

OFFICE OF CHIEF OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT
Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Items
July 14, 2016

OFFICE OF EDUCATOR LICENSURE

08. Action: Revise Part 4: *Licensure Guidelines K-12* to include a special, non-renewable educator license [Goals 1, 2, 3, and 4 – MBE Strategic Plan]
(Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process with public comment)

Background Information: In a special-called meeting held on June 13, 2016, the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification, and Licensure and Development granted approval of the proposed criteria for a special, non-renewable educator license not to exceed a period of three (3) years.

Miss. Code Ann. § 37-3-2(5) outlines the duties of the Commission. Specifically, subsection (c) states that one of the duties is to establish, subject to the approval of the State Board of Education, standards for initial teacher certification and licensure in all fields. Furthermore, sub-section (f) requires the Commission to review all existing requirements for certification and licensure.

Miss. Code Ann. § 37-3-2(6)(d) authorizes the State Board of Education to establish rules and regulations to allow those educators not meeting requirements in subsection (6)(a), (b), or (c) to be licensed for a period of not more than three (3) years except by special approval of the State Board of Education.

The special, non-renewable educator license will allow candidates currently enrolled in or completing a standard or alternate route teacher education program to apply for a license, although the candidate has not yet met all certification requirements under Miss. Code Ann. § 37-3-2(6)(a), (b), and (c) at the time the application is submitted. The special, non-renewable educator license will also provide local school districts with the option(s) of more qualified candidate(s) as a result of the ongoing teacher shortage in Mississippi. The special, non-renewable educator license will allow the candidate three (3) years to meet all certification requirements for a standard, five (5) year license.

A candidate shall meet the following criteria to be granted a special, non-renewable educator license:

- a) Minimum of a bachelor's degree in the area in which the license is requested;
- b) Documentation verifying the candidate is enrolled in or has completed a standard or alternate route teacher education program on or after January 1, 2014;

- c) Local District Request Packet submitted by the District;
- d) Letter of request and justification from the District;
- e) Completed licensure application;
- f) Official sealed transcript(s); and
- g) Vita or resume.

The special, non-renewable educator license is non-transferable between districts during the three (3) year period and will require an annual application process to verify progress towards meeting all certification requirements for a standard, five (5) year license. For example, if a candidate is employed one (1) year and wishes to transfer to another school district to teach, the license is not valid. If the educator is non-renewed by the district after the first year, the educator will not be issued a license for another district for the remaining two (2) years.

Additional endorsements may not be added to the special, non-renewable educator license. Additional endorsements will be added to the license once the candidate has met all certification requirements for a standard, five (5) year license.

The temporary and final action is necessary to implement the policy revisions for the 2016-2017 school year immediately upon its filing with the Secretary of State in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 25-43-3.113(2)(b)(ii) of the *Mississippi Code of 1972*, as amended. For a rule to become effective immediately upon its filing, the Board is required to make a finding that the rule only confers a benefit or removes a restriction on the public or some segment thereof.

This item references Goals 1, 2, 3, and 4 of the *Mississippi Board of Education 2016-2020 Strategic Plan*.

Recommendation: Approval

Back-up material attached



Proposed Criteria for Special, Non-renewable Educator License

The special, non-renewable educator license will allow candidates currently enrolled in or completing a standard or alternate route teacher education program to apply for a license, although the candidate has ~~failed to meet~~ **not yet met** all certification requirements under Miss. Code Ann. § 37-3-2(6)(a), (b), and (c), at the time the application is submitted. The special, non-renewable educator license will also provide local school districts with the option(s) of more qualified candidate(s) as a result of the ongoing teacher shortage in Mississippi. The special, non-renewable educator license will allow the candidate three (3) years to meet all certification requirements for a standard, five (5) year license.

A candidate shall meet the following criteria to be granted a special, non-renewable educator license:

- a) Minimum of a bachelor's degree in the area in which the license is requested;
- b) Documentation verifying the candidate is enrolled in or has completed a standard or alternate route teacher education program on or after January 1, 2014;
- c) Local District Request Packet submitted by the District;
- d) Letter of request and justification from the District;
- e) Completed licensure application;
- f) Official sealed transcript(s); and
- g) Vita or resume.

The special, non-renewable educator license is non-transferable between districts during the three (3) year period and will require an annual application process to verify progress towards meeting all certification requirements for a standard, five (5) year license. For example, if a candidate is employed one (1) year and wishes to transfer to another school district to teach, the license is not valid unless a new application is received by the District in which the candidate wishes to transfer. If the educator is non-renewed by the district after the first year, the educator will not be issued a license for another district for the remaining two (2) years.

