during 2017-2018 school year*); **and**
- c) Official, sealed transcript showing required course(s) status as “in progress” or “completed” with an earned grade of “C” or higher. Evidence of program progress and/or completion must reflect acceptable forms of documentation based on the specific non-traditional educator preparation program being completed; **and**
- d) Standard Licensure Application; **and**
- e) Local District Request Packet; **and**
- f) Letter of Request and Justification.

NOTE: Educator preparation program providers shall ensure that candidates have met all requirements in effect at the time the application for admission to a Mississippi State Board of Education approved non-traditional educator preparation program is received. Requirements include, but are not limited to, the following: **(To obtain the most accurate and up-to-date requirements, please visit the Educator Licensure Section at www.mde.k12.ms.us/k12.org/OEL)**

- a) The candidate must hold at least a bachelor’s degree from an institution of higher education that was regionally/nationally accredited at the time the degree was conferred;
and
- b) The candidate must present official score report(s) from the appropriate testing vendor documenting earned passing qualifying scores on all required non-traditional educator preparation program admission and licensure tests such as, Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators*, or minimum score of Twenty-one (21) ACT equivalent, 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) ***.

*Candidate must have achieved the Mississippi State Board of Education’s approved Minimum Passing Score requirement for Reading, Writing, and Mathematics prior to non-traditional program admission.

**Candidate must have achieved the Mississippi State Board of Education’s approved Minimum Passing Score requirement for test(s) in the area in which the educator license is sought prior to non-traditional program admission.

***Candidate must have achieved the Mississippi State Board of Education’s approved Minimum Passing Score requirement for Foundations of Reading assessment prior to non-traditional program admission for Elementary Education (4-6) certification.

Meeting all testing requirements is but one criterion for completing the multi-step educator licensure process for obtaining full state certification 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.