



**Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education,  
Certification, and Licensure and Development**

**July 11, 2025**

**10:00 a.m.**

**Central High School Building – 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Board Room**

**Mississippi Department of Education**

**359 North West Street**

**Jackson, Mississippi**

- I.** Call to Order
- II.** Establishment of a Quorum
- III.** Approval of the minutes of the May 2, 2025, Meeting of the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification, and Licensure and Development
- IV.** Approval of the minutes of the Special-Called June 3, 2025, Meeting of the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification, and Licensure and Development
- V.** Approval of the hearing subcommittee minutes of May 2, 2025
- VI.** Approval of the hearing subcommittee minutes of May 21, 2025
- VII.** Approval of the hearing subcommittee minutes of June 18, 2025
- VIII.** Approval of the hearing subcommittee minutes of June 25, 2025
- IX.** Adoption of Agenda
- X.** Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) Updates **(Dr. Cory Murphy)**  
**Information/Action Items:**
- XI.** Approval of Mississippi Valley State University's request to establish a licensure-track Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) Elementary Education (K-6) program **(Dr. Deborah Stoulig)**
- XII.** Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process to revise Miss. Admin. Code 7 – 4: Part 4: Licensure Guidelines K-12 to revise the acceptable degree requirement for Mississippi State Board of Education-approved nontraditional licensure pathways **(Ms. Tamika Lipsey)**
- XIII.** Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise Title 7 of the Miss. Admin. Code: Part 142: Guidelines and Clarification of Requirements for Issuance of Career and Technical Education (Occupational Educator) Licenses: To include a pathway to licensure in the area of Driver Education (Licensure Endorsement Code 114) **(Mr. Bryan McGairty)**
- XIV.** Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act Process: To revise Miss. Admin. Code: 7 – 4: Part 4: Licensure Guidelines K-12 to require all candidates seeking initial licensure in the area of Elementary Education (K-3/K-6/4-6) to earn a passing score on either the Foundations of Reading assessment or Pathways to Proficient Reading following a Foundations of Reading

assessment attempt and to establish a Three-Year Entry-Level Elementary Education Non-Renewable License option to allow completion of the Pathways to Proficient Reading while in-service for the purpose of obtaining a standard renewable five-year license **(Dr. Cory Murphy)**

**XV.** Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act Process: To revise Miss. Admin. Code: 7 - 4: Part 4: Licensure Guidelines K-12 to amend the Foundations of Reading assessment requirement by removing the assessment from being required as one condition for obtaining licensure in the endorsement area of Special Education Mild/Moderate (licensure codes: 221 (K-12) and 223 (K-8)) **(Dr. Cory Murphy)**

**XVI.** Approval of ratifications of agreed orders and/or voluntary surrenders **(Mr. Scott DeJong)**

**XVII.** Adjournment

If you need accommodations due to a disability, contact our office at 601-359-3513.

**NOTE: Cellular telephones and pagers must be in silent mode during the meeting.**

# ITEM III



**Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education,  
Certification, and Licensure and Development  
Regular Meeting  
May 2, 2025  
10:00 a.m.**

In accordance with Miss. Code Ann. §§ 37-3-2(3) and 25-41-5, the members of the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification, and Licensure and Development (Commission) met at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, May 2, 2025, in the 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Board Room located at Central High School Office Building, 359 N. West Street, Jackson, MS 39201, with some members present via teleconference.

**Members Attending:**

James Creel	Dr. Teresa Jayroe	William D. Murphy
John Howard	Dr. Bernell Kelly	Dr. Teresa Poole
Kim Hubbard	David Martin, chairperson	Etta Taplin

**Members Absent:**

Dylan Baldwin	Rebecca Gray	Aaron Wilson
	Mary Hill-Taylor	

**Mississippi Department of Education (MDE):**

Dr. Cory Murphy	Dr. Paula Vanderford	Tonya Gipson
Dr. Courtney Van Cleve	Dr. Deborah Stoulig	Jennifer Nichols
Scott DeJong	Brett Robinson	Andrea Hanson
Tamika Lipsey		Lori D. Hartley

**Special Assistant Attorney General Attending:**

Jonathan Dennis

**I. Call to Order**

Chairman David Martin called the meeting to order on Friday, May 2, 2025, at 10:07 a.m.

**II. Establishment of a Quorum**

Dylan Baldwin	Absent
James Creel	Present, Jackson, MS
Rebecca Gray	Absent
Mary Hill-Taylor	Absent
John Howard	Present, Nashville, TN
Kim Hubbard	Present, Flowood, MS
Dr. Teresa Jayroe	Present, Jackson, MS

Dr. Bernell Kelly	Present, Jackson, MS
David Martin	Present, Jackson, MS
William D. Murphy	Present, Indianola, MS
Dr. Teresa Poole	Present, Oxford, MS
Etta Taplin	Present, Ruth, MS
Aaron Wilson	Absent

A quorum of the Commission is present at the locations stated for conducting a meeting through in-person and teleconference means.

**III. Approval of the minutes of the March 7, 2025, Meeting of the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification, and Licensure and Development**

On a motion from Dr. Bernell Kelly, seconded by Dr. Teresa Jayroe, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the minutes for the March 7, 2025 meeting of the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification, and Licensure and Development.

**IV. Approval of the minutes of the April 22, 2025, Special-Called Meeting of the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification, and Licensure and Development**

On a motion from Dr. Bernell Kelly, seconded Jamie Creel, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the minutes of April 22, 2025, Special-Called meeting of the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and Development.

**V. Adoption of Agenda**

On a motion from Kim Hubbard, seconded by Dr. Teresa Jayroe, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the agenda.

**VI. Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) Updates (Dr. Cory Murphy)  
Launch of Educator Talent Portal – Brief Portal Demonstration**

Dr. Murphy announced the launch of the Educator Talent Portal. Kimberly Linson gave a brief demonstration of the portal.

**VII. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act Process: To revise Title 7 of the Miss. Admin. Code: Part 142: Career and Technical Education (CTE) Licensure Guidelines K-12: To revise the “Special Notes” section to include a sixth (6th) “Special Note” that would establish criteria for obtaining certain Career and Technical Education (CTE) License types after an Initial Standard Renewable CTE License has been Granted: These Criteria will be referenced as applicable throughout the Official CTE Guidelines Document and shall Only Apply to certain CTE Licensure Pathways (Mr. Brett Robinson/Ms. Tonya Gipson)**

On a motion from James Creel, seconded by Dr. Teresa Jayroe, the Commission voted unanimously to approve beginning the Administrative Procedures Act Process: To revise Title 7 of the Miss. Admin. Code: Part 142: Career and Technical Education (CTE) Licensure Guidelines K-12: To revise the “Special Notes” section to include a sixth (6th) “Special Note” that would establish criteria for obtaining certain Career and Technical Education (CTE) License types after an Initial Standard

Renewable CTE License has been Granted: These Criteria will be referenced as applicable throughout the Official CTE Guidelines Document and shall Only Apply to certain CTE Licensure Pathways.

**VIII. Approval to establish a qualifying score for the revised version of Praxis Subject Assessments: Technology and Engineering Education (5053) and Middle School Social Studies (5589) as recommended by the Ad Hoc Committee of the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and Development (Dr. Cory Murphy)**

On a motion from Kim Hubbard, seconded by Jamie Creel, the Commission voted unanimously to approve establishing a qualifying score for the revised version of Praxis Subject Assessments: Technology and Engineering Education (5053) and Middle School Social Studies (5589) as recommended by the Ad Hoc Committee of the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and Development.

**IX. Approval of Blue Mountain Christian University's request to delete four (4) approved supplemental endorsements in the areas of Physics 7-12 (189) Mild/Moderate Disability K-12(221), Mild/Moderate Disability K-8 (223), and Mild/Moderate Disability 7-12 (224) (Dr. Courtney Van Cleve)**

On a motion by Dr. Teresa Jayroe, seconded by Jamie Creel, the Commission voted unanimously to approve Blue Mountain Christian University's request to delete four (4) approved supplemental endorsements in the areas of Physics 7-12 (189) Mild/Moderate Disability K-12(221), Mild/Moderate Disability K-8 (223), and Mild/Moderate Disability 7-12 (224) Adjournment.

**X. Approval of Belhaven University's request to modify course prefixes and equivalent coursework within its existing English as Second Language (K-12) approved supplemental endorsement (Dr. Courtney Van Cleve)**

On a motion from Dr. Bernell Kelly, seconded by Jamie Creel, the Commission voted unanimously to approve Belhaven University's request to modify course prefixes and equivalent coursework within its existing English as Second Language (K-12) approved supplemental endorsement.

**XI. Approval of Belhaven University's request to modify course prefixes within its licensure-track Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction with Teaching English to Students of Other Languages (TESOL) (English as a Second Language) Supplemental Licensure Endorsement (K-12) program (Dr. Courtney Van Cleve)**

On a motion by Dr. Teresa Jayroe, seconded by Kim Hubbard, the Commission voted unanimously to approve Belhaven University's request to modify course prefixes within its licensure-track Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction with Teaching English to Students of Other Languages (TESOL) (English as a Second Language) Supplemental Licensure Endorsement (K-12) program.

**XII. Approval of Delta State University's request to delete three (3) approved traditional teacher educator preparation licensure-track Bachelor of Science programs in Chemistry 7-12 (185), Speech Associate K-12 (216), and Family & Consumer Science 7-12 (321); three (3) approved licensure-track Master of Education programs in English 7-12 (119), Physical Education K-12 (144), and Social Studies 7-12 (192); two (2) approved licensure-track Specialist in Education programs in Elementary Education K-6 (120) and School Counseling K-12 (436); and one (1) approved supplemental endorsement in Severe Disability K-12 (222) (Dr. Courtney Van Cleve)**

On a motion by Dr. Teresa Jayroe, seconded by Jamie Creel, the Commission voted unanimously to approve Delta State University's request to delete three (3) approved traditional teacher educator preparation licensure-track Bachelor of Science programs in Chemistry 7-12 (185), Speech Associate K-12 (216), and Family & Consumer Science 7-12 (321); three (3) approved licensure-track Master of Education programs in English 7-12 (119), Physical Education K-12 (144), and Social Studies 7-12 (192); two (2) approved licensure-track Specialist in Education programs in Elementary Education K-6 (120) and School Counseling K-12 (436); and one (1) approved supplemental endorsement in Severe Disability K-12 (222).

**XIII. Approval of Mississippi College's request to modify coursework credit hours for two (2) courses within its licensure-track Specialist in Education degree program in the area of Administration (K-12) (Dr. Courtney Van Cleve)**

On a motion by Etta Taplin, seconded by Jamie Creel, the Commission voted unanimously to approve Mississippi College's request to modify coursework credit hours for two (2) courses within its licensure-track Specialist in Education degree program in the area of Administration (K-12).

**XIV. Approval of Mississippi College's request to modify course titles and the approved course list for its licensure-track Media Arts (K-12) supplemental endorsement (Dr. Courtney Van Cleve)**

On a motion by Dr. Teresa Jayroe, seconded by Jamie Creel, the Commission voted unanimously to approve Mississippi College's request to modify course titles and the approved course list for its licensure-track Media Arts (K-12) supplemental endorsement.