Additional endorsements may not be added to the special, non-renewable educator license. Additional endorsements will be added to the license once the candidate has met all certification requirements for a standard, five (5) year license.

**PROPOSED REVISIONS
OF LICENSURE
GUIDELINES K-12**

APA COMMENTS

June 16–July 12, 2016

APA Comments Summary Chart

Rule	Narrative of Rule	Topic	Comments		
			Supporting	Concerns	Total
Licensure Guidelines K-12	The special, non-renewable license will allow candidates currently enrolled in or completing a standard or alternate route teacher education program to apply for a license, although the candidate has failed to meet all certification requirements at the time of the application. The license will allow candidates three (3) years to meet all certification requirements for a standard five (5) year license.	Special, Non-Renewable License	0	1	1
TOTAL COMMENTS			0	1	1

PROPOSED REVISIONS TO LICENSURE GUIDELINES K-12

APA Comments Summary Chart

Role	Number of Commenters
Superintendents/Conservators	
Assistant Superintendents	
District School Board Members	
Teachers	
Librarians/Media Specialists	
Federal Programs Directors	
Curriculum Directors	1
Special Education Directors	
Principals	
Assistant Principals	
Vocational School Directors	
Other District Personnel	
Instructional Specialists/Academic Coaches	
Advocacy Groups	
MDE Offices	
Citizens (Parents)	
Unknown	
State Organizations	
TOTAL	1

From: David Rock <rock@olemiss.edu>
Date: July 8, 2016 at 4:50:35 PM CDT
To: Paula Vanderford <PAVanderford@mdek12.org>
Cc: Ann Blackwell <ann.blackwell@usm.edu>, "Burson, Debra" <bursodb@millsaps.edu>
Subject: three year non-renewable license.

Paula,

I would like to provide some comments regarding the temporary and possibly permanent change to the licensure requirements to include a special, non-renewable educator license for 3 years.

The language states:

The special, non-renewable educator license will allow the candidate three (3) years to meet all certification requirements for a standard, five (5) year license.

A candidate shall meet the following criteria to be granted a special, non-renewable educator license:

- a) Minimum of a bachelor's degree in the area in which the license is requested;
- b) Documentation verifying the candidate is enrolled in or has completed a standard or alternate route teacher education program on or after January 1, 2014;
- c) Local District Request Packet submitted by the District;
- d) Letter of request and justification from the District;
- e) Completed licensure application;
- f) Official sealed transcript(s); and
- g) Vita or resume.

Can you please clarify item b)?

According to the current guidelines, to get a three year: you must:

1. Hold a bachelor's degree (non-education) from a regionally/nationally accredited institution of higher learning
2. Pass CORE (Core Academic Skills for Educators)
3. Pass Praxis II Specialty Area Test
4. Apply for entrance into MAT Program (See Appendix H for information)
5. Complete 6 hours of pre-teaching courses in an approved MAT Program
6. *Secure Verification of Program Completion
7. Apply for a Three Year Educator License – Alternate Route

But to enter a program, the new Law requires:

- (i) 21 ACT equivalent or achieve the nationally recommended passing score on the Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators examination; and
- (ii) No less than 2.75 GPA on content coursework in the requested area of certification provided that the accepted cohort of candidates of the institution's teacher education program meets or exceeds a 3.0 GPA on pre-major coursework from the approved teacher education program.

So what is the intent of the new revision.....

You will not have to complete items 3 and 5 above to be issued a three-year license?

3. Pass Praxis II Specialty Area Test

5. Complete 6 hours of pre-teaching courses in an approved MAT Program

If the person cannot pass Praxis II in the subject area, why would we grant the person a license to teach in the subject area? There is no other subject area requirement in the guidelines for alternate route.

There is no requirement that the person has a content degree in that area.

There is no requirement to have a specific number of course hours in the area.

There is no other content knowledge requirement. This is actually one of the weak points of our alternate route pathway. This new provision would remove the only content knowledge requirement.

There are no exceptions for traditional route teachers.

Can you tell me the intent of removing the content knowledge requirement?

I would be glad to speak with you about this.

DR

Dr. David Rock

Dean, School of Education

The University of Mississippi

Guyton Hall

P. O. Box 1848

University, MS 38677-1848

+1-662-915-7063

rock@olemiss.edu | education.olemiss.edu

twitter: @UMEDDEAN