

OFFICE OF CHIEF OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT
Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Items
April 20, 2017

OFFICE OF EDUCATOR LICENSURE

05. Action: Temporary rule and begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise Part 4: *Licensure Guidelines K-12* to amend the criteria for a special, non-renewable educator license [Goals 1, 2, 3, and 4 – MBE Strategic Plan]

Background Information: In its regularly scheduled meeting held on March 3, 2017, the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification, and Licensure and Development granted approval to amend the criteria for a special, non-renewable educator license not to exceed a period of three (3) years.

The special, non-renewable educator license is a one-year license that can only be requested by an employing local school district or an eligible nonpublic school in the state of Mississippi. The special, non-renewable educator license provides local school officials with the ability to employ a candidate who possess the potential to earn full educator certification while temporarily addressing the ongoing teacher shortage in Mississippi. The special, non-renewable educator license will allow the candidate up to three (3) years to meet all licensure requirements for earning a standard, five (5) year renewable license.

The proposed revision will amend the current criteria to allow an employing local school district or an eligible nonpublic school in the state of Mississippi to request a special, non-renewable license for a candidate who holds at least a bachelor's degree in any area and twenty-one (21) hours of undergraduate and/or graduate level coursework with a grade of "C" or higher in the content area in which the license is requested. Both the degree(s) and the twenty-one (21) hours of undergraduate and/or graduate level coursework must have been earned from an institution of higher learning that was regionally/nationally accredited at the time the degree was conferred. Remedial courses (also referred to as compensatory, developmental, or basic skills) will not be recognized for certification purposes and are usually numbered below 100 on the transcript.

In addition to the proposed revision cited above, documentation criteria for showing sufficient evidence of a candidate's progress towards meeting full state certification requirements has been defined. The evidence submitted is considered as part of the decision for granting the Year Two and Year Three special, non-renewable license.

The temporary and final action is necessary to implement the policy revisions for the 2017-2018 school year immediately upon its filing with the Secretary of State

in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 25-43-3.113(2)(b)(ii). 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

Special, Non-renewable License

Local District Request Application Packet

General Information and Guidelines

The special, non-renewable educator license is a one-year license that can only be requested by an employing local school district or an eligible nonpublic school in the state of Mississippi for a candidate who has not yet met all certification requirements under the Miss. Code Ann. § 37-3-2(6)(a), (b), and (c), at the time the application is submitted to the Office of Educator Licensure. The special, non-renewable educator license provides local school officials with the ability to employ a candidate currently enrolled in an alternate route teacher education preparation program. An employing local school district or an eligible nonpublic school in Mississippi can also request this license for a Traditional teacher education preparation program completer: The candidate must have completed all requirements of a Mississippi State Board of Education approved traditional teacher education preparation program except achieving a passing score on all Mississippi required licensure tests on or after January 1, 2014.

Essentially, this provisional licensure option provides local school officials with the ability to employ candidates who possess the potential to earn full educator certification while temporarily addressing the ongoing teacher shortage.

The Special, Non-renewable License can be requested for a candidate who meets the following criteria:

A. holds at least a bachelor's degree in the area in which the license is requested from an institution of higher learning that was regionally/nationally accredited at the time the degree was conferred.

B. holds at least a bachelor's degree in any area and twenty-one (21) hours of undergraduate and/or graduate level coursework with a grade of "C" or higher in the content area in which the license is requested. Both the degree(s) and the twenty-one (21) hours of undergraduate and/or graduate level coursework must have been earned from an institution of higher learning that was regionally/nationally accredited at the time the degree was conferred. Remedial courses (also referred to as compensatory, developmental, or basic skills) will not be recognized for certification purposes and are usually numbered below 100 on the transcript.

C. candidate is currently enrolled in an alternate route teacher education preparation program or has completed all requirements of a Traditional teacher education preparation program except achieving a passing score on all Mississippi required licensure tests on or after January 1, 2014.

The candidate must meet all licensure requirements for a standard, five (5) year renewable license by the end of the third year.

Specific restrictions apply to this license type:

- The license is not transferable between Districts or eligible nonpublic schools. For example, if a candidate is employed one (1) year and wishes to transfer to another school district, the license is not valid, unless a new Local District Request Application is received by the Office of Educator Licensure from the local district to which the candidate is transferring. If the educator is not

renewed by the local district after the first year, the educator will not be issued a license for another district for the remaining two (2) years.

- The license can only be requested in one (1) endorsement area.
- Additional endorsements will not be added.

Obtaining the initial Special, Non-renewable License requires completion of the application process as outlined below in the Year One category. Subsequent year requirements addressing verification of progress toward the standard, five (5) year renewable license are specified under the Year Two and Year Three categories.