Prior to introducing items XV – XVIII, Dr. Murphy asked Dr. Teresa Jayroe, Mississippi State University, to recuse herself by exiting the meeting.

**XV. Approval of Mississippi State University's request to modify course titles, required courses, and equivalent coursework within its Mild/Moderate (7-12) supplemental endorsement (Dr. Courtney Van Cleve)**

On a motion by Kim Hubbard, seconded by Jamie Creel, the Commission voted unanimously to approve Mississippi State University's request to modify course titles, required courses, and equivalent coursework within its Mild/Moderate (7-12) supplemental endorsement.

**XVI. Approval of Mississippi State University's request to modify course titles, required courses, and equivalent coursework within its approved Mild/Moderate (K-8) supplemental endorsement (Dr. Courtney Van Cleve)**

On a motion by Dr. Bernell Kelly, seconded by Jamie Creel, the Commission voted unanimously to approve Mississippi State University's request to modify course titles, required courses, and equivalent coursework within its approved Mild/Moderate (K-8) supplemental endorsement.

**XVII. Approval of Mississippi State University's request to modify required courses within its approved Severe Disability (K-12) supplemental endorsement (Dr. Courtney Van Cleve)**

On a motion by Jamie Creel, seconded by Etta Taplin, the Commission voted unanimously to approve Mississippi State University's request to modify required courses within its approved Severe Disability (K-12) supplemental endorsement.

**XVIII. Approval of Mississippi State University's request to modify its approved licensure-track Bachelor of Science in Mild/Moderate Disability (K-12) (Dr. Courtney Van Cleve)**

On a motion by Dr. Bernell Kelly, seconded by Kim Hubbard, the Commission voted unanimously to approve Mississippi State University's request to modify its approved licensure-track Bachelor of Science in Mild/Moderate Disability (K-12).

After the vote for item XVIII, Dr. Jayroe was informed that she could rejoin the meeting.

**XIX. Approval of Mississippi University for Women's request to establish a traditional teacher education preparation licensure-track Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood (PreK-K) program (Dr. Courtney Van Cleve)**

On a motion by Etta Taplin, seconded by Jamie Creel, the Commission voted unanimously to approve Mississippi University for Women's request to establish a traditional teacher education preparation licensure-track Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood (PreK-K) program.

**XX. Approval of Mississippi University for Women's request to establish a licensure-track Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) Elementary Education (K-6) program (Dr. Courtney Van Cleve)**

On a motion by Dr. Bernell Kelly, seconded by Jamie Creel, the Commission voted unanimously to approve Mississippi University for Women's request to establish a licensure-track Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) Elementary Education (K-6) program.

**XXI. Approval of The University of Southern Mississippi's request to establish a traditional teacher education preparation licensure-track Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education (BSSE) (7-12) program leading to a license with the major emphasis area in Biology 7-12 (181), Chemistry 7-12 (185), English 7-12 (119), Mathematics 7-12 (154), Physics 7-12 (189), or Social Studies 7-12 (192) and additional content to include a full year of teaching residency (Dr. Courtney Van Cleve)**

On a motion by Dr. Teresa Jayroe, seconded by Kim Hubbard, the Commission voted unanimously to approve The University of Southern Mississippi's request to establish a traditional teacher education preparation licensure-track Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education (BSSE) (7-12) program leading to a license with the major emphasis area in Biology 7-12 (181), Chemistry 7-12 (185), English 7-12 (119), Mathematics 7-12 (154), Physics 7-12 (189), or Social Studies 7-12 (192) and additional content to include a full year of teaching residency.

Prior to introducing items XXII – XXV, Dr. Murphy asked Dr. Teresa Poole, William Carey University, to recuse herself by exiting the meeting.

**XXII. Approval of William Carey University's request to remove one (1) approved traditional teacher educator preparation licensure-track Bachelor of Science program in Physical Education K-12 (144) and one (1) approved licensure-track Master of Science program in School Psychometry K-12 (213) (Dr. Courtney Van Cleve)**

On a motion by Jamie Creel, seconded by Dr. Bernell Kelly, the Commission voted unanimously to approve William Carey University's request to remove one (1) approved traditional teacher educator preparation licensure-track Bachelor of Science program in Physical Education K-12 (144) and one (1) approved licensure-track Master of Science program in School Psychometry K-12 (213).



**XXIII. Approval of William Carey University's request to modify a course title within its approved Child Development (PreK-K) supplemental endorsement (Dr. Courtney Van Cleve)**

On a motion by Jamie Creel, seconded by Dr. Bernell Kelly, the Commission voted unanimously to approve William Carey University's request to modify a course title within its approved Child Development (PreK-K) supplemental endorsement.

**XXIV. Approval of William Carey University's request to modify the required courses within its approved Emotional Disability (K-12) supplemental endorsement (Dr. Courtney Van Cleve)**

On a motion by Jamie Creel, seconded by Dr. Bernell Kelly, the Commission voted unanimously to approve William Carey University's request to modify the required courses within its approved Emotional Disability (K-12) supplemental endorsement.

**XXV. Approval of William Carey University's request to modify course numbers within its approved Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) (K-12) supplemental endorsement (Dr. Courtney Van Cleve)**

On a motion by Jamie Creel, seconded by Dr. Bernell Kelly, the Commission voted unanimously to approve William Carey University's request to modify course numbers within its approved Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) (K-12) supplemental endorsement.

After the vote for item XXV, Dr. Jayroe was informed that she could rejoin the meeting.

**XXVI. Approval of ratifications of agreed orders and/or voluntary surrenders (Mr. Scott DeJong)**

Mr. Scott DeJong reported on agreed orders being presented for consideration. On a motion from Jamie Creel, seconded by Dr. Teresa Jayroe, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the agreed orders for the following educators:

**Standard 10:**

197537	John D. McCrory, Jr.	264288	Amber N. Robinson
322667	Ameshia A. Adams	201818	Heather D. Neese
205357	Sarah Merrill		

**Standard 4:**

197935	William Dewitt II	198385	Neil B. Walther
180947	Katherine L. Leahey	319609	Cornellius Peoples
201743	Rickey R. Taylor, Jr.	318371	Jennifer L. Carter
185156	Shelley D. Rivers	324667	Alfredo Roman
310198	Hunter Eady Pearson	207128	Teresa Dickey
271560	Stephen T. Hart	168500	Christopher D. West

**XXVII. Adjournment**

On a motion by Jamie Creel, seconded by Dr. Teresa Jayroe, the Commission voted to unanimously approve adjournment of the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 10:57 a.m.

Approved:

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David Martin, Chair  
Commission on Teacher and Administrator  
Education, Certification and Licensure and  
Development

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Cory Murphy, PH.D., Executive Secretary  
Commission on Teacher and Administrator  
Education, Certification and Licensure and  
Development

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# ITEM IV



**Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education,  
Certification, and Licensure and Development  
Special – Called Meeting  
June 3, 2025  
10:00 a.m.**

In accordance with Miss. Code Ann. §§ 37-3-2(3) and 25-41-5, the members of the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification, and Licensure and Development (Commission) met at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday June 3, 2025, in room 101 located at Central High School Office Building, 359 N. West Street, Jackson, MS 39201, with some members present via teleconference.

**Members Attending:**

Dylan Baldwin  
William Murphy  
Rebecca Gray  
Mary Hill-Taylor  
Dr. Teresa Jayroe

Dr. Bernell Kelly  
David Martin  
Etta Taplin  
Aaron Wilson  
Dr. Teresa Poole

**Members Absent:**

James Creel

John Howard

Kim Hubbard

**Mississippi Department of Education (MDE):**

Dr. Cory Murphy  
Lori Hartley  
Jennifer Nichols

Courtney Van Cleeve  
Paula Vanderford  
Ginger Koestler

Andrea Hanson  
Wendy Clemons

**Special Assistant Attorney General Attending:**

Jonathan Dennis

**I. Call to Order**

David Martin called the meeting to order on Tuesday June 3, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.

## II. Establishment of a Quorum

Dylan Baldwin	Present, Belden, MS
James Creel	Present,
Rebecca Gray	Present, Iuka, MS
Mary Hill-Taylor	Present, Choctaw, MS
John Howard	Absent
Kim Hubbard	Absent
Dr. Teresa Jayroe	Present, Starkville, MS
Dr. Bernell Kelly	Present, Gulfport, MS
David Martin	Present, Brookhaven, MS
William D. Murphy	Present, Indianola, MS
Dr. Teresa Poole	Present, Hattiesburg, MS
Etta Taplin	Present, Ruth, MS
Aaron Wilson	Present, Lumberton, MS

A quorum of the Commission was present at the locations stated for conducting a meeting through in-person and teleconference means.

## III. Discussion and/or approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act Process: to revise Miss. Admin. Code 7 – 4: Part 4: Licensure Guidelines K-12 to remove references to and associated requirements related to the Highly Qualified Teacher Status as formerly defined and required by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001.

On a motion from Etta Taplin, seconded by Teresa Poole, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the discussion and/or approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act Process: to revise Miss. Admin. Code 7 – 4: Part 4: Licensure Guidelines K-12 to remove references to and associated requirements related to the Highly Qualified Teacher Status as formerly defined and required by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001.

## IV. Adjournment

On a motion from Teresa Jayroe, seconded by Dylan Baldwin, the Commission voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 10:10 a.m.

Approved:

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David Martin, Chair  
Commission on Teacher and Administrator  
Education, Certification and Licensure and  
Development

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Cory Murphy, PH.D., Executive Secretary  
Commission on Teacher and  
Administrator Education, Certification  
and Licensure and Development

# ITEM V

Subcommittee for the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education,  
Certification and Licensure and Development  
Central High School  
Senator Grey Ferris Boardroom  
359 N. West Street, Jackson, MS 39201  
May 2, 2025

In accordance with Miss. Code Ann. §§ 37-3-2(10) and 25-41-5, a subcommittee of the members of the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and Development (“Commission”) met at 12:00 p.m. on May 2, 2025, in Senator Grey Ferris Board Room 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, 359 N. West Street, Jackson, MS 39201.

Members in Attendance: Jamie Creel, Dr. Teresa Jayroe, Dr. Bernell Kelley  
Commission Counsel: Jonathan Dennis, Special Assistant Attorney General

OEM Counsel: Joseph Runnels, Esq.

Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) Personnel Attending:  
Tilla Tate, Investigator for the Office of Educator Misconduct (OEM)  
Scott DeJong, Director for the OEM

Others in Attendance:  
Anna Grace Covington, Educator

Matters before the Subcommittee:

**I. Case of Anna Grace Covington, Educator license No. 331380**

Jonathan Dennis, legal advisor to the Commission Hearing Subcommittee, called the hearing to order at 12:13 p.m.

After all exhibits were received into evidence and testimony heard, Dr. Teresa Jayroe made a motion to go into closed session. Dr. Bernell Kelly seconded the motion and the Commission Hearing Subcommittee unanimously voted to go into closed session. Dr. Bernell Kelly made a motion to go into executive session for the purpose of

deliberations and findings concerning the Educator license at issue in the present case. Dr. Teresa Jayroe seconded the motion and the Commission Hearing Subcommittee unanimously voted to go into executive session. The following people remained in the room: Jamie Creel, Dr. Bernell Kelly, Dr. Teresa Jayroe, and Jonathan Dennis.

