

MEMORANDUM

To: Local Superintendents of Education, Officials of Eligible Non-Public Schools, and All Other Education Stakeholders

From: Dr. Cory M. Murphy, Associate State Superintendent
Office of Teaching and Leading

Date: August 20, 2024

Subject: Office of Teaching and Leading – 2024 Compendium of Updates and Reminders

2024-2025 Educator Shortage Survey Now Available

The Office of Teaching and Leading aims to capture current and consistent vacancy information to assess educator workforce needs and shortages across the state. We are therefore requesting each Superintendent, or their designee complete the 2024-2025 Educator Shortage Survey using the unique username and password provided by a member of our team following this memorandum. All Superintendents will receive their district's unique username and password by no later than the close of business on Wednesday, August 21, 2024. This survey will allow districts to provide their exact number of vacancies and statewide trends will be shared with MDE offices, districts, universities, and/or legislators to inform educator workforce development efforts across Mississippi.

Previous survey results are available at <https://www.mdek12.org/OETA>

2024-2025 School Year Now Available in the Professional Growth System Observation and Development Portal (PGS Portal) The Mississippi Educator and Administrator Professional Growth System (PGS) is designed to increase student achievement by providing teachers and administrators with feedback to inform continuous improvement. Districts will be required to submit annual employee performance data via MECCA by June 30, 2025, so training and technical assistance opportunities will be offered throughout the year to assist with PGS data submission in MECCA via the PGS Portal Community of Practice.

District and school administrators may register for PGS Portal Community of Practice updates at <https://forms.office.com/r/T99cqC9nrV>

Reminder--Due October 1, 2024: Required Submission of Appendix B: Annual Report Form for Superintendent of Education for Reporting Infractions Under Miss. Code Ann. §37-3-2

A copy of the current version of the Procedures for Reporting Infractions Handbook (page eight (8) represents the required form referenced herein) is available at [Educator Misconduct | The Mississippi Department of Education \(mdek12.org\)](#).

Please send an electronic copy of the completed, notarized form to Mr. Scott DeJong via email at sdejong@mdek12.org to expedite the updating of our records and submit the original notarized form via postal mail no later than the established deadline using the following address:

Mississippi Department of Education
Division of Educator Misconduct Evaluations
Post Office Box 771
Jackson, Mississippi 39205-0771

Should you have questions, please contact Mr. Scott DeJong, Director of the Division of Educator Misconduct, at sdejong@mdek12.org.

Important Dates Regarding Certain Licensure Application Types

On February 1st of every year, districts may begin to submit applications for district-requested licensure types for the upcoming school year.

Licensure application requests submitted on or after March 1st for initial licensure, reinstatement, and entry-level administrator will be issued for the upcoming school year unless the applicant requests that the license be issued for the remainder of the current year.

Newly Approved Educator Preparation Provider (EEP)

The Mississippi State Board of Education granted approval for iteach Mississippi to be established as a new Educator Preparation Provider (EPP). iteach offers a competency-based educator preparation program that “combines the convenience of online learning with the support of face-to-face mentorship” comprised of eight, self-paced virtual pedagogical modules. Program entrance requirements established for non-traditional programs shall be met prior to program admittance. Candidates will be assigned a Mississippi-based field supervisor and an effective mentor teacher. Subject areas to be offered include 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), and Spanish (K-12).

More information about iteach Mississippi will be available at www.iteach.net

Updates Regarding Certain Licensure Pathways

Update: Effective November 9, 2023, the Mississippi State Board of Education granted approval to establish Performance-Based Teacher License criteria. Performance-Based Licensure (PBL) resulted from a nationally unprecedented study of performance-based alternatives for educators who are positively impacting student outcomes yet face challenges in meeting licensure testing requirements. Eligible grade level and subject area placement requirements shall be met for a Three-Year Performance-Based Teacher License, and the Five-Year Performance-Based Teacher License will only be granted in the licensure endorsement areas of English (7-12) and Mathematics (7-12), pending successful completion of all requirements.

Information regarding PBL is available at <https://www.mdek12.org/OEL/Performance-Based-Licensure>

Additionally, Office of Teaching and Leading Staff will host PBL webinars at the following dates, times, and links:

- Thursday, August 22, 2024, 10:00-11:00 a.m. [Click here to join](#)
- Wednesday, September 4, 2024, 10:00-11:00 a.m. [Click here to join](#)

Update: Effective March 18, 2024, the Resident Teacher License teaching commitment requirements for individuals once unconditionally admitted to a State Board of Education-approved Mississippi Teacher Residency program are as follows:

Completion of a two (2) year teaching commitment, including the one (1) year minimum teacher residency:

- to a geographical critical shortage area for those individuals receiving full tuition through any combination of federal and state funds, pending successful program completion, via district recommendation OR
- to the residency placement district for those individuals receiving full tuition through local district funds, pending successful program completion, via district recommendation OR
- as determined by the residency placement institution and district for those individuals receiving full tuition through any combination of funds, pending successful program completion, via institutional and district recommendation.

Special Note: Completion of the two (2) year teaching commitment shall not apply to individuals who do not receive full tuition for completing a State Board of Education-approved Mississippi Teacher Residency program.

Licensure Updates and Reminders Regarding Certain Licensure Assessments

Update: Gifted K-12 (Licensure Endorsement Code 207) can be added to a Three-Year Provisional Alternate Route Internship License or Five-Year Standard License by successfully challenging the Praxis Subject Assessment (Mississippi's current test code for Praxis Gifted Education is 5358).

Reminder: Effective January 1, 2023, all candidates seeking to obtain initial licensure in Special Education, Mild/Moderate Disability K-12 (endorsement code 221), shall earn a passing score on a test of scientifically research-based reading instruction, interventions, and data-based decision-making principles as approved by the Mississippi State Board of Education (i.e., Foundations of Reading). Please note, this applies to candidates seeking to obtain licensure via traditional and alternate route Special Education Mild/Moderate K-12 educator preparation program completion and by way of the supplemental endorsement added to a license by Praxis Subject Assessment.

Reminder: Effective September 1, 2023, the Praxis Subject Assessment, Special Education: Foundational Knowledge (Test Code 5355) replaced the Special Education: Core Knowledge and Applications (Test Code 5354) that is required as one criterion for educator licensure. Adhering to the Mississippi State Board of Education's Discontinued Test Policy, Mississippi's qualifying passing score for the discontinued version of the assessment will be accepted through August 31, 2025, if that qualifying passing score was achieved on or prior to August 31, 2023.

c: Paula A. Vanderford