Year One Documentation Requirements

The employing local school district or eligible nonpublic school must submit the following documentation for each candidate who meets the following criteria to be granted the year one special, non-renewable educator license:

- a) Standard Mississippi Licensure Application; **and**
- b) Local District Request Packet; **and**
- c) Letter of Request and Justification; **and**
- d) Official, sealed transcript(s) for each degree conferred and any additional coursework completed by the candidate; **and**
- e) Vita or résumé; **and**

Year Two Documentation Requirements

The employing local school district or eligible nonpublic school must submit documentation for each candidate who meets the previously stated requirements for the special, non-renewable educator license. The license holder must show sufficient evidence of an attempt to complete requirements for obtaining full state certification by way of one of the Mississippi State Board of Education approved non-traditional educator preparation program routes. Sufficient evidence may include, but is not limited to, one or more of the following:

- a) Official test score results from attempt(s) to meet all testing requirements during the time the year one Special, Non-renewable License was valid; **and/or**
- b) Official letter of unconditional acceptance into a Mississippi State Board of Education approved non-traditional educator preparation program from the appropriate State Board approved program provider. The Mississippi educator preparation program provider must ensure that candidate has met all minimum admission requirements prior to enrolling the candidate in the non-traditional educator preparation program; **and/or**
- c) If unconditionally enrolled in a Mississippi State Board of Education approved non-traditional educator preparation program route, an official sealed transcript must be submitted showing required course(s) status as “in progress” and/or “completed” with an earned grade of “C” or higher. Evidence of program progress and/or completion must reflect acceptable forms of documentation based on the specific non-traditional educator preparation program being completed.
- d) Traditional teacher education preparation program completer: The candidate who has completed all requirements of a Mississippi State Board of Education approved traditional teacher education preparation program except achieving a passing score on all Mississippi required licensure tests on

or after January 1, 2014, must submit official documentation of progress towards meeting all testing requirements.

In addition to the submission of documentation for showing sufficient evidence of progress, the following documents must be included as part of the request packet:

- a) Standard Licensure Application; **and**
- b) Local District Request Packet; **and**
- c) Letter of Request and Justification.

Year Three Documentation Requirements

The employing Mississippi local school district or eligible nonpublic school must submit documentation for each candidate who meets the previously stated requirements for the Special, Non-renewable License.

The employing local school district or eligible nonpublic school must submit documentation confirming that the special, non-renewable license holder is unconditionally accepted and actively enrolled in a Mississippi State Board of Education approved non-traditional educator preparation program route in the area in which the license is requested. Documentation may include but is not limited to the following:

- a) Official letter of unconditional acceptance into a Mississippi State Board of Education approved non-traditional educator preparation program from the appropriate State Board approved program provider. The Mississippi educator preparation program provider must ensure that the candidate has met all minimum admission requirements prior to enrolling the candidate in the non-traditional educator preparation program; **or**
- b) An official, sealed transcript showing required course(s) status as “in progress” or “completed” with an earned grade of “C” or higher. Evidence of program progress and/or completion must reflect acceptable forms of documentation based on the specific non-traditional educator preparation program being completed.
- c) Traditional teacher education preparation program completer: The candidate who has completed all requirements of a Mississippi State Board of Education approved traditional teacher education preparation program except achieving a passing score on all Mississippi required licensure tests on or after January 1, 2014, must submit official documentation of progress towards meeting all testing requirements.

In addition to the submission of documentation for showing sufficient evidence of progress, the following documents must be included as part of the request packet:

- a) Standard Licensure Application; **and**
- b) Local District Request Packet; **and**
- c) Letter of Request and Justification.

The subsequent requirements are effective 2017-2018 school year and thereafter:

Educator preparation program providers must ensure that candidates have met all requirements in effect at the time the application for admission to a Mississippi State Board of Education approved non-traditional educator preparation program is received. Requirements include, but are not limited to, the following: **(To obtain the most accurate and up-to-date requirements, please visit the Educator Licensure Section at www.mde.k12.ms.us/k12.org/OEL)**

- a) The candidate must hold at least a bachelor's degree in the area in which the license is requested from an institution of higher learning that was regionally/nationally accredited at the time the degree was conferred; **or**

The candidate must hold at least a bachelor's degree in any area and twenty-one (21) hours of undergraduate and/or graduate level coursework with a grade of "C" or higher in the content area in which the license is requested. Both the degree(s) and the twenty-one (21) hours of undergraduate and/or graduate level coursework must have been earned from an institution of higher learning that was regionally/nationally accredited at the time the degree was conferred. Remedial courses (also referred to as compensatory, developmental, or basic skills) will not be recognized for certification purposes and are usually numbered below 100 on the transcript.

- b) The candidate must present official score report(s) from the appropriate testing vendor documenting earned passing scores on all required non-traditional educator preparation program admission and licensure tests such as, Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators* or minimum of a score of 21 on the ACT and the Praxis Subject Assessment(s)** in the area in which the educator license is sought.

*Candidate must have achieved the Mississippi State Board of Education's approved Minimum Passing Score requirement for Reading, Writing, and Mathematics prior to non-traditional program admission

**Candidate must have achieved the Mississippi State Board of Education's approved Minimum Passing Score requirement for test(s) in the area in which the educator license is sought prior to non-traditional program admission

NOTE: Meeting all testing requirements is but one criterion for completing the multi-step educator licensure process for obtaining full state certification in the state of Mississippi. Please visit the Educator Licensure Section of the MDE website to obtain the most accurate and up to date information.