During Executive Session, the Commission Hearing Subcommittee took the following action:

Dr. Bernell Kelly moved that the Commission hearing Subcommittee reinstate the license of Anna Grace Covington, Educator License No. 312573. Dr. Bernell Kelly seconded the motion, and the Commission Hearing Subcommittee unanimously voted to suspend Respondent's license.

On a motion by Dr. Bernell Kelly, seconded by Dr. Teresa Jayroe, the Commission Hearing Subcommittee unanimously voted to come out of executive session.

In open session, counsel read the decision of the Commission Hearing Subcommittee to the participants.

This matter was concluded at 1:13 p.m.

## **II. Adjournment.**

On a motion by Dr. Bernell Kelly, seconded by Dr. Teresa Jayroe, the Commission Hearing Subcommittee unanimously voted to adjourn for the day at 1:13 p.m.

Approved:

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Jamie Creel, Subcommittee Chair  
Commission on Teacher and Administrator  
Education, Certification and Licensure and  
Development

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Cory Murphy, Ph.D., Executive Secretary  
Commission on Teacher and Administrator  
Education, Certification and Licensure and  
Development



# ITEM VI

Subcommittee for the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education,  
Certification and Licensure and Development  
Central High School  
Senator Grey Ferris Boardroom  
359 N. West Street, Jackson, MS 39201  
May 21, 2025

In accordance with Miss. Code Ann. §§ 37-3-2(10) and 25-41-5, a subcommittee of the members of the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and Development (“Commission”) met at 9:00 a.m. on May 21, 2025, in Senator Grey Ferris Board Room 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, 359 N. West Street, Jackson, MS 39201.

Members in Attendance: Etta Taplin, Dr. Teresa Poole, and Jamie Creel  
Commission Counsel: Jonathan Dennis, Special Assistant Attorney General

OEM Counsel: Joseph Runnels, Esq.

Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) Personnel Attending:  
Tilla Tate, Investigator for the Office of Educator Misconduct (OEM)  
Scott DeJong, Director for the OEM

Others in Attendance:  
Sanford Knott, Attorney for Educator  
Dr. Michael Cormack, Witness for OEM  
Kelsey Hill, Witness for OEM  
Robert Ward, Witness for OEM

Matters before the Subcommittee:

**I. Case of Lashonda Briggs-Hobbs, Educator license No. 181997**

Jonathan Dennis, legal advisor to the Commission Hearing Subcommittee, called the hearing to order at 9:25 a.m.

After all exhibits were received into evidence and testimony heard, Jamie Creel made a motion to go into closed session. Dr. Teresa Poole seconded the motion and the Commission Hearing Subcommittee unanimously voted to go into closed session. Jamie Creel made a motion to go into executive session for the purpose of deliberations and findings concerning the Educator license at issue in the present case. Dr. Teresa Poole seconded the motion and the Commission Hearing Subcommittee unanimously voted to go into executive session. The following people remained in the room: Etta Taplin, Dr. Teresa Poole, Jamie Creel, and Jonathan Dennis.

During Executive Session, the Commission Hearing Subcommittee took the following action:

Jamie Creel moved that the Commission hearing Subcommittee suspend the license of Lashonda Briggs-Hobbs, Educator License No. 181997 for a period of five calendar years. Dr. Teresa Poole seconded the motion, and the Commission Hearing Subcommittee unanimously voted to suspend Respondent's license.

On a motion by Jamie Creel, seconded by Dr. Teresa Poole, the Commission Hearing Subcommittee unanimously voted to come out of executive session.

In open session, counsel for the Commission read the decision of the Commission Hearing Subcommittee to the participants.

This matter was concluded at 2:29 p.m.

## **II. Agreed Orders**

Scott Dejong, Director for the OEM, presented the following Agreed Orders to the commission subcommittee for consideration:

- A. Regina Blackledge, Educator License Number 259795, Standard 10
- B. Xavier Butler, Educator License Number 326255, Standard 10
- C. Caleb Shine, Educator License Number 323397, Standard 4
- D. Mitchell Cantrell, Educator License Number 304869, Standard 3
- E. Wilson Jones, Educator License Number 316270, Standard 4

Jamie Creel moved that the Commission Hearing Subcommittee approve the Agreed Orders presented by the OEM. Dr. Teresa Poole seconded the motion, and the Commission Hearing Subcommittee voted unanimously to approve the Agreed Orders.

### **III. Adjournment.**

On a motion by Jamie Creel, seconded by Dr. Teresa Poole, the Commission Hearing Subcommittee unanimously voted to adjourn for the day at 2:33 p.m.

Approved:

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Etta Taplin, Subcommittee Chair  
Commission on Teacher and Administrator  
Education, Certification and Licensure and  
Development

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Cory Murphy, Ph.D., Executive Secretary  
Commission on Teacher and Administrator  
Education, Certification and Licensure and  
Development

# ITEM VII

Subcommittee for the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education,  
Certification and Licensure and Development  
Central High School  
Room 102  
359 N. West Street, Jackson, MS 39201  
June 18, 2025

In accordance with Miss. Code Ann. §§ 37-3-2(10) and 25-41-5, a subcommittee of the members of the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and Development (“Commission”) met at 9:00 a.m. on June 18, 2025, in Room 102, 359 N. West Street, Jackson, MS 39201.

Members in Attendance: Etta Taplin, Mary Hill-Taylor, and Rebecca Gray  
Commission Counsel: Jonathan Dennis, Special Assistant Attorney General

OEM Counsel: Joseph Runnels, Esq.

Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) Personnel Attending:  
Tilla Tate, Investigator for the Office of Educator Misconduct (OEM)  
Scott DeJong, Director for the OEM

Others in Attendance:  
Darling King-Shelby, Educator  
Ali Shamsiddeen, Attorney for Educator  
Dr. Michael Cormack, Witness for OEM  
Dr. Anthony Moore, Witness for OEM  
Robert Ward, Witness for OEM

Matters before the Subcommittee:

**I. Case of Darling King-Shelby, Educator license No. 253927**

Jonathan Dennis, legal advisor to the Commission Hearing Subcommittee, called the hearing to order at 9:04 a.m.

After all exhibits were received into evidence and testimony heard, Mary Hill-Taylor made a motion to go into closed session. Rebecca Gray seconded the motion, and the Commission Hearing Subcommittee unanimously voted to go into closed session. Rebecca Gray made a motion to go into executive session for the purpose of deliberations and findings concerning the Educator license at issue in the present case. Mary Hill-Taylor seconded the motion, and the Commission Hearing Subcommittee unanimously voted to go into executive session. The following people remained in the room: Etta Taplin, Rebecca Gray, Mary Hill-Taylor, and Jonathan Dennis.

During Executive Session, the Commission Hearing Subcommittee took the following action:

Mary Hill-Taylor moved that the Commission hearing Subcommittee place the license of Darling King-Shelby, Educator License No. 253927 on probation for a period of five calendar years. Rebecca Gray seconded the motion, and the Commission Hearing Subcommittee unanimously voted to place Respondent's license on probation.

On a motion by Mary Hill-Taylor, seconded by Rebecca Gray, the Commission Hearing Subcommittee unanimously voted to come out of executive session.

In open session, counsel for the Commission read the decision of the Commission Hearing Subcommittee to the participants.

This matter was concluded at 2:40 p.m.

## **II. Agreed Orders**

Scott Dejong, Director for the OEM, presented the following Agreed Orders to the commission subcommittee for consideration:

- A. Geneiah Weddington, Educator License Number 256889, Standard 10
- B. Rebecca Clanton, Educator License Number 317792, Standard 10
- C. Mia Reed, Educator License Number 274328, Standard 4

Jamie Creel moved that the Commission Hearing Subcommittee approve the Agreed Orders presented by the OEM. Dr. Teresa Poole seconded the motion, and the Commission Hearing Subcommittee voted unanimously to approve the Agreed Orders.

## **III. Adjournment.**

On a motion by Mary Hill-Taylor, seconded by Rebecca Gray, the Commission Hearing Subcommittee unanimously voted to adjourn for the day at 2:45 p.m.

Approved:

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Etta Taplin, Subcommittee Chair  
Commission on Teacher and Administrator  
Education, Certification and Licensure and  
Development

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Cory Murphy, Ph.D., Executive Secretary  
Commission on Teacher and Administrator  
Education, Certification and Licensure and  
Development



# ITEM VIII

Subcommittee for the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education,  
Certification and Licensure and Development  
Central High School  
Senator Grey Ferris Boardroom  
359 N. West Street, Jackson, MS 39201  
June 25, 2025

In accordance with Miss. Code Ann. §§ 37-3-2(10) and 25-41-5, a subcommittee of the members of the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and Development (“Commission”) met at 9:00 a.m. on June 25, 2025, in the Senator Grey Ferris Boardroom, 359 N. West Street, Jackson, MS 39201.

Members in Attendance: Jamie Creel, Dr. Bernell Kelly, and Dylan Baldwin  
Commission Counsel: Jonathan Dennis, Special Assistant Attorney General

OEM Counsel: Joseph Runnels, Esq.

Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) Personnel Attending:  
Tilla Tate, Investigator for the Office of Educator Misconduct (OEM)  
Scott DeJong, Director for the OEM

Others in Attendance:  
Camechelle Stevens, Educator  
Willie Williams, Educator

Matters before the Subcommittee:

**I. Case of Camechelle Stevens, Educator license No. 272999**

Jonathan Dennis, legal advisor to the Commission Hearing Subcommittee, called the hearing to order at 9:08 a.m.

After all exhibits were received into evidence and testimony heard, Dr. Bernell Kelly made a motion to go into closed session. Dylan Baldwin seconded the motion, and the Commission Hearing Subcommittee unanimously voted to go into closed session. Dr.

Bernell Kelly made a motion to go into executive session for the purpose of deliberations and findings concerning the Educator license at issue in the present case. Dylan Baldwin seconded the motion, and the Commission Hearing Subcommittee unanimously voted to go into executive session. The following people remained in the room: Jamie Creel, Bernell Kelly, Dylan Baldwin, and Jonathan Dennis.

During Executive Session, the Commission Hearing Subcommittee took the following action:

Dr. Bernell Kelly moved that the Commission hearing Subcommittee reinstate the license of Camechelle Stevens, Educator License No. 272999. Dylan Baldwin seconded the motion, and the Commission Hearing Subcommittee unanimously voted to reinstate Respondent's license.

On a motion by Dr. Bernell Kelly, seconded by Dylan Baldwin, the Commission Hearing Subcommittee unanimously voted to come out of executive session.

In open session, counsel for the Commission read the decision of the Commission Hearing Subcommittee to the participants.

This matter was concluded at 9:36 p.m.

