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# Mississippi Pathways to Educator Licensure

METIS Conference

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**Krystal Cormack**

Bureau Director, Division of Educator Licensure

Office of Teaching and Leading

## **VISION**

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To create a world-class educational system that gives students the knowledge and skills to be successful in college and the workforce, and to flourish as parents and citizens

## **MISSION**

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To provide leadership through the development of policy and accountability systems so that all students are prepared to compete in the global community

MISSISSIPPI STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
**STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS**

1

All Students Proficient and Showing Growth in All Assessed Areas



2

Every Student Graduates from High School and is Ready for College and Career



3

Every Child Has Access to a High-Quality Early Childhood Program



4

Every School Has Effective Teachers and Leaders



5

Every Community Effectively Uses a World-Class Data System to Improve Student Outcomes



6

Every School and District is Rated “C” or Higher



# Educator Licensure/Certification

- A process of identifying candidates who meet specific requirements to enter the profession

Requirements typically include:

**E**ducation or training

**E**xperience or supervised practicum

**E**xamination (licensure assessment(s))

- Goal is to reduce the likelihood that unqualified candidates enter the profession --  
Focus on what's needed for satisfactory beginning level practice
- Not intended to be a predictor of future practice

# Licensure/Certification Testing

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- High Stakes
- Required
- One of multiple requirements - The three E's – Education, Experience, Examination
- Knowledge deemed important to begin practice
- Not intended to distinguish between good and great educators
- Must be legally defensible

# Updates & Reminders

- Educator Licensure/Teaching and Leading Staffing Update
  - Mrs. Krystal Cormack, Bureau Director II, Division of Educator Licensure
  - Ms. Tamika Lipsey, Assistant Director, Division of Educator Licensure
  - Four Call Center Specialists
  - Two Educator Licensure Specialists
  - Director of Rural Recruitment
  - Three Additional Educator Recruiters
  - Communications Specialist

### **Submission of Local School District Requested Application Packets Via Postal Mail Discontinued – Proposed Solution Complete**

- ✓ All Local District Requested Licenses to be Accessible and Completed via ELMS

### **Local District Authorized Personnel Kept Abreast of Application Status – Available to Local District Authorized Personnel Upon Role Assignment by the MDE**

- ✓ Visit Local District Portal in ELMS to view status of all applications submitted
- ✓ Requirements Letters sent to applicants will post to Local District Portal
- ✓ Revise open application to make corrections if required or changes needed

## Submission Of Select Supporting Documents Via Postal Mail Discontinued – Proposed Solution Complete

- ✓ Certain documents submitted directly into applicants ELMS account
  - Renewal/Reinstatement (CEU/SEMI Certificates, National Board Verification, Public Employee Retirement System letter)
  - Experience Verification Form
  - Institutional Program Verification Form
  - Verification of Accreditation Form
  - Advanced Placement (AP)/Project Lead the Way Certificates
  - Administrator Related: District Letter/OSL Certificates
  - Local District Related: Resume/Letters of Recommendation
  - Out of State Certificates/Verification Form

The above listing is not all inclusive and is subject to change.

## **Automated Application Processing for Certain Licensure Requests**

- ✓ Pre-Service License (with Electronic Documentation of Praxis Core Only)
- ✓ One Year Reinstatement
- ✓ Supplemental Endorsements Added by Praxis
- ✓ Year-one Veteran Out of Field License

# Educator Licensure: Recently Approved Licensure Changes (eff. 3.25.19)

- Removal of Praxis Core/ACT/SAT Test Requirement for select licensure areas:
  - Guidance and Counseling (436)
  - Library/Media (440)
  - Psychometrist (213)
  - School Psychologist (451)
  - Speech Language Clinician (215)
  - Speech Associate (216)
  - Audiologist (202)
  - MAPQSL Administrator (494, 486 –A5)
  
- Removal of Praxis Principles of Learning and Teaching Test Requirement for select licensure areas:
  - MAPQSL Administrator (494, 486 –A5)
  - Library/Media (440)

# Educator Licensure: Additional Updates

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- District to have Access to List of Current Employees' Renewal Cycle Status
- Added New Electronic Transcript Vendor – National Student Clearinghouse
- Electronic Submission of ACT Score Reports to MDE (Projected Fall 2019)
- Pre-service License with Auto-Issuance Feature (Projected Fall 2019) –
  - Webinar to be Conducted Upon Development Completion

