

OFFICE OF CHIEF ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICER
Summary of State Board of Education Item
Consent Agenda
November 20, 2025

DIVISION OF EDUCATOR LICENSURE

- K. Approval to revise Miss. Admin. Code 7 – 4: Part 4: *Licensure Guidelines K-12* to expand existing criteria related to the one-time one-year extension of a provisional nonrenewable entry-level teaching license obtained by way of completion of prelicensure requirements as part of nontraditional teacher preparation programs that lead to a standard Mississippi teaching license
(Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process without public comments)

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.

As a result of continuous review of requirements related to the extension of certain provisional nonrenewable licenses, the policy as currently written is restrictive in nature and only allows an extension to be granted to those candidates completing prerequisite teaching requirements for two specific nontraditional pathways to teacher licensure and does not take into account candidates experiencing unforeseen circumstances in other licensure-track nontraditional pathways. The proposed criteria will apply to the following license types and do not include the local district-requested license type:

- Three-Year Master of Arts in Teaching Entry-Level Teaching License
- Three-Year Teach Mississippi Institute Entry-Level Teaching License
- Three-Year Teach for America Entry-Level Teaching License
- Three-Year iteach Mississippi Entry-Level Teaching License
- Three-Year Career and Technical Education Entry-Level Teaching License
- One-Year American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence Entry-Level Teaching License

On September 5, 2025, at its regular meeting, the Licensure Commission granted approval of the proposed criteria as recommended by the Office of Teaching and Leading Division of Educator Licensure as outlined in the attached back-up material included herein.

The public comment period was open from October 25, 2025, **through 5:00 p.m. November 17, 2025**. The MDE received no public comments.

Recommendation: Approval

Back-up material attached

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
GUIDELINES FOR THE EXTENSION OF CERTAIN PROVISIONAL
NONRENEWABLE LICENSE TYPES

(1) Purpose. The purpose of this policy is to provide criteria for the one-time one-year extension of certain provisional nonrenewable license types obtained via the completion of prelicensure requirements of a Mississippi State Board of Education approved nontraditional teacher preparation program.

(2) Requirements. The one-time one-year extension of the provisional nonrenewable license type may be granted to an individual that has not met all licensure requirements for converting the Entry-Level Teaching License to the standard clear renewable license type, at the time the application for the one-time one-year extension is submitted to the Division of Educator Licensure. This special, one-time one-year extension provides a candidate that experienced extenuating circumstances that impeded their ability to complete all licensure requirements within the validity period assigned to the initial provisional Entry-Level Teaching License held, one additional year to complete all remaining requirements for converting the provisional license to the standard level.

A Mississippi educator who holds or previously held a provisional nonrenewable Mississippi license and has not met all licensure requirements for converting the Entry-Level Teaching License to the standard clear renewable license type, at the time the application is received by the Division of Educator Licensure shall have the previous license extended one time for one year under the following conditions:

1. The previously issued provisional nonrenewable license must have expired or be within three months of its expiration date;
and
2. The educator shall have secured a position at a local school district or an eligible nonpublic school in the state of Mississippi for the purpose of completing all remaining licensure requirements in effect on the date the complete application for the one-time one-year extension is received by the Division of Educator Licensure;
and
3. The one-time one-year extension shall be requested by the Educator Preparation Provider that made the initial recommendation for the three-year nonrenewable entry-level license, if applicable.

(3) Validity. The one-time one-year license extension is valid for one (1) school year.

The educator shall meet all current program and licensure requirements for a standard, five (5) year renewable license by the expiration of the one (1) year extension.

Specific restrictions apply:

- Extensions will be granted in circumstances of hardship, which may include severe illness, disability, military service, or other valid justifications. Applicants are required to provide a written explanation that outlines the specific reasons for their request. Additionally, supporting documentation may be requested, such as a physician's statement for requests related to health issues, as part of the recommendation.
- The one-time one-year extension can be issued in any applicable endorsement area offered by the following approved State Board of Education licensure-track educator licensure pathways or other pathways that may be adopted in the future: Master of Arts in Teaching Program; Teach Mississippi Institute; Career and Technical Education Entry-Level Teaching License; American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence; Teach for America; iteach Mississippi.
- This license type does not include any local district-requested license type.
- Additional endorsements may be added to the extended license by way of completion of appropriate requirements approved by the Mississippi State Board of Education and shall be requested by the candidate only.

- The license shall be issued at the class level held prior to the expiration of the license to be extended and shall not be upgraded to a higher-class level during the extension period.
- This policy only applies to entry-level teaching licenses granted through an active Mississippi State Board of Education approved licensure-track teacher preparation program and pathway.

**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 (if applicable to area of certification sought)

***. The Foundations of Reading Assessment 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 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

**Master of Arts in Teaching
Three-Year Alternate Route
License**

Mild/Moderate (7-12) Certification Class A 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