## **II. Agreed Orders**

Scott Dejong, Director for the OEM, presented the following Agreed Orders to the commission subcommittee for consideration:

A. James Hawkins, Educator License Number 332337, Standard 4

Dr. Bernell Kelly moved that the Commission Hearing Subcommittee approve the Agreed Orders presented by the OEM. Dylan Baldwin seconded the motion, and the Commission Hearing Subcommittee voted unanimously to approve the Agreed Orders.

## **III. Case of Willie Willaims, Educator License Application No. 417112**

Jonathan Dennis, legal advisor to the Commission Hearing Subcommittee, called the hearing to order at 9:43 a.m.

After all exhibits were received into evidence and testimony heard, Dr. Bernell Kelly made a motion to go into closed session. Dylan Baldwin seconded the motion, and the

Commission Hearing Subcommittee unanimously voted to go into closed session. Dr. Bernell Kelly made a motion to go into executive session for the purpose of deliberations and findings concerning the Educator license at issue in the present case. Dylan Baldwin seconded the motion, and the Commission Hearing Subcommittee unanimously voted to go into executive session. The following people remained in the room: Jamie Creel, Bernell Kelly, Dylan Baldwin, and Jonathan Dennis.

During Executive Session, the Commission Hearing Subcommittee took the following action:

Dr. Bernell Kelly moved that the Commission hearing Subcommittee allow the processing of the license of Willie Willaims, Educator License Application No. 417112. Dylan Baldwin seconded the motion, and the Commission Hearing Subcommittee unanimously voted to reinstate Respondent's license.

On a motion by Dr. Bernell Kelly, seconded by Dylan Baldwin, the Commission Hearing Subcommittee unanimously voted to come out of executive session.

In open session, counsel for the Commission read the decision of the Commission Hearing Subcommittee to the participants.

This matter was concluded at 10:46 a.m.

#### **IV. Adjournment.**

On a motion by Dr. Bernell Kelly, seconded by Dylan Baldwin, the Commission Hearing Subcommittee unanimously voted to adjourn for the day at 10:47 a.m.

Approved:

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Jamie Creel, Subcommittee Chair  
Commission on Teacher and Administrator  
Education, Certification and Licensure and  
Development

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Cory Murphy, Ph.D., Executive Secretary  
Commission on Teacher and Administrator  
Education, Certification and Licensure and  
Development

# ITEM XI

**OFFICE OF CHIEF ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICER**  
**Summary of Licensure Commission Agenda Item**  
**July 11, 2025**

**DIVISION OF EDUCATOR PREPARATION**

XI. Approval of Mississippi Valley State University's request to establish a licensure-track Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) Elementary Education (K-6) program

Background Information: In accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 37-3-2 there is established within the MDE the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and Development. It shall be the purpose and duty of the commission to make recommendations to the Mississippi Board of Education regarding standards for the certification and licensure and continuing professional development of those who teach or perform tasks of an educational nature in the public schools of Mississippi.

On February 17, 2022, the State Board of Education approved to modify the existing Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) Elementary Education (4-6) and establish a new Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) Elementary Education (K-6) option. The approved coursework included nine (9) hours of pre-teaching coursework, twelve (12) hours of literacy coursework, three (3) hours of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) methods **or** math methods, three (3) hours of research, and six (6) hours of internship. The Master of Arts in Teaching Elementary Education (K-6) licensure requirements include a minimum of 33 credit hours.

The Division of Educator Preparation is recommending approval of the Mississippi Valley State University's request to establish a Mississippi Department of Education approved licensure-track Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) Elementary Education (K-6) program, licensure code 120.

**Required Courses:**

- ED 502 Classroom Management (3 hours)
- ED 503 Development, Assessment, and Evaluation (3 hours)
- ED 506 Dimension of Learning Internship Pt 1 (3 hours)
- ED 507 Dimension of Learning Internship Pt 2 (3 hours)
- ED 510 Research in Education (3 hours)
- ED 512 Technology for Teachers (3 hours)
- ED 523 Early Literacy I (3 hours)
- ED 525 Early Literacy II (3 hours)
- ED 529 Integrating Reading and Writing Across the Curriculum (3 hours)
- ED 545 Diagnosing and Assessing Reading Difficulties in Children (3 hours)
- ED 599 Comprehensive Exam (0 hours)
- SE 550 Assessment and Individualized Programming for Children with Disabilities (3 hours)

Recommendation: Approval

Back-up material: N/A

# ITEM XII

**OFFICE OF CHIEF ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICER**  
**Summary of Licensure Commission Agenda Item**  
**July 11, 2025**

**DIVISION OF EDUCATOR LICENSURE**

- XII. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process to revise Miss. Admin. Code 7 – 4: Part 4: *Licensure Guidelines K-12* to revise the acceptable degree requirement for Mississippi State Board of Education-approved nontraditional licensure pathways

Background Information: The Office of Teaching and Leading, Division of Educator Licensure, continues to review all guidelines pertaining to the issuance, renewal, and reinstatement of an educator license to ensure that all requirements remain relevant to the contextual framework of the present day. Currently, certain pathways for obtaining initial licensure only permit a bachelor's degree as an acceptable degree requirement for entry into and obtaining licensure by way of a Mississippi State Board of Education approved nontraditional educator preparation program. However, certain professions, particularly within the medical related fields, allow candidates to pursue an advanced degree without first obtaining a bachelor's degree.

Therefore, the Division of Educator Licensure is seeking approval to revise current licensure guidelines to include the acceptance of a bachelor's degree or higher as one criterion for gaining unconditional entrance into and licensure by way of the completion of an approved Mississippi State Board of Education nontraditional educator preparation program. Furthermore, the proposed revision is aligned with the existing degree requirement associated with traditional licensure pathways.

All requirements noted herein shall be effective upon receipt of final Mississippi Board of Education approval on the date established by the Secretary of State's Office at final filing.

Recommendation: Approval

Back-up material attached



**THREE YEAR ALTERNATE ROUTE LICENSE  
TEACH MISSISSIPPI INSTITUTE**

**Areas available: Art, Biology, Business, Chemistry, Chinese, Economics, English, French, German, Health, Home Economics, Latin, Library Media, Marketing, Math, Music, Physical Education, Physics, Social Studies, Spanish, Speech Communications**

License	Requirements	Validity	To Convert to a Five-Year Alternate Route Educator License
Class A	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Hold a bachelor's degree <b>or higher</b> (non-education) from a regionally/ nationally accredited institution of higher learning</li> <li>2. Twenty-one (21) ACT (or SAT equivalent) or achieve a qualifying passing score on the Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators examination or verification of 3.0 overall GPA on a baccalaureate transcript or last 60 hours course credit as established by the State Board of Education</li> <li>3. Praxis Subject Assessment</li> <li>4. Acquire admission to the Teach MS Institute Program (See Appendix H or <a href="https://www.mdek12.org/OTL/OEL/Alternate">https://www.mdek12.org/OTL/OEL/Alternate</a>)</li> <li>5. Complete an eight-week training session (see Note) or eight-week online training program. (Times and dates determined by offering colleges/universities)</li> <li>6. *Apply for the Three Years Educator License – Alternate Route</li> </ol>	3 years	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Completion of one-year internship period with Mentoring and induction program in local school district</li> <li>2. Secure Recommendation by school district for continued licensure</li> <li>3. Apply for a Five-Year Alternate Route License</li> </ol>

**\*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.**

**THREE YEAR ALTERNATE ROUTE LICENSE**  
**MASTER OF ARTS IN TEACHING**

***Areas available: Art, Biology, Business, Chemistry, Chinese, Computer Science\*\*, Economics, English, French, German, Health, Home Economics, Latin, Library Media, Music, Marketing, Math, Physics, Physical Education, Social Studies, Spanish, Speech Communications***

License	Requirements	Validity	To Convert to a Five-Year Alternate Route Educator License
Class A	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Hold a bachelor's degree <u>or higher</u> (non-education) from a regionally/ nationally accredited institution of higher learning</li> <li>2. Twenty-one (21) ACT (or SAT equivalent) or achieve a qualifying passing score on the Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators examination or verification of 3.0 overall GPA on a baccalaureate transcript or last 60 hours course credit as established by the State Board of Education</li> <li>3. Praxis Subject Assessment</li> <li>4. Apply for entrance into MAT Program (<i>See Appendix H for information</i>)</li> <li>5. Complete 9 hours of pre-teaching courses in an approved MAT Program</li> <li>6. * Secure Verification of Program Completion</li> <li>7. Apply for a Three-Year Educator License – Alternate Route</li> </ol>	3 years	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Secure a teaching position.</li> <li>2. Complete 6 additional hours of coursework to include supervised internship</li> <li>3. Secure Verification of Program Completion</li> <li>4. Apply for a Five-Year Alternate Route License</li> </ol>

**Note: This program requires 15 hours of coursework which may be applied toward completing a master's degree.**

**\*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.**

**\*\*Mississippi State University is the only institution approved to offer Computer Science by way of the MAT Pathway to Licensure.**

**ONE YEAR ALTERNATE ROUTE LICENSE**  
**AMERICAN BOARD CERTIFICATION**

**Areas available: Biology, Chemistry, English, Math,  
Physics**

License	Requirements	Validity	To Convert to a Five Year Alternate Route License
Class A	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Hold a bachelor's degree <u>or higher</u> (non-education) from a regionally/ nationally accredited institution of higher education</li> <li>2. Twenty-one (21) ACT (or SAT equivalent) or achieve a qualifying passing score on the Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators examination or verification of 3.0 overall GPA on a baccalaureate transcript or last 60 hours course credit as established by the State Board of Education</li> <li>3. Praxis Subject Assessment</li> <li>4. Enroll in ABCTE program</li> <li>5. Pretesting assessment assign advisor</li> <li>6. ABCTE Passport to Teaching exam</li> <li>7. Apply for 1-year license</li> </ol>	1 year	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Secure a teaching position, complete 1- year internship with mentor</li> <li>2. Complete one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* 9 hours of MAT coursework</li> <li>* MDE online professional development</li> </ul> </li> </ol>

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*Areas available: Biology (7-12), Chemistry (7-12), Chinese (K-12), Elementary Education (4- 6), English (7-12), French (K-12), German (K-12), Latin (K-12), Mathematics (7-12), Physics (7-12), Spanish (K-12)*

License	Requirements	Validity	To Convert to a Five- Year Alternate Route Educator License
Class A	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Hold a bachelor's degree <u>or higher</u> (non-education) from a regionally/ nationally accredited institution of higher education</li> <li>2. Twenty-one (21) ACT (or SAT equivalent) or achieve a qualifying passing score on the Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators examination or verification of 3.0 overall GPA on a baccalaureate transcript or last 60 hours of course credit</li> <li>3. Praxis Subject Assessment in accordance with the licensure area designated under the iteach Mississippi program</li> <li>4. Apply for entrance into iteach Mississippi Program</li> <li>5. Complete required pre-teaching courses in an approved iteach Mississippi Program licensure area</li> <li>6. Assignment of Mississippi-based field supervisor that holds a valid standard Mississippi educator license with a master's degree in education responsible for conducting a minimum of four in-person observations</li> <li>7. Assignment of an effective mentor teacher, as evidenced by a summative Mississippi Professional Growth System observation rating of 3.00 or higher via local school district assurance</li> <li>8. * Secure Verification of Program Completion</li> <li>9. Apply for a Three-Year Nonrenewable Teacher Internship License –Alternate Route</li> </ol>	3 years	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Completion of one full-year residency supervised internship</li> <li>2. Verification of completion of remaining required modules</li> <li>3. Foundations of Reading Assessment (Elementary Education 4-6 only)</li> <li>4. *Secure Verification of iteach Mississippi Program Completion</li> <li>5. Apply for the Five- Year Standard Teacher License - Alternate Route</li> </ol>
<p><b>*This license requires an online recommendation from the alternate route program. Once the online recommendation is made, the prospective educator must apply for the license online.</b></p>			

