

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

OFFICE OF TEACHING AND LEADING
OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY EDUCATION AND READING

- L. Approval 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
(Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process with public comments)

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, on July 11, 2025, at its regular meeting, the Licensure Commission granted approval of a request received from the Offices of Teaching and Leading and Elementary Education and Reading 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.

This item has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act Process with public comment received in support of the proposed amendments to the Licensure Guidelines and included one recommended enhancement. The Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) reviewed the recommendation and revised the proposed policy to ensure consistency across all alternate route programs approved by the Mississippi State Board of Education for initial Elementary Education licensure. The revision requires that the reading assessment criterion be met before the five-year standard license is issued, rather than before the issuance of the three-year entry-level alternate route license. The change is reflected under the Master of Arts in Teaching alternate route program. The public comment period was open from August 21, 2025, through 5:00 p.m. September 22, 2025.

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>	<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> <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> <u>Foundations of Reading Assessment Attempt</u> <u>Praxis Subject Assessment</u> <u>Praxis: Principles of Learning and Teaching (PLT)</u>	<u>3 years</u>	<u>NON-RENEWABLE</u> <i><u>Three (3) years to complete requirements to convert to standard five-year license, which include the following:</u></i> <u>Foundations of Reading Assessment OR Foundations of Reading Assessment Attempt AND Pathways to Proficient Reading</u>

Class A	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 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 3. Foundations of Reading Assessment <u>OR Foundations of Reading Assessment Attempt AND Pathways to Proficient Reading</u> 4. Praxis Subject Assessment 5. Praxis: Principles of Learning and Teaching (PLT)	5 years	<u>RENEWABLE</u> Ten (10) continuing education units (CEU's) in content or job/skill related area OR Three (3) semester hours in content or job/skill related area AND Five (5) continuing education units (CEU's) in content or job/skill related area OR Six (6) semester hours in content or job/skill related area OR Completion of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards process
Class AA	1. Meet the requirements for a Five-Year Class A License 2. Master's degree in the endorsement area in which license is requested	5 years	Three (3) semester hours in content or job/skill related area OR Five (5) continuing education units (CEU's) in content or job/skill related area OR Completion of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards process

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

Class AAA	1. Meet the requirements for a Five-Year Class A License 2. Specialist degree in the endorsement area in which the license is requested	5 years	Same as for AA
Class AAAA	1. Meet the requirements for a Five-Year Class A License 2. Doctoral degree in the endorsement area in which license is requested	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 entry-level 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 entry-level 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 entry-level 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 entry-level license.

The following shall be applied as appropriate:

- (1) The three-year alternate route internship entry-level license shall be invalidated upon the issuance of the five-year standard renewable license
- (2) The three-year alternate route internship entry-level 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 entry-level 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 entry-level 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 entry-level 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 entry-level license.

OR

- ii. A one-time one-year extension of the current or expired three-year alternate route internship entry-level 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 entry-level 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 entry-level 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) ***.~~ 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 five-year 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~~ five-year Elementary Education (K-6 or 4-6) certification, as appropriate.

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

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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	1. Hold a bachelor's degree (non-education) from a regionally/ nationally accredited institution of higher education 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 3. Praxis Subject Assessment in accordance with the licensure area designated under the iteach Mississippi program 4. Apply for entrance into iteach Mississippi Program 5. Complete required pre-teaching courses in an approved iteach Mississippi Program licensure area 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 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 8. * Secure Verification of Program Completion 9. Apply for a Three-Year Nonrenewable Teacher Internship License –Alternate Route	3 years	1. Completion of one full-year residency supervised internship 2. Verification of completion of remaining required modules 3. Foundations of Reading Assessment <u>OR Foundations of Reading Assessment Attempt AND Pathways to Proficient Reading</u> (Elementary Education 4-6 only) 4. *Secure Verification of iteach Mississippi Program Completion 5. Apply for the Five-Year Standard Teacher License - Alternate Route
*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.			

**MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL, NON-RENEWABLE LICENSE FOR PROSPECTIVE NON-TRADITIONAL
TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAM COMPLETERS**

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

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

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

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

B. Holds at least a bachelor's degree in any area and 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)**

- 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)**

<u>CODE</u>	<u>AREA</u>
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 <u>OR Foundations of Reading Assessment Attempt AND Pathways to Proficient Reading</u>)
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

Subject Areas for Licensure – To Obtain Information for Required Praxis Subject Assessments Please Visit: www.ets.org/praxis/ms	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)
Program Entrance Requirements	1. Bachelor's degree (non-education) from a regionally/nationally accredited institution of higher education 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 3. Praxis Subject Assessment in accordance with the licensure area designated under the iteach Mississippi program 4. Application for entrance into iteach Mississippi program
Requirements for Three Year Alternate Route License	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 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 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 4. Recommendation by Mississippi Program Director 5. Application for the Three-Year Nonrenewable Teacher Internship License –Alternate Route
Location and Contact Information	Iteach P.O. Box 1626 Denton, TX 76202 Website: www.iteach.net E-mail: admin@iteach.net Phone: 866-914-2653

Requirements for Five Year Alternate Route License	1. Completion of one full-year residency supervised internship 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 3. Foundations of Reading Test <u>OR Foundations of Reading Test Attempt AND Pathways to Proficient Reading</u> (Elementary Education 4-6 only) 4. Recommendation by Mississippi Program Director 5. Application for the Five-Year Standard Teacher License –Alternate Route
Fees	Fee to be determined by the program provider.

The Office of Teaching and Leading received the following APA comments regarding the request 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

Summary of Comment	MDE Response
Currently, alternate route candidates must pass the Foundations of Reading assessment before they can earn a three-year, non-renewable license. This proposal recommends modifying that requirement so that candidates would only need to attempt the assessment once before the initial license is issued, with passage required later for the standard five-year educator license. It is important to note that some Educator Preparation Providers (EPPs) have already been approved to request a three-year, non-renewable license for candidates without requiring any attempt at the assessment. Rationale At present, alternate route candidates complete three introductory courses in Classroom Management, Tests and Measurements, and Exceptional Education before receiving the initial license. Literacy coursework, however, is typically taken later in the program. Requiring the Foundations of Reading assessment before candidates have had the opportunity to complete literacy-related coursework places them at a disadvantage and does not align with the program's instructional sequence. Therefore, I am requesting consideration that passage of the Foundations of Reading assessment or the Pathways to Proficient Reading remains a requirement for obtaining the standard five-year educator license, but not for the initial three-year license. This will align the requirements for all EPPs that offer alternate route programs. Teresa Poole, PhD Dean of the School of Education; Associate Professor William Carey University	The recommended amendment to the proposed policy changes has been made to ensure consistent requirements across all alternate route programs approved by the Mississippi State Board of Education for initial licensure in Elementary Education.