

OFFICE OF CHIEF ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICER
Summary of State Board of Education Item
Consent Agenda
September 25, 2025

OFFICE OF SAFE AND ORDERLY SCHOOLS
DIVISION OF EDUCATOR LICENSURE

- K. Approval to revise Miss. Admin. Code: 7-142: 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)
(Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process without public comments)

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.

On July 11, 2025, at its regular meeting, the Licensure Commission granted approval of a request received from the Offices of Safe and Orderly Schools and Educator Licensure to establish a Driver Education licensure pathway that 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.

The public comment period was open from August 22, 2025, **through 5:00 p.m. September 23, 2025**. The MDE received no public comments.

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.