<b>APPENDIX H</b> <b>ALTERNATE ROUTE TEACHER LICENSURE PROGRAMS</b> <b>Master of Arts in Teaching</b>	
<b>Subject Areas for Licensure – To Obtain Information for Required Praxis Subject Assessments</b> <b>Please Visit: <a href="http://www.ets.org/praxis/ms">www.ets.org/praxis/ms</a></b>	Art (K-12), Biology (7-12), Business (7-12), Chemistry (7-12), Chinese (K-12), ***Computer Science (7-12), Economics (7-12), English (7-12), French (K-12), German (K-12), Health (K-12), Home Economics (7-12), Latin (K-12), Library Media (K-12), Music (K-12), Marketing (7-12), Math (7-12), Physics (7-12), Physical Education (K-12), Social Studies (7-12), Spanish (K-12), Speech Communications (7-12)
<b>Program Entrance Requirements</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Bachelor's degree <b>or higher</b> from a regionally/nationally accredited institution of higher learning</li> <li>2. Twenty-one (21) ACT (or SAT equivalent) or achieve a qualifying passing score on the Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators examination or verification of 3.0 overall GPA on a baccalaureate transcript or last 60 hours course credit established by the State Board of Education; and</li> <li>3. Praxis Subject Assessment (Specialty Area Test)</li> </ol>
<b>Requirements for Three Year Alternate Route License</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Complete nine (9) hours pre-teaching course requirements from an approved Master of Arts in Teaching program</li> <li>2. Program Completion Verification</li> </ol> <i>MAT Program offers a three-year alternate route license.</i>
<b>Location and Contact Information</b>	Alcorn State University Belhaven College Delta State University Jackson State University Mississippi College Mississippi Valley State University University of Mississippi William Carey University Mississippi State University University of Southern Mississippi Mississippi University for Women Tougaloo College <i>***Mississippi State University is the only location approved to offer Computer Science.</i> <b><i>For contact information see Appendix F</i></b>
<b>Requirements for Five Year Alternate Route License</b>	Complete six (6) semester hours including the internship prescribed by the participating institution
<b>Fees</b>	Colleges charge normal fees for 15 semester hours
<b>NOTE: Contact the institution offering the program for enrollment information, application deadlines, fees, starting dates, etc.</b>	

<b>APPENDIX H</b> <b>ALTERNATE ROUTE TEACHER LICENSURE PROGRAMS (CONTINUED)</b> <b>Teach Mississippi Institute</b>	
<b>Subject Areas for Licensure – To Obtain Information for Required Praxis Subject Assessments Please Visit:</b> <a href="http://www.ets.org/praxis/ms">www.ets.org/praxis/ms</a>	Art (K-12), Biology (7-12), Business (7-12), Chemistry (7-12), Chinese(K-12), Economics (7-12), English (7-12), French (K-12), German (K-12), Health (K-12), Home Economics (7-12), Latin (K-12), Library Media (K-12), Music (K-12), Marketing (7-12), Math (7-12), Physics (7-12), Physical Education (K-12), Social Studies (7-12), Spanish (K-12), Speech Communications (7-12)
<b>Program Entrance Requirements</b>	1. Bachelor's degree <u>or higher</u> 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 or verification of 3.0 overall GPA on a baccalaureate transcript or last 60 hours course credit as established by the State Board of Education; and 3. Praxis Subject Assessment (Specialty Area Test)
<b>Requirements for Three Year Alternate Route License</b>	Eight Week Training Session in the summer - (Times and dates determined by offering colleges/universities) <b>OR</b> TMI Online program through University of Mississippi Continuing Education <i>TMI offers a three-year alternate route license</i>
<b>Location and Contact Information</b>	Delta State University - summer graduate program University of Southern Mississippi - summer graduate program University of Mississippi - online program only - 1-877-915-7313
<b>Requirements for Five Year Alternate Route License</b>	1. Completion of one-year internship period with mentoring and induction program in local school district 2. Recommendation by local school district
<b>Fees</b>	Fee to be determined by the offering university
<b>NOTE: Contact the institution offering the program for enrollment information, application deadlines, fees, starting dates, etc.</b>	

<b>APPENDIX H</b> <b>ALTERNATE ROUTE TEACHER LICENSURE PROGRAMS (CONTINUED)</b>	
<b>American Board Certification for Teacher Excellence Passport to Teaching</b>	
<b>Subject Areas of Licensure</b>	Biology (7-12), Chemistry (7-12), English (7-12), Math (7-12), Physics (7-12)
<b>Program Entrance Requirements</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Bachelor's degree <b>or higher</b> from a regionally/nationally accredited institution of higher learning</li> <li>2. Twenty-one (21) ACT (or SAT equivalent) or achieve a qualifying passing score on the Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators examination or verification of 3.0 overall GPA on a baccalaureate transcript or last 60 hours course credit as established by the State Board of Education; and</li> <li>3. Praxis Subject Assessment (Specialty Area Test)</li> <li>4. Pretesting Assessments in subject area and pedagogy</li> <li>5. Assignment of advisor and prescribed individual study profile</li> <li>6. ABCTE Passport to Teaching exam</li> <li>7. Apply for One (1) year license</li> </ol>
<b>Requirements for Initial One Year Alternate Route License</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. ABCTE Passport to Teaching Certificate</li> <li>2. Letter from school district stating commitment to employ</li> </ol> <p><i>ABCTE offers a one-year alternate route license</i></p>
<b>Location and Contact Information</b>	<p><b>American Board Certification for Teacher Excellence</b>  <b>1225 19<sup>th</sup> St. NW, Suite 400</b>  <b>Washington, D.C. 20036</b>  <b>Website:</b> <a href="http://www.abcte.org">www.abcte.org</a>  <b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:contact@abcte.org">contact@abcte.org</a>  <b>Phone: 1-877-669-2228</b></p>
<b>Requirements for Five Year Alternate Route License</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. One-year teaching internship with mentoring  <i>(Mentoring service must be administered by National Board-Certified teacher or MDE trained mentor certified in same subject area or mentor can complete the ABCTE approved mentor training)</i></li> <li>2. Must complete training in one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MS Public Broadcasting (MPB) E-Learning online professional development course</li> <li>• MAT Nine (9) hours of initial graduate university courses earned by an approved Mississippi alternate route program  <i>(can be applied to master's degree)</i></li> </ul> </li> </ol>
<b>Fees</b>	Fee to be determined by the program provider.

**APPENDIX H**  
**ALTERNATE ROUTE TEACHER LICENSURE PROGRAMS**

**Iteach Mississippi**

<b>Subject Areas for Licensure – To Obtain Information for Required Praxis Subject Assessments Please Visit: <a href="http://www.ets.org/praxis/ms">www.ets.org/praxis/ms</a></b>	Biology (7-12), Chemistry (7-12), Chinese (K-12), Elementary Education (4-6), English (7-12), French (K-12), German (K-12), Latin (K-12), Mathematics (7-12), Physics (7-12), Spanish (K-12)
<b>Program Entrance Requirements</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Bachelor's degree <b>or higher</b> (non-education) from a regionally/nationally accredited institution of higher education</li> <li>2. Twenty-one (21) ACT (or SAT equivalent) or achieve a qualifying passing score on the Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators examination or verification of 3.0 overall GPA on a baccalaureate transcript or last 60 hours of course credit</li> <li>3. Praxis Subject Assessment in accordance with the licensure area designated under the iteach Mississippi program</li> <li>4. Application for entrance into iteach Mississippi program</li> </ol>
<b>Requirements for Three Year Alternate Route License</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Completion of the following iteach modules: TCMS 5100: Learning Environments, Classroom Management TCMS 5300: Planning Instruction and Assessment, Data Analysis and Evaluation, and TCMS 5500: Learner Differences and Adaptations for Students with Disabilities, Introduction to Special Education</li> <li>2. Assignment of Mississippi-based field supervisor that holds a valid standard Mississippi educator license with a master's degree in education responsible for conducting a minimum of four in-person observations</li> <li>3. Assignment of an effective mentor teacher, as evidenced by a summative Mississippi Professional Growth System observation rating of 3.00 or higher via local school district assurance</li> <li>4. Recommendation by Mississippi Program Director</li> <li>5. Application for the Three-Year Nonrenewable Teacher Internship License –Alternate Route</li> </ol>
<b>Location and Contact Information</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Iteach</b> <b>P.O. Box 1626</b> <b>Denton, TX 76202</b> <b>Website:</b> <a href="http://www.iteach.net">www.iteach.net</a> <b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:admin@iteach.net">admin@iteach.net</a> <b>Phone:</b> 866-914-2653</p>



# ITEM XIII

**OFFICE OF CHIEF ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICER**  
**Summary of Licensure Commission Agenda Item**  
**July 11, 2025**

**OFFICE OF SAFE AND ORDERLY SCHOOLS**  
**DIVISION OF EDUCATOR LICENSURE**

- XIII. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise Title 7 of the Miss. Admin. Code: Part 142: Guidelines and Clarification of Requirements for Issuance of Career and Technical Education (Occupational Educator) Licenses: To include a new pathway to licensure in the area of Driver Education (Licensure Endorsement Code 114)

Background Information: Senate Bill 2695 of the 2024 Regular Mississippi Legislative Session, later codified into law as Miss. Code Ann. §37-25-5 requires any school board of any school district maintaining a secondary school, which includes grades nine (9) through twelve (12), to offer Driver Education, beginning with the 2026-2027 school year.

As of July 1, 2025, only 52% of school districts currently offer driver education. Since the passage of §37-25-5, the Mississippi Department of Education has received an increase in the number of inquiries from school districts and educators regarding additional pathways to licensure in the area of Driver Education. Currently, only three Mississippi-based educator preparation providers offer a supplemental endorsement in this area.

The proposed licensure pathway will combine occupational expertise with successful technology literacy education and a two (2) year college degree with focused coursework through a Vocational Instructor Preparation to support the demand and recruitment of prospective teachers in Driver Education to ensure compliance with the implementation timeline and other requirements as outlined in Miss. Code Ann. §37-25-5.

