

VERIFICATION OF LAWFUL PRESENCE

Mississippi Department of Education Office of Educator Licensure (601) 359-3483

Mississippi Code Ann. §71-11-1 requires all agencies within the state of Mississippi to fully cooperate with federal immigration authorities in the enforcement of federal immigration laws. Therefore, the Division of Educator Licensure has amended the current licensure application process to include procedures for verifying an applicant's lawful presence in the United States.

Effective with applications received January 1, 2021, and thereafter, all Citizens of the United States are required to submit appropriate documentation for verification once during their next most immediate licensure application submission. Non-US citizens are required to submit appropriate documentation for verification from the Department of Homeland Security or other federal immigration agency along with your alien number with each licensure application submission, or when their United States Citizenship and Immigration Services documents expire, whichever comes first. Licensure application(s) shall not be processed if the applicant fails to answer the request for documentation required for verification of lawful presence in the United States.

It shall be the responsibility of the prospective or practicing educator to obtain and provide the MDE with required documentation regarding his/her United States citizenship or lawful presence status. Required forms and additional information found therein, can be accessed via the following web link: [<https://www.mdek12.org/OEL/Forms>].

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(Please use black ink or type)

Please print your legal name legibly in the spaces indicated.

Title Last Name

Mr. Mrs. Ms. Dr. _____

First Name Middle Name

Social Security Number or Educator ID Number Date of Birth (MM/DD/YY)

I am submitting the following required Verification of Lawful Presence (VLP) documentation:

- This completed form; **AND**
- The completed and notarized Affidavit (see important instructions at link below); **AND**
- A copy of the ID used in completing the Affidavit and presented to the notary for validation.

These documents must be uploaded through the Correspondence section of your educator licensure account. When uploading documents, please ensure that all documents are uploaded as a PDF.

The Verification of Lawful Presence (VLP) Documentation has **three (3) required components. All three (3) documents must be submitted to fulfill the VLP requirement.**

- 1. This form AND**
- 2. The completed and notarized Affidavit AND**
- 3. A copy of the **valid ID** used in completing the Affidavit. See instructions below on page four (4) to ensure you use the correct ID for verifying lawful presence in the United States in accordance with state and federal laws based on your citizenship status.**

Failure to provide all three (3) documents shall result in an application being placed in pending status until received.

Affidavit for Verification of Lawful Presence

By executing this affidavit under oath, as an applicant for a **Mississippi Educator License**, as from the **Mississippi Department of Education**, the undersigned applicant verifies **one of the following** with respect to application for a public benefit:

- 1) I am a United States Citizen; **OR**
- 2) I am a legal permanent resident of the United States; **OR**
- 3) If options 1 or 2 above do not reflect the status of your lawful presence in the United States, please provide documentation from the Department of Homeland Security or other federal immigration agency along with your alien number for further review. Please write-in your Department of Homeland Security or other federal immigration agency issued alien number on the following line:

_____.

The undersigned applicant also hereby verifies that he or she is 18 years of age or older and has provided at least one secure and verifiable document with this affidavit.

In the space below, please write-in the name of the secure and verifiable document provided by you, as listed on page four (4):

_____.

In making the above representation under oath, I understand that any person who knowingly and willfully makes a false, fictitious, or fraudulent statement or representation in an affidavit shall be guilty of a violation of Mississippi Code Ann. § 97-7-10, and face criminal penalties as allowed by such criminal statute.

Executed in _____ (city), _____ (state).

Signature of Applicant

Printed Name of Applicant

List of Secure and Verifiable Documents for Confirmation of Lawful Presence

The following list of secure and verifiable documents contains documents that are verifiable for identification purposes, and documents on this list may not necessarily be indicative of residency or immigration status. Additional information may be requested for further processing of your application for educator licensure.

- A valid, unexpired United States passport or passport card
- A valid, unexpired **REAL ID** driver's license issued by one of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands, the United States Virgin Island, American Samoa, or the Swain Islands, provided that it contains a photograph of the bearer or lists sufficient identifying information regarding the bearer, such as name, date of birth, gender, height, eye color, and address to enable the identification of the bearer
- A valid, unexpired **REAL ID** identification card issued by one of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands, the United States Virgin Island, American Samoa, or the Swain Islands, provided that it contains a photograph of the bearer or lists sufficient identifying information regarding the bearer, such as name, date of birth, gender, height, eye color, and address to enable the identification of the bearer
- Certified birth certificate with stamp or raised seal issued by a U.S. government unit or U.S. territory government office. (Note: Puerto Rican birth certificates are accepted only if issued on or after July 1, 2010)
- A valid, unexpired Merchant Mariner Document or Merchant Mariner Credential issued by the United States Coast Guard
- A Certificate of Citizenship issued by the United States Department of Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) (Form N-560 or Form N-561)
- A Certificate of Naturalization issued by the United States Department of Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) (Form N-550 or Form N-570)
- A valid, unexpired United States Permanent Resident Card issued by DHS or INS(I-551)
- A tribal identification card of a federally recognized Native American tribe, provided that it contains a photograph of the bearer or lists sufficient identifying information regarding the bearer, such as name, date of birth, gender, height, eye color, and address to enable the identification of the bearer. A listing of federally recognized Native American tribes may be found at:
<http://www.bia.gov/WhoWeAre/BIA/OIS/TribalGovernmentServices/TribalDirectory/index.htm>