

OFFICE OF CHIEF ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICER
Summary of State Board of Education Item
Consent Agenda
October 16, 2025

DIVISION OF EDUCATOR LICENSURE

- H. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise Miss. Admin. Code: 7 – 4: Part 4: *Licensure Guidelines K-12* to establish criteria for the issuance of a Two-Year Provisional license via Reciprocity to individuals seeking Mississippi educator licensure through the use of certain valid license types that are less than standard and issued by an educator licensing authority outside of Mississippi

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 present day.

Miss. Code Ann. §37-3-2(8), outlines criteria for the issuance of a standard five-year license via reciprocity to any individual who holds a valid standard license from another state. As a result of ongoing monitoring and review of reciprocity requirements, it has been discovered that some prospective educators who receive their training outside of Mississippi are not eligible for a standard Mississippi license through the reciprocity pathway. This is because the license they hold from another state is not considered a standard, clear renewable license. Instead, it may be classified by the issuing state educator licensing authority as an Initial encumbered, Preliminary, Provisional, or Beginning license, which does not meet Mississippi's reciprocity criteria.

These license holders in most cases, depending on the state, have completed an approved educator preparation program but are required to meet the respective state's specific requirement for license conversion prior to the issuance of the standard clear renewable license. Requirements vary from state to state but include but are not limited to successful completion of a certain number of years of experience, mandated course requirement, licensure testing requirement, securing initial employment within a local school district in that state, and so on.

On September 5, 2025, at its regular meeting, the Licensure Commission granted approval to amend the existing requirements for obtaining a license via the reciprocity pathway to include criteria for the issuance of a one-time, Two-Year Provisional Reciprocity License to an individual that possesses a valid less than standard educator license issued by an educator licensing authority outside of Mississippi as a result of the completion of a state approved licensure-track teacher, administrator, or supplemental service provider preparation program from

a regionally or nationally accredited institution of higher education outside of Mississippi.

The Two-year Provisional Reciprocity License is to be issued once and is non-renewable but may be converted at any time during the two (2) year period upon completion of all requirements for obtaining Five-Year standard renewable Mississippi educator license.

All requirements noted herein shall be effective upon receipt of final Mississippi Board of Education approval.

Recommendation: Approval

Back-up material attached

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION RECIPROCITY LICENSE

The department shall grant a standard five-year license to any individual who possesses a valid standard license from another state, or another country or political subdivision thereof, within a period of twenty-one (21) days from the date of a completed application. The issuance of a license by reciprocity to a military-trained applicant, military spouse or person who establishes residence in this state shall be subject to the provisions of Section 73-50-1 394 or 73-50-2, as applicable. A Two-Year Provisional Reciprocity License may be issued if an individual meets the following criteria:

Requirements to Obtain a Two-Year Provisional Reciprocity License

1. Standard Mississippi Licensure Application;
and
2. Valid less than standard license issued by an educator licensing authority outside the state of Mississippi; and
3. Official, sealed transcript(s) showing completion of a bachelor's degree or higher from an institution of higher education that was regionally/nationally accredited at the time the degree was conferred or detailed course-by-course foreign credential evaluation report of a bachelor's degree or higher, as well as any other relevant educator credentials and correspondence, translated and evaluated by an evaluation agency;

Validity. The Two-Year Provisional Reciprocity License is valid for two (2) years and is nonrenewable but can be converted to a standard five (5)-year renewable license upon completion of ancillary requirements.

Special Note: The Two-year Provisional Reciprocity License is to be issued once and is nonrenewable but may be converted at any time during the two (2) year period upon completion of all requirements for obtaining a Five-Year standard renewable Mississippi educator license.

Requirements to Obtain a Five-Year Reciprocity License

1. Standard Mississippi Licensure Application;
and
2. Valid standard unencumbered license issued by an educator licensing authority outside the state of Mississippi;
3. Official, sealed transcript(s) showing completion of a bachelor's degree or higher from an institution of higher education that was regionally/nationally accredited at the time the degree was conferred or detailed course-by-course foreign credential evaluation report of a bachelor's degree or higher, as well as any other relevant educator credentials and correspondence, translated and evaluated by an evaluation agency;

Validity. The Five-Year Reciprocity License is valid for five (5) years, as appropriate, and renewable in accordance with licensure renewal guidelines established by the Mississippi State Board of Education.

Specific restrictions apply:

- Reciprocity recognizes a valid standard renewable unencumbered educator license in a teaching field that has been issued by another state, provided that the license corresponds to a licensure area, grade level, and degree level for which Mississippi offers a comparable standard educator license/endorsement.
- Additional endorsements may only be added to a five-year standard renewable license issued via Reciprocity by successful completion of requirements as approved by the Mississippi State Board of Education.
- A valid less than standard license issued by an educator licensing authority outside the state of Mississippi shall not include residency, internship, preservice, emergency, local district-requested, or temporary/permit licenses that are designated for educators to serve in the state of issuance only. If the less than standard license was issued for reasons other than completion of a state-approved educator preparation program, including pedagogy and clinical practice outside of Mississippi, it shall not be accepted for issuance of the five-year standard Mississippi license.
- The standard five-year license shall be renewed in accordance with requirements established by the Mississippi State Board of Education as outlined in the respective official educator licensure guidelines documents.
- The license holder shall be bound by the Mississippi Code of Ethics and Standards of Conduct.

**FIVE-YEAR EDUCATOR LICENSE
RECIPROCITY**

~~The department shall grant a standard five-year license to any individual who possesses a valid standard license from another state, or another country or political subdivision thereof, within a period of twenty-one (21) days from the date of a completed application. The issuance of a license by reciprocity to a military-trained applicant, military spouse or person who establishes residence in this state shall be subject to the provisions of Section 73-50-1 394 or 73-50-2, as applicable.~~

License	Requirements	Validity	Renewal
Class A	1. Valid standard license issued by an educator licensing agency outside the state of Mississippi (Upload PDF copy of valid standard license issued by an educator licensing agency outside the state of Mississippi via Mississippi Educator Career Continuum Archive (MECCA) system account) 2. Official Sealed copy of all college/university level academic transcripts	5 years	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