Recommendation: Approval

Back-up material attached

**THIS IS NOT A CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE) LICENSE**

**No endorsements can be added to this license type. If the holder of this license type desires to be licensed in an academic or CTE related subject area, the individual shall meet the Mississippi State Board of Education approved licensure requirements for obtaining initial licensure in the subject area of interest. All Mississippi educator license holders are held accountable to the Mississippi Code of Ethics, Standards of Conduct.**

**Minimum Requirements for this Endorsement:**

**1. Education & Other Requirements**

- Hold a two-year college degree or higher from an accredited institution of higher education
- Hold a valid Driver License at the time of issuance of the Mississippi educator's license and shall remain valid while assigned to teach the Driver Education course

**2. Technology Literacy and Related Assessment of that Competency**

- Applicant must validate technology competency by attaining the established minimum score or higher on an assessment approved by the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE). The assessment must be directly related to technology competency required by the grade level and subject matter to be taught. Approved assessment for this license is IC3 or another MDE approved substitute.

**3. Occupational Experience, Expertise, and/or Related Assessment of that Experience**

- Applicants with an associate degree must have at least two years of verifiable occupational experience in the past ten years. Experience must be appropriate to the subject to be taught.
- Applicants that possess a bachelor's degree or higher must have at least one year of verifiable occupational experience in the past ten years. Experience must be appropriate to the subject to be taught.

**(Exception: Those teachers that currently hold a valid five-year license are not required to meet the occupational experience criterion.)**

**OR**

- Certified Law Enforcement Certificate issued by the Mississippi Board of Law Enforcement Standards and Training

**OR**

- Professional Mississippi Fire Fighter Certificate issued by the Mississippi Board of Standards and Training/Mississippi Fire Academy with 1001 certification

**4. Teacher Education Preparation and Related Assessment(s) of that Education**

- Applicant must immediately enroll in Vocational Instructor Preparation (VIP) program (Exception: Those teachers that currently hold a valid five-year license do not have to enroll in VIP.)
- Applicant must complete the individualized professional development plan (PDP) requirements of the VIP program prior to the expiration date of the three-year provisional license.
- Applicant must successfully complete a Certification for online learning workshop, module, or course that is approved by the Mississippi Department of Education.
- Applicant must successfully complete the Driver's Education Instructor Certification workshop module, or course that is approved by the Mississippi Department of Education. This course should include online modules and face to face training.

**Note: If the applicant meets all requirements listed above, that applicant will be issued a 114 endorsement—a five-year license. If the applicant meets the educational and other requirements as well as the occupational experience requirements, but does not meet all other requirements, the applicant may be issued one (1) three-year provisional (nonrenewable) license, and all requirements stated above must be satisfied prior to the expiration date of that license.**

# ITEM XIV

**OFFICE OF CHIEF ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICER**  
**Summary of Licensure Commission Agenda Item**  
**July 11, 2025**

**OFFICE OF TEACHING AND LEADING**  
**OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY EDUCATION AND READING**

- XIV. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act Process: To revise Miss. Admin. Code: 7 - 4: Part 4: Licensure Guidelines K-12 to require all candidates seeking initial licensure in the area of Elementary Education (K-3/K-6/4-6) to earn a passing score on either the Foundations of Reading assessment or Pathways to Proficient Reading following a Foundations of Reading assessment attempt and to establish a Three-Year Entry-Level Elementary Education Non-Renewable License option to allow completion of the Pathways to Proficient Reading while in-service for the purpose of obtaining a standard renewable five-year license

Background Information:

On April 21, 2016, and June 16, 2016, the State Board of Education granted approval to require eligible teachers in Elementary Traditional Route Programs and Elementary Alternate Route Programs, respectively, to pass the Foundations of Reading assessment. Effective July 1, 2016, Mississippi Code Annotated § 37-3-2 requires that a teacher candidate must earn a passing score on a rigorous test of scientifically research-based reading instruction and intervention and data-based decision-making principles as approved by the State Board of Education for initial elementary education licensure.

MDE's recent comprehensive policy review revealed increases in both structured literacy coursework requirements and statewide science of reading professional development since the policy went into effect. Specifically, candidates within all traditional bachelor's degree and non-traditional Master of Arts in Teaching Elementary Education K-6 preparation programs are now required to complete structured literacy coursework. This is in addition to MDE's continued expansion of science of reading professional development for K-5 general education teachers statewide. Course completion for the statewide science of reading professional development, Pathways to Proficient Reading, requires a rigorous test of scientifically research-based reading instruction and intervention and data-based decision-making principles through both section scores and a post-knowledge inventory score. The weighted average from these two components must be at least eighty percent (80%) for a passing score. Applicants meeting all criteria for the standard renewable five-year license would not be required to hold the Three-Year Entry-Level Elementary Education Non-Renewable License prior to conversion.

To address Elementary Education shortages through high-quality preparation and professional development, the Offices of Teaching and Leading and Elementary Education and Reading are requesting approval to require all applicants seeking initial licensure in Elementary Education to earn a passing score on either the Foundations of Reading assessment or Pathways to Proficient Reading following a Foundations of Reading assessment attempt and establish a Three-Year Non-Renewable Entry-Level License option in the area of Elementary Education to allow completion of the Pathways to Proficient Reading while in-service for the purpose of obtaining a standard renewable five-year license.

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, *or other resident teacher category (if an assigned mentor serves as the teacher of record for the teaching assistant position or other resident teacher category)* 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 or Foundations of Reading attempt AND Pathways to Proficient 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 subject to source of funding for residents 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, *or other resident teacher category (if an assigned mentor serves as the teacher of record for the teaching assistant position or other resident teacher category)* 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 or Foundations of Reading attempt AND Pathways to Proficient 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, including the one (1) year minimum teacher residency, 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, including the one (1) year minimum teacher residency, to the residency placement district for those individuals receiving full tuition through local district funds, pending successful program completion, via district recommendation.

OR

5. Completion of a two (2) year teaching commitment, including the one (1) year minimum teacher residency, as determined by the residency placement institution and district for those individuals receiving full tuition through any combination of funds, pending successful program completion, via institutional and district recommendation.

**Special Note:** Completion of the two (2) year teaching commitment shall not apply to those individuals who do not receive full tuition for completion of a State Board of Education-approved Mississippi Teacher Residency program.



**FIVE YEAR EDUCATOR LICENSE—**  
**TRADITIONAL TEACHER EDUCATION ROUTE**  
**ELEMENTARY EDUCATION**

*An ~~five-year~~ educator license is granted to applicants meeting all licensing requirements and completing a state approved or National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) or Council for the Accreditation for Educator Preparation (CAEP) approved teacher education program from a regionally/nationally accredited institution of higher learning.*

All educators completing an approved program for elementary education must achieve a passing score ~~of 233 on the Foundations of Reading assessment~~ on a rigorous test of scientifically research-based reading instruction and intervention and data-based decision-making principles to obtain an endorsement in elementary education.

License	Requirements	Validity	Renewal
<u>Entry-Level License</u>  <u>Class A</u>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>Bachelor's degree or higher in Elementary Education with documentation of completion of student teaching from a state approved or NCATE/CAEP approved program from a regionally/nationally accredited institution of higher education</u></li> <li><u>Twenty-one (21) ACT (or SAT equivalent) or achieve 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; and</u></li> <li><u>Foundations of Reading Assessment Attempt</u></li> <li><u>Praxis Subject Assessment</u></li> <li><u>Praxis: Principles of Learning and Teaching (PLT)</u></li> </ol>	<u>3 years</u>	<p><b><u>NON-RENEWABLE</u></b></p> <p><i>Three (3) years to complete requirements to convert to standard five-year license, which include the following:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>Foundations of Reading Assessment OR Foundations of Reading Assessment Attempt AND Pathways to Proficient Reading</u></li> </ol>

Class A	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Bachelor's degree or higher in Elementary Education with documentation of completion of student teaching from a state approved or NCATE/CAEP approved program from a regionally/nationally accredited institution of higher education</li> <li>2. Twenty-one (21) ACT (or SAT equivalent) or achieve 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; and</li> <li>3. Foundations of Reading Assessment <u>OR Foundations of Reading Assessment Attempt AND Pathways to Proficient Reading</u></li> <li>4. Praxis Subject Assessment</li> <li>5. Praxis: Principles of Learning and Teaching (PLT)</li> </ol>	5 years	<p><b><u>RENEWABLE</u></b></p> <p>Ten (10) continuing education units (CEU's) in content or job/skill related area</p> <p><b>OR</b></p> <p>Three (3) semester hours in content or job/skill related area</p> <p><b>AND</b></p> <p>Five (5) continuing education units (CEU's) in content or job/skill related area</p> <p><b>OR</b></p> <p>Six (6) semester hours in content or job/skill related area</p> <p><b>OR</b></p> <p>Completion of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards process</p>
Class AA	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Meet the requirements for a Five-Year Class A License</li> <li>2. Master's degree in the endorsement area in which license is requested</li> </ol>	5 years	<p>Three (3) semester hours in content or job/skill related area</p> <p><b>OR</b></p> <p>Five (5) continuing education units (CEU's) in content or job/skill related area</p> <p><b>OR</b></p> <p>Completion of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards process</p>

~~**FIVE YEAR EDUCATOR LICENSE—**~~  
**TRADITIONAL TEACHER EDUCATION ROUTE**  
**ELEMENTARY EDUCATION (CONTINUED)**

Class AAA	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Meet the requirements for a Five-Year Class A License</li><li>2. Specialist degree in the endorsement area in which the license is requested</li></ol>	5 years	Same as for AA
Class AAAA	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Meet the requirements for a Five-Year Class A License</li><li>2. Doctoral degree in the endorsement area in which license is requested</li></ol>	5 years	Same as for AA

**Master of Arts in Teaching  
Three-Year Alternate Route License  
Elementary Education (4-6) Certification Class A License  
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 a rigorous test of scientifically research-based reading instruction and intervention and data-based decision-making principles (if applicable to area of certification sought) \*\*\*. The Either a passing score on the Foundations of Reading Assessment OR an attempt on the Foundations of Reading Assessment AND passing score on Pathways to Proficient Reading is required for the issuance of the Elementary Education (K-6 and 4-6) License types.

\*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 OR attempt the Foundations of Reading Assessment and achieve the Mississippi State Board of Education's approved minimum passing score requirement for Pathways to Proficient Reading 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](http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/k12.org/OEL)

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*Areas available: Biology (7-12), Chemistry (7-12), Chinese (K-12), Elementary Education (4- 6), English (7-12), French (K-12), German (K-12), Latin (K-12), Mathematics (7-12), Physics (7-12), Spanish (K-12)*

License	Requirements	Validity	To Convert to a Five-Year Alternate Route Educator License
Class A	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Hold a bachelor's degree (non-education) from a regionally/ nationally accredited institution of higher education</li> <li>2. Twenty-one (21) ACT (or SAT equivalent) or achieve a qualifying passing score on the Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators examination or verification of 3.0 overall GPA on a baccalaureate transcript or last 60 hours of course credit</li> <li>3. Praxis Subject Assessment in accordance with the licensure area designated under the iteach Mississippi program</li> <li>4. Apply for entrance into iteach Mississippi Program</li> <li>5. Complete required pre-teaching courses in an approved iteach Mississippi Program licensure area</li> <li>6. Assignment of Mississippi-based field supervisor that holds a valid standard Mississippi educator license with a master's degree in education responsible for conducting a minimum of four in-person observations</li> <li>7. Assignment of an effective mentor teacher, as evidenced by a summative Mississippi Professional Growth System observation rating of 3.00 or higher via local school district assurance</li> <li>8. * Secure Verification of Program Completion</li> <li>9. Apply for a Three-Year Nonrenewable Teacher Internship License –Alternate Route</li> </ol>	3 years	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Completion of one full-year residency supervised internship</li> <li>2. Verification of completion of remaining required modules</li> <li>3. Foundations of Reading Assessment <u>OR Foundations of Reading Assessment Attempt AND Pathways to Proficient Reading</u> (Elementary Education 4-6 only)</li> <li>4. *Secure Verification of iteach Mississippi Program Completion</li> <li>5. Apply for the Five-Year Standard Teacher License - Alternate Route</li> </ol>
<p><b>*This license requires an online recommendation from the alternate route program. Once the online recommendation is made, the prospective educator must apply for the license online.</b></p>			

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION</b> <b>SPECIAL, NON-RENEWABLE LICENSE FOR PROSPECTIVE NON-TRADITIONAL</b> <b>TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAM COMPLETERS</b></p>
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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 eighteen (18) 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 eighteen (18) 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 eighteen (18) 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.

