

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

DIVISION OF EDUCATOR LICENSURE

- N. 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
(Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process without public comments)

Background Information: The Office of Teaching and Learning, 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.

On July 11, 2025, at its regular meeting, the Licensure Commission granted approval of a request received from the Division of Educator Licensure 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.

The public comment period was open from August 21, 2025, **through 5:00 p.m. September 22, 2025**. The MDE received no public comments.

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"> 1. Hold a bachelor's degree or higher (non-education) 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 3. Praxis Subject Assessment 4. Acquire admission to the Teach MS Institute Program (See Appendix H or https://www.mdek12.org/OTL/OEL/Alternate) 5. Complete an eight-week training session (see Note) or eight-week online training program. (Times and dates determined by offering colleges/universities) 6. *Apply for the Three Years Educator License – Alternate Route 	3 years	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Completion of one-year internship period with Mentoring and induction program in local school district 2. Secure Recommendation by school district for continued licensure 3. Apply for a Five-Year Alternate Route License

***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"> 1. Hold a bachelor's degree <u>or higher</u> (non-education) 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 3. Praxis Subject Assessment 4. Apply for entrance into MAT Program (<i>See Appendix H for information</i>) 5. Complete 9 hours of pre-teaching courses in an approved MAT Program 6. * Secure Verification of Program Completion 7. Apply for a Three-Year Educator License – Alternate Route 	3 years	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Secure a teaching position. 2. Complete 6 additional hours of coursework to include supervised internship 3. Secure Verification of Program Completion 4. Apply for a Five-Year Alternate Route License

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"> 1. Hold a bachelor's degree <u>or higher</u> (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 course credit as established by the State Board of Education 3. Praxis Subject Assessment 4. Enroll in ABCTE program 5. Pretesting assessment assign advisor 6. ABCTE Passport to Teaching exam 7. Apply for 1-year license 	1 year	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Secure a teaching position, complete 1- year internship with mentor 2. Complete one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * 9 hours of MAT coursework * MDE online professional development

iteach MISSISSIPPI <i>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)</i>			
License	Requirements	Validity	To Convert to a Five- Year Alternate Route Educator License
Class A	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hold a bachelor's degree <u>or higher</u> (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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Completion of one full-year residency supervised internship 2. Verification of completion of remaining required modules 3. Foundations of Reading Assessment (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.			

APPENDIX H ALTERNATE ROUTE TEACHER LICENSURE PROGRAMS Master of Arts in Teaching	
Subject Areas for Licensure – To Obtain Information for Required Praxis Subject Assessments Please Visit: www.ets.org/praxis/ms	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)
Program Entrance Requirements	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 established by the State Board of Education; and 3. Praxis Subject Assessment (Specialty Area Test)
Requirements for Three Year Alternate Route License	1. Complete nine (9) hours pre-teaching course requirements from an approved Master of Arts in Teaching program 2. Program Completion Verification <i>MAT Program offers a three-year alternate route license.</i>
Location and Contact Information	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> <i>For contact information see Appendix F</i>
Requirements for Five Year Alternate Route License	Complete six (6) semester hours including the internship prescribed by the participating institution
Fees	Colleges charge normal fees for 15 semester hours
NOTE: Contact the institution offering the program for enrollment information, application deadlines, fees, starting dates, etc.	

APPENDIX H ALTERNATE ROUTE TEACHER LICENSURE PROGRAMS (CONTINUED) Teach Mississippi Institute	
Subject Areas for Licensure – To Obtain Information for Required Praxis Subject Assessments Please Visit: www.ets.org/praxis/ms	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)
Program Entrance Requirements	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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)
Requirements for Three Year Alternate Route License	Eight Week Training Session in the summer - (Times and dates determined by offering colleges/universities) OR TMI Online program through University of Mississippi Continuing Education <i>TMI offers a three-year alternate route license</i>
Location and Contact Information	Delta State University - summer graduate program University of Southern Mississippi - summer graduate program University of Mississippi - online program only - 1-877-915-7313
Requirements for Five Year Alternate Route License	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Completion of one-year internship period with mentoring and induction program in local school district 2. Recommendation by local school district
Fees	Fee to be determined by the offering university
NOTE: Contact the institution offering the program for enrollment information, application deadlines, fees, starting dates, etc.	

APPENDIX H ALTERNATE ROUTE TEACHER LICENSURE PROGRAMS (CONTINUED)	
American Board Certification for Teacher Excellence Passport to Teaching	
Subject Areas of Licensure	Biology (7-12), Chemistry (7-12), English (7-12), Math (7-12), Physics (7-12)
Program Entrance Requirements	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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) 4. Pretesting Assessments in subject area and pedagogy 5. Assignment of advisor and prescribed individual study profile 6. ABCTE Passport to Teaching exam 7. Apply for One (1) year license
Requirements for Initial One Year Alternate Route License	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ABCTE Passport to Teaching Certificate 2. Letter from school district stating commitment to employ <p><i>ABCTE offers a one-year alternate route license</i></p>
Location and Contact Information	<p style="text-align: center;"> American Board Certification for Teacher Excellence 1225 19th St. NW, Suite 400 Washington, D.C. 20036 Website: www.abcte.org E-mail: contact@abcte.org Phone: 1-877-669-2228 </p>
Requirements for Five Year Alternate Route License	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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> 2. Must complete training in one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MS Public Broadcasting (MPB) E-Learning online professional development course • 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>
Fees	Fee to be determined by the program provider.

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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bachelor's degree or higher (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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<p style="text-align: center;"> Iteach P.O. Box 1626 Denton, TX 76202 Website: www.iteach.net E-mail: admin@iteach.net Phone: 866-914-2653 </p>