# Educator Licensure/Educator Misconduct: Enhancements in Progress

## Licensure Auto-Issuance

- Pre-service License (ACT/SAT equivalent test)
- Renewal by SEMI Credits for Career Level License Holders
- Conversion of Administrator License from Non-Practicing to Entry-Level License
- Renewal of School Business Administrator License

## Proposed Division of Educator Misconduct Enhancements

- Educator Misconduct Portal within ELMS
- Exploring Background Checks to be Conducted at State Level

## Reminder: Special, Non-Renewable License - Traditional Program Completers

The special, non-renewable license is a one-year license that can only be requested by a local school district.

- Special, Non-renewable License for **Traditional Teacher Preparation Program Completers**
  - Year-One License Holders must show **evidence of progress** towards meeting Mississippi's required licensure assessment requirements in order to receive Year-Two License
  - Year-Two License Holders must show **evidence of progress** towards meeting Mississippi's required licensure assessment requirements in order to receive the Year-Three License
  - Year-Three License Holders: Final Special, Non-renewable License, must pass exams

# Reminder: Special, Non-Renewable License - Prospective Non-Traditional Program Completer

The special, non-renewable license is a one-year license that can only be requested by a local school district.

- Special, Non-renewable License for Prospective Non-traditional Teacher Preparation Program Completers (**No Test Requirement for the Issuance of Year-One Special, Non-renewable License**)
  - Year-One License Holders must be unconditionally admitted to nontraditional educator preparation program in order to receive the Year-Two License (in other words, **must pass exams to move from Year-One to Year-Two!**)
  - Year-Two License Holders must be unconditionally admitted to nontraditional educator preparation program in order to receive the Year-Three License
  - Year-Three License Holders: Final Special, Non-renewable License

# Pathways to Professional Educator Licensure

# Traditional Pathway Requirements

- Completion of Bachelor's degree in education with **student teaching** (GPA requirements included)
- Praxis CORE or ACT/SAT equivalent
- Praxis: Principles of Learning and Teaching (PLT) Assessment
- Praxis: Subject Assessment
- *Foundations of Reading test (required for elementary education majors only)*
- Offered at Mississippi's Fifteen (15) Public/Private Institutions of Higher Education

# Mississippi's Frequently Selected Nontraditional Pathways

- Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) Program
- Mississippi Alternate Path to Quality Teaching (MAPQT)
- Teach Mississippi Institute (TMI)

## Program Requirements

- Bachelor's degree (non-education) with GPA requirements
- Praxis CORE or ACT/SAT equivalent
- Praxis Subject Assessment
- *Foundations of Reading (Required for elementary education candidates only)*
- Pre-teaching Courses/Training
- One-Year Internship

## **Five-Year Reciprocity License**

- Standard valid out-of-state license
- State-required Subject Assessment(s)
- Must meet MS minimum requirements

## **Two-Year Reciprocity License**

- Less than standard valid out-of-state license

# Proposed Pathways to Educator Licensure

## Mississippi Teacher Residency (MTR) Pilot Program

- Associate Degree or 60 college credits/2.75 GPA
- Complete two-year undergraduate elementary education/special education program while working alongside an experienced mentor teacher in one of four participating local districts (JPS/SCSD/OSSD/GSD)
- 282 Applications Received

Please visit: <http://mdek12.org/OTL/MTR> for additional information

Please email questions to: [mtr@mdek12.org](mailto:mtr@mdek12.org)

## Performance-Based Licensure (PBL) Pilot

- Holds at minimum a Bachelor's Degree
- Teaching Experience (long-term substitute, emergency/special nonrenewable license, licensed out of content area/teaching out of field, or teacher assistant)
- Application sent to only those local districts that participated in focus groups conducted summer 2018 and indicated desire to participate in pilot

## Add-on Teacher Licensure Endorsement

- Mathematics
- Elementary Education

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*Note: Please remain mindful that any policies and/or guidelines provided herein reflects requirements in effect as of the date of presentation. Applicants for Mississippi educator licensure shall meet all requirements in effect on the date the complete licensure application packet is received in the Office of Educator Licensure at the MDE.*