During the school year the valid special, non-renewable license is issued, the employing Mississippi local school district or eligible nonpublic school shall provide the special, non-renewable license holder:

- a) Appropriate ongoing activities that lead to obtaining unconditional admission to a Mississippi State Board of Education approved non- traditional teacher preparation program as one criterion for the issuance of Year Two license; and
- b) High-quality professional development that is sustained, intensive, and classroom-focused; and
- c) Intensive supervision that consists of structured guidance and regular ongoing support or teacher mentoring with a fully certified teacher.

### **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:

Demonstrate sufficient progress toward completion of requirements for obtaining full state certification:

- i. Official test score report(s) documenting achievement of or attempt(s) to achieve the qualifying passing score(s) on required applicable Mississippi State Board of Education approved testing requirements, during the time the year one Special, Non-renewable License was valid; **and/or**
- ii. 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/or**

- iii. 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
- iv. Evidence of having received high-quality professional development that is sustained, intensive, and classroom-focused during the preceding school year; **and**
- v. Evidence of having participated in intensive supervision that consisted of structured guidance and regular ongoing support or teacher mentoring with a certified teacher during the preceding school year; **and**
- vi. Standard Licensure Application; **and**
- vii. Local District Request Packet; **and**
- viii. Letter of Request and Justification.

During the school year the valid special, non-renewable license is issued, the employing Mississippi local school district or eligible nonpublic school shall provide the special, non-renewable license holder:

- a) Appropriate ongoing activities that lead to obtaining unconditional admission to a Mississippi State Board of Education approved non- traditional teacher preparation program as one criterion for the issuance of Year Three license; **and**
- b) High-quality professional development that is sustained, intensive, and classroom-focused; **and**
- c) Intensive supervision that consists of structured guidance and regular ongoing support or teacher mentoring with a fully certified teacher.

### **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:

Demonstrate sufficient progress toward completion of requirements for obtaining full state certification:

- i. Official test score report(s) documenting achievement of or attempt(s) to achieve the qualifying passing score(s) on required applicable Mississippi State Board of Education approved testing requirements, during the time the year two Special, Non-renewable License was valid; **and/or**
- ii. 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/or**
- iii. 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**
- iv. Evidence of having received high-quality professional development that is sustained, intensive, and classroom-focused during the preceding school year; **and**
- v. Evidence of having participated in intensive supervision that consisted of structured guidance and regular ongoing support or teacher mentoring with a certified teacher during the preceding school year; **and**
- vi. Standard Licensure Application; **and**
- vii. Local District Request Packet; **and**
- viii. Letter of Request and Justification.

During the school year the valid special, non-renewable license is issued, the employing Mississippi local school district or eligible nonpublic school shall provide the special, non-renewable license holder:

- a) Appropriate ongoing activities that lead to obtaining unconditional admission to a Mississippi State Board of Education approved non- traditional teacher preparation program, if applicable; **and**
- b) High-quality professional development that is sustained, intensive, and classroom-focused; **and**
- c) Intensive supervision that consists of structured guidance and regular ongoing support or teacher mentoring with a fully certified teacher.

**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](http://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, Twenty-one (21) ACT (or SAT equivalent) or achieve 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, Praxis Subject Assessment(s)\*\* in the area in which the educator license is sought, and Foundations of Reading Assessment a rigorous test of scientifically research-based reading instruction and intervention and data-based decision-making principles (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 OR attempt the Foundations of Reading Assessment and achieve the Mississippi State Board of Education's approved minimum passing score requirement for Pathways to Proficient Reading 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.*

**APPENDIX A:  
SUPPLEMENTAL ENDORSEMENTS ADDED TO A VALID MISSISSIPPI LICENSE  
(CONTINUED)**

**Supplemental Endorsements that may be Added to a Three-Year or Five-Year License by  
Completion of an Approved Program  
(Institutional Program Verification required)**

<b><u>CODE</u></b>	<b><u>AREA</u></b>
103	Media Arts (K-12)
111	Computer Applications (K-12)
114	Driver Education (7-12)
120	*Elementary Education (K-6) (added to Valid Five (5)-year Standard License Only + Three (3)-Years Successful Teaching Experience + Foundations of Reading Assessment <a href="#"><u>OR Foundations of Reading Assessment Attempt AND Pathways to Proficient Reading</u></a> )
143	Health Education (K12)
146	Wellness and Physical Activity (K-6)
150	Nursery-Grade 1 (N-1)
154	Mathematics (7-12)
174	Reading (K-12)
177	English as a Second Language (K-12)
182	Physical Science (7-12)
193	Economics (7-12)
206	Emotional Disability (K-12)
207	Gifted (K-12)
208	Hearing Impaired (K-12)
218	Visually Impaired (K-12)
221	Mild/Moderate Disability (K-12) and Foundations of Reading Assessment
222	Severe Disability (K-12) added to 221 only
223	Mild/Moderate Disability (K-8) added to elem. only
224	Mild/Moderate Disability (7-12) added to secondary or special subject license only
314	Career Technical Guidance (added only to 436)
405	Business Management (7-12)
411	Business Technology (7-12)
440	Library/Media (K-12)
901	Mathematics (7-8)
931	Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) (K-12)
940	Online Instruction (K-12)

**\*Elementary Education K-6:** Added to Valid Five (5)-Year Standard License Only; Requires Three (3)-Years of Successful Teaching Experience; and Foundations of Reading Assessment [OR Foundations of Reading Assessment Attempt AND Pathways to Proficient Reading](#)

**The following may be added by completion of MDE-approved Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) Course:** 929 – SREB Math Ready (7-12); 930 – SREB Literacy Ready (7-12)

**The following may be added to a valid standard license only by completion of MDE-approved CTE program**

937 – Computer Science (K-6)

933 – Computer Science (7-12)

935 – Exploring Computer Science\* (7-12) (added to 933 Computer Science (7-12) Only)

983 – Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics\* (7-12) (added to 933 Computer Science (7-12) Only)

**\*Can only be added to 933 Computer Science endorsement that was obtained by completion of MDE-approved CTE program in the area of Computer Science (7-12)**

**The following may be added to a valid standard license by completion of MDE-approved Mississippi Council on Economic Education (MCEE) Course:** 193 – Economics (7-12); 941 – Personal Finance (7-12); 942 – College and Career Readiness (7-12)

**The following may be added to a valid standard license only by completion of MDE-approved Middle School Mathematics Institute:** 901 – Mathematics (7-8)

**APPENDIX H**  
**ALTERNATE ROUTE TEACHER LICENSURE PROGRAMS**

**Iteach Mississippi**

<b>Subject Areas for Licensure – To Obtain Information for Required Praxis Subject Assessments Please Visit: <a href="http://www.ets.org/praxis/ms">www.ets.org/praxis/ms</a></b>	Biology (7-12), Chemistry (7-12), Chinese (K-12), Elementary Education (4-6), English (7-12), French (K-12), German (K-12), Latin (K-12), Mathematics (7-12), Physics (7-12), Spanish (K-12)
<b>Program Entrance Requirements</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Bachelor's degree (non-education) from a regionally/nationally accredited institution of higher education</li> <li>2. Twenty-one (21) ACT (or SAT equivalent) or achieve a qualifying passing score on the Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators examination or verification of 3.0 overall GPA on a baccalaureate transcript or last 60 hours of course credit</li> <li>3. Praxis Subject Assessment in accordance with the licensure area designated under the iteach Mississippi program</li> <li>4. Application for entrance into iteach Mississippi program</li> </ol>
<b>Requirements for Three Year Alternate Route License</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Completion of the following iteach modules: TCMS 5100: Learning Environments, Classroom Management TCMS 5300: Planning Instruction and Assessment, Data Analysis and Evaluation, and TCMS 5500: Learner Differences and Adaptations for Students with Disabilities, Introduction to Special Education</li> <li>2. Assignment of Mississippi-based field supervisor that holds a valid standard Mississippi educator license with a master's degree in education responsible for conducting a minimum of four in-person observations</li> <li>3. Assignment of an effective mentor teacher, as evidenced by a summative Mississippi Professional Growth System observation rating of 3.00 or higher via local school district assurance</li> <li>4. Recommendation by Mississippi Program Director</li> <li>5. Application for the Three-Year Nonrenewable Teacher Internship License –Alternate Route</li> </ol>
<b>Location and Contact Information</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Iteach</b> <b>P.O. Box 1626</b> <b>Denton, TX 76202</b> <b>Website:</b> <a href="http://www.iteach.net">www.iteach.net</a> <b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:admin@iteach.net">admin@iteach.net</a> <b>Phone:</b> 866-914-2653</p>

<b>Requirements for Five Year Alternate Route License</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Completion of one full-year residency supervised internship</li> <li>2. Completion of the following iteach modules: TCMS 5000: The Road to Certification TCMS 5200: Learner Development TCMS 5400: Literacy, 21 Century Instruction, and Pedagogical Content Knowledge TCMS 5600: Diverse Student Populations TCMS 5700: Field Experience</li> <li>3. Foundations of Reading Test <u>OR Foundations of Reading Test Attempt AND Pathways to Proficient Reading</u> (Elementary Education 4-6 only)</li> <li>4. Recommendation by Mississippi Program Director</li> <li>5. Application for the Five-Year Standard Teacher License –Alternate Route</li> </ol>
<b>Fees</b>	Fee to be determined by the program provider.

# ITEM XV

**OFFICE OF CHIEF ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICER**  
**Summary of Licensure Commission Agenda Item**  
**July 11, 2025**

**OFFICE OF TEACHING AND LEADING**  
**OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION**

- XV. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act Process: To revise Miss. Admin. Code: 7 - 4: Part 4: Licensure Guidelines K-12 to amend the Foundations of Reading assessment requirement by removing the assessment from being required as one condition for obtaining licensure in the endorsement area of Special Education Mild/Moderate (licensure codes: 221 (K-12) and 223 (K-8))

Background Information: On December 16, 2021, the State Board of Education granted approval to require all candidates seeking to obtain initial licensure in the area of Special Education to earn a passing score on a rigorous test of scientifically research-based reading instruction, interventions, and data-based decision-making principles (i.e., Foundations of Reading). The MDE committed to monitoring impact of the new requirement and submitting recommendations for revisions, if warranted, based on concerns raised within the public comments received at the time of approval.

