

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 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.

Any initial or renewable license issued to an applicant who is not a United States citizen shall expire in accordance with the appropriate validity date required by a particular license type but, shall not exceed the expiration date of the applicant's authorized stay in the United States, whichever is the lesser period of time. A change in a Non-US citizen's lawful presence status will affect his/her ability to receive or continue to hold a Mississippi educator license.

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. 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 at <https://sso.mde.k12.ms.us/Login/Login.aspx>. 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 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) I am a qualified alien or non-immigrant under the Federal Immigration and Nationality Act with an alien number issued by the Department of Homeland Security or other federal immigration agency. My alien number issued by the Department of Homeland Security or other immigration agency is: _____.

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.

The secure and verifiable document provided can be classified as:

_____.

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

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN
BEFORE ME ON THIS THE

_____ DAY OF _____, 20 _____

NOTARY PUBLIC
My Commission Expires: _____

Signature of Notary

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.

- 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 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>
- A valid, unexpired United States Permanent Resident Card issued by DHS or INS(I-551)
- A valid, unexpired Employment Authorization Document that contains a photograph of the bearer issued by DHS
- 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)
- An expired immigration document along with Form I-797(Notice of Action) showing that new documents have been applied for

In addition to the documents listed herein, if, in administering a public benefit or program, an agency is required by federal law to accept a document or other form of identification for proof of or documentation of identity, that document or other form of identification will be deemed a secure and verifiable document solely for that particular program or administration of that particular public benefit.