MDE's recent comprehensive policy review revealed increases in both structured literacy coursework requirements and statewide science of reading professional development since the policy went into effect. Specifically, candidates within all non-traditional Master of Arts in Teaching Special Education preparation programs are now required to complete structured literacy coursework. This is in addition to MDE's continued expansion of science of reading professional development for all K-8 special education teachers statewide.

To address the critical shortage area of Special Education through high-quality preparation and professional development, the Offices of Teaching and Leading and Special Education are requesting approval to revise Miss. Admin. Code 7 – 4: Licensure Guidelines K-12 to amend the Foundations of Reading assessment requirement for initial licensure in Special Education by removing the assessment from being required as one condition for obtaining licensure in the endorsement area of Special Education Mild/Moderate (licensure codes: 221 (K-12) and 223 (K-8)).

Recommendation: Approval

Back-up material attached



## MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION RESIDENT TEACHER LICENSE

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, ***or other resident teacher category (if an assigned mentor serves as the teacher of record for the teaching assistant position or other resident teacher category)*** 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 subject to source of funding for residents 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, *or other resident teacher category (if an assigned mentor serves as the teacher of record for the teaching assistant position or other resident teacher category)* 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, including the one (1) year minimum teacher residency, 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, including the one (1) year minimum teacher residency, to the residency placement district for those individuals receiving full tuition through local district funds, pending successful program completion, via district recommendation.

OR

5. Completion of a two (2) year teaching commitment, including the one (1) year minimum teacher residency, as determined by the residency placement institution and district for those individuals receiving full tuition through any combination of funds, pending successful program completion, via institutional and district recommendation.

**Special Note:** Completion of the two (2) year teaching commitment shall not apply to those individuals who do not receive full tuition for completion of a State Board of Education-approved Mississippi Teacher Residency program.

**Master of Arts in Teaching  
Three-Year Alternate Route License  
Mild/Moderate (7-12) Certification Class A License  
Mild/ Moderate (K-12) 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 Mild/Moderate (7-12) Class A license.

To earn the Mild/Moderate (K-12) Class AA license candidates must complete a Mississippi Board of Education (MBE) approved Master of Arts in Teaching Mild/Moderate (K-12) degree program. The Master of Arts in Teaching Mild/Moderate (K-12) shall include at a minimum 33 program hours consisting of three (3) hours of Classroom Management, three (3) hours of Introduction to Special Education, three (3) hours of Data, Analysis, and Evaluation, six (6) hours of Internship, three (3) hours of Language and Literacy for Students with Diverse Needs, three (3) hours of Literacy for Students with Disabilities, three (3) hours of Evidence Based Practices for Struggling Readers to include principles of Universal Design for Learning (UDL) and High-Leverage Practices (HLPs), three (3) hours of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) methods, three (3) hours of Learning Disabilities, and three (3) hours of Special Education Law and Research Pedagogy. Upon successful completion of the degree, candidates may apply for Class AA five-year renewable Master of Arts in Teaching Mild/Moderate (K-12) license.

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 (non-education) from an institution of higher education that was regionally/nationally accredited at the time the degree was conferred.
- Candidates shall meet all requirements for the Special Education Mild/Moderate (7-12) 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 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 complete 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)~~  
~~\*\*\*. The Foundations of Reading Assessment is required for the issuance of the Mild to Moderate (K-12) License type.~~

\*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 five-year Mild to Moderate (K-12) 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](http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/k12.org/OEL)

**FIVE YEAR EDUCATOR LICENSE  
SPECIAL EDUCATION - MILD/MODERATE DISABILITY K-12 (221)**

License	Requirements	Validity	Renewal
Class A	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Bachelor's degree in Special Education - Mild/Moderate Disability from a state approved or NCATE/CAEP approved program from a regionally/nationally accredited institution of higher learning</li> <li>2. Twenty-one (21) ACT (or SAT equivalent) or achieve 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; and</li> <li>3. Praxis Subject Assessment (Principles of Learning and Teaching Test)</li> <li>4. Praxis Subject Assessment (Specialty Area Test for Special Education)</li> <li><del>5.—Foundations of Reading Assessment—</del></li> </ol> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>OR</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Hold a valid three-year alternate route internship license or valid five-year license</li> <li>2. Praxis Subject Assessment (Specialty Area Test for Special Education)</li> <li><del>3.—Foundations of Reading Assessment—</del></li> </ol>	5 Years	<p>Ten (10) continuing education units (CEU's) in content or job/skill related area</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>OR</b></p> <p>Three (3) semester hours in content or job/skill related area</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>AND</b></p> <p>Five (5) continuing education units (CEU's) in content or job/skill related area</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>OR</b></p> <p>Six (6) semester hours in content or job/skill related area</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>OR</b></p> <p>Completion of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards process</p>



**FIVE YEAR EDUCATOR LICENSE  
SPECIAL EDUCATION - MILD/MODERATE DISABILITY K-12 (221)  
(CONTINUED)**

Class AA	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>EITHER</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Meet the requirements for a Five-Year Class A License</li> <li>2. Master's degree in the endorsement area in which license is requested</li> </ol> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>OR</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Complete an approved master's program for a degree in Special Education - Mild/Moderate Disability that includes a minimum of 18 semester hours in Special Education course work from a regionally/nationally accredited institution of higher learning</li> <li>2. Twenty-one (21) ACT (or SAT equivalent) or achieve 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; and</li> <li>3. Praxis Subject Assessment (Principles of Learning and Teaching Test)</li> <li>4. Praxis Subject Assessment (Specialty Area Test for Special Education)</li> <li><del>5. Foundations of Reading Assessment</del></li> </ol>	5 Years	<p>Three (3) semester hours in content or job/skill related area</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>OR</b></p> <p>Five (5) continuing education units (CEU's) in content or job/skill related area</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>OR</b></p> <p>Completion of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards process</p>
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<b>FIVE YEAR EDUCATOR LICENSE</b> <b>SPECIAL EDUCATION - MILD/MODERATE DISABILITY K-12 (221)</b> <b>(CONTINUED)</b>			
Class AAA	1. Meet the requirements for a Five-Year A or AA License 2. Specialist Degree in Special Education	5 Years	Same as for AA
Class AAAA	1. Meet the requirements for a Five-Year Class A or AA license 2. Doctoral degree in Special Education	5 Years	Same as for AA

**APPENDIX A:  
SUPPLEMENTAL ENDORSEMENTS ADDED TO A VALID MISSISSIPPI  
LICENSE**

**Supplemental Endorsements that may be Added to a Three-Year or Five-Year License  
by obtaining a passing score on the appropriate Praxis Subject Assessment**

<b><u>CODE</u></b>	<b><u>AREA</u></b>
155	Algebra I (7-12)
102	Art Education (K-12)
181	Biology Education (7-12)
105	Business Education (7-12)
185	Chemistry (7-12)
153	Child Development* (PreK-K)
933	Computer Science** (7-12)
193	Economics (7-12)
119	English (7-12)
177	English as a Second Languages (K-12)
130	French (K-12)
132	Chinese (Mandarin) (K-12)
156	Geometry (7-12)
134	German (K-12)
207	Gifted (K-12)
143	Health Education (K-12)
208	Hearing Disability (K-12)
322	Home Economics (7-12)
135	Latin (K-12)
440	Library/Media (K-12)
318	Marketing (7-12)
154	Mathematics (7-12)
901	Mathematics (7-8)
902	Language Arts (7-8)
903	Social Studies (7-8)
904	Science (7-8)
166	Music Education (K-12)
144	Physical Education (K-12)
189	Physics (7-12)
192	Social Studies (7-12)
140	Spanish (K-12)
221	Special Education (Mild/Moderate K-12) <del>and Foundations of Reading Assessment</del>
910	Special Education Fundamental Subjects
196	Speech Communications (7-12)
218	Visually Impaired (K-12)

*\*Can only be added to a valid license in Elementary Education (116, 152, 120) or select areas of Special Education (221, 222, or 223) that includes Kindergarten.*

*\*\*Can only be added to a valid three-year alternate or five-year standard secondary (7-12) license.*

**APPENDIX A:  
SUPPLEMENTAL ENDORSEMENTS ADDED TO A VALID MISSISSIPPI  
LICENSE  
(CONTINUED)**

**Supplemental Endorsements that may be Added to a Three-Year or Five-Year License  
by  
Completion of an Approved Program  
(Institutional Program Verification required)**

<b><u>CODE</u></b>	<b><u>AREA</u></b>
103	Media Arts (K-12)
111	Computer Applications (K-12)
114	Driver Education (7-12)
120	*Elementary Education (K-6) (added to Valid Five (5)-year Standard License Only + Three (3)-Years Successful Teaching Experience + Foundations of Reading Assessment)
143	Health Education (K12)
146	Wellness and Physical Activity (K-6)
150	Nursery-Grade 1 (N-1)
154	Mathematics (7-12)
174	Reading (K-12)
177	English as a Second Language (K-12)
182	Physical Science (7-12)
193	Economics (7-12)
206	Emotional Disability (K-12)
207	Gifted (K-12)
208	Hearing Impaired (K-12)
218	Visually Impaired (K-12)
221	Mild/Moderate Disability (K-12) <del>and Foundations of Reading Assessment</del>
222	Severe Disability (K-12) added to 221 only
223	Mild/Moderate Disability (K-8) added to elem. only
224	Mild/Moderate Disability (7-12) added to secondary or special subject license only
314	Career Technical Guidance (added only to 436)
405	Business Management (7-12)
411	Business Technology (7-12)
440	Library/Media (K-12)
901	Mathematics (7-8)
931	Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) (K-12)
940	Online Instruction (K-12)

**\*Elementary Education K-6:** Added to Valid Five (5)-Year Standard License Only; Requires Three (3)-Years of Successful Teaching Experience; and Foundations of Reading Assessment

**The following may be added by completion of MDE-approved Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) Course:** 929 – SREB Math Ready (7-12); 930 – SREB Literacy Ready (7-12)

**The following may be added to a valid standard license only by completion of MDE-approved CTE program**

937 – Computer Science (K-6)

933 – Computer Science (7-12)

935 – Exploring Computer Science\* (7-12) (added to 933 Computer Science (7-12) Only)

983 – Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics\* (7-12) (added to 933 Computer Science (7-12) Only)

**\*Can only be added to 933 Computer Science endorsement that was obtained by completion of MDE-approved CTE program in the area of Computer Science (7-12)**

**The following may be added to a valid standard license by completion of MDE-approved Mississippi Council on Economic Education (MCEE) Course:** 193 – Economics (7-12); 941 – Personal Finance (7-12); 942 – College and Career Readiness (7-12)

**The following may be added to a valid standard license only by completion of MDE-approved Middle School Mathematics Institute:** 901 – Mathematics (7-8)