

OFFICE OF CHIEF ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICER
Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Items
Consent Agenda
January 18, 2018

OFFICE OF TEACHING AND LEADING

- J. Establish Alternative Qualifications for Non-Education Prospective Local Superintendents of Education as authorized and directed under subsection three (3) of Mississippi Senate Bill No. 2398 and recommended by the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and Development
(Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process without public comment)

Background Information: Senate Bill No. 2398 of the 2017 legislative session, as codified now in Miss. Code Ann. §37-9-13, charged the Mississippi State Board of Education with the development of alternative qualifications for non-education prospective local superintendents of education. The Office of Educator Licensure convened stakeholders for the purpose of developing alternative qualifications. On November 3, 2017 and December 4, 2017, the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and Development provided feedback on the stakeholder recommendations and approved the proposed qualifications.

Recommendation: Approval

Back-up material attached

**Mississippi Department of Education
Alternative Qualifications for
Non-Education Prospective District Superintendents of Education**

Initial Three-Year Alternative Administrator License Criteria for Non-Education District Superintendents:

1. Holds at least a Master's degree or higher from an institution of higher education that was accredited at the time the degree was conferred;

AND

2. Have a minimum of six (6) years of documented successful leadership experience, as determined and verified by the appointing local school board (examples include, but are not limited to, for profit or not for profit organizations, state agencies, business, industry, higher education or law, senior leadership position such as CEO, Commissioned Officers – Pay Grade 03 or above);

AND

3. Obtain a position as district superintendent and submit local board resolution of appointment to that position.

Note: The Initial Three (3) Year Alternative Administrator License is non-renewable but, may be converted to a Standard Career Level Administrator License if one of the following pre-conditions are met.

The Initial Three-Year Alternative Administrator License may be converted to the Standard Career Level Administrator License upon completion of one of the following:

4. Successful completion of ongoing professional learning aligned to the responsibilities of Mississippi local school district superintendents as outlined in Miss. Code Ann. § 37-9-14. The professional learning activities must be completed during the three (3) year validity of the license while actively employed as district superintendent. This would include the completion of Mississippi Department of Education approved professional growth opportunities such as Superintendent's Academy or Executive Leadership Institute or Educational Administration/Leadership degree program or any other professional growth opportunity approved by the Mississippi Department of Education;

OR

5. Demonstrate evidence that the district increased its accountability rating by a minimum of one performance classification during the three (3) year period in which the license holder was employed as district superintendent if placed in a local school district that was rated a "C" or lower at the time of appointment as district superintendent;

AND

6. The district superintendent shall earn a successful evaluation rating consistent with the assessment components defined in Miss. Code Ann. § 37-7-301 and as outlined in the current edition of the *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards*.

By: Senator(s) Tollison

To: Education

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR
SENATE BILL NO. 2398

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-9-13, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 REVISE THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR SELECTION OF SUPERINTENDENTS OF
3 SCHOOL DISTRICTS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

5 **SECTION 1.** Section 37-9-13, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
6 amended as follows:

7 37-9-13. (1) Each school district shall have a
8 superintendent of schools, selected in the manner provided by law.
9 No person shall be eligible to the office of superintendent of
10 schools unless such person shall hold a valid administrator's
11 license issued by the State Department of Education and shall
12 have * * * classroom or administrative experience of not less than
13 six (6) years which shall include at least three (3) years of
14 administrative experience as a school building principal (a) in a
15 school with an "A" or "B" accountability rating, or (b) in a
16 school that increased its accountability rating by a letter grade
17 during the period in which the principal was employed as principal
18 at the school, or (c) in a school with comparable accountability



19 rating or improvement in another state which shall be verified by
20 the Mississippi Department of Education.

21 (2) From and after January 1, 2019, in all public school
22 districts, the local school board shall appoint the superintendent
23 of schools of such district. At the expiration of the term of any
24 county superintendent of education elected at the November 2015
25 general election, the county superintendent of education of said
26 county shall not be elected but shall thereafter be appointed by
27 the local school board in the manner provided in Section 37-9-25.
28 However, in the event that a vacancy in the office of the
29 superintendent of schools elected at the November 2015 general
30 election shall occur before January 1, 2019, the office of
31 superintendent of schools shall immediately become an appointed
32 position, and the local school board shall appoint the
33 superintendent of the school district. The superintendent of
34 schools shall have the general powers and duties to administer the
35 schools within his district as prescribed in Section 37-9-14 et
36 seq., Mississippi Code of 1972.

37 (3) As an alternative to the qualifications prescribed in
38 subsection (1) of this section, the State Board of Education is
39 authorized and directed to issue regulations by January 1, 2018,
40 which include minimum credentials, educational prerequisites, and
41 relevant best practice experience requirements that will qualify a
42 person to serve as a superintendent without having the direct



43 experience or certification as an educator specified in subsection
44 (1) of this section.

45 (4) The provisions of this section shall be applicable to
46 any superintendent of schools selected on or after July 1, 2017,
47 who has not previously served as a superintendent or assistant
48 superintendent within the last five (5) years.

49 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
50 and after July 1, 2017.



[West's Annotated Mississippi Code](#)

[Title 37. Education](#)

[Chapter 9. District Superintendents, Principals, Teachers, and Other Employees](#)

[in General \(Refs & Annos\)](#)

Miss. Code Ann. § 37-9-13

§ 37-9-13. Selection of school district superintendent

[Currentness](#)

(1) Each school district shall have a superintendent of schools, selected in the manner provided by law. No person shall be eligible to the office of superintendent of schools unless such person shall hold a valid administrator's license issued by the State Department of Education and shall have classroom or administrative experience of not less than six (6) years which shall include at least three (3) years of administrative experience as a school building principal (a) in a school with an "A" or "B" accountability rating, or (b) in a school that increased its accountability rating by a letter grade during the period in which the principal was employed as principal at the school, or (c) in a school with comparable accountability rating or improvement in another state which shall be verified by the Mississippi Department of Education.

(2) From and after January 1, 2019, in all public school districts, the local school board shall appoint the superintendent of schools of such district. At the expiration of the term of any county superintendent of education elected at the November 2015 general election, the county superintendent of education of said county shall not be elected but shall thereafter be appointed by the local school board in the manner provided in [Section 37-9-25](#). However, in the event that a vacancy in the office of the superintendent of schools elected at the November 2015 general election shall occur before January 1, 2019, the office of superintendent of schools shall immediately become an appointed position, and the local school board shall appoint the superintendent of the school district. The superintendent of schools shall have the general powers and duties to administer the schools within his district as prescribed in [Section 37-9-14 et seq., Mississippi Code of 1972](#).

(3) As an alternative to the qualifications prescribed in subsection (1) of this section, the State Board of Education is authorized and directed to issue regulations by January 1, 2018, which include minimum credentials, educational prerequisites, and relevant best practice experience requirements that will qualify a person to serve as a superintendent without having the direct experience or certification as an educator specified in subsection (1) of this section.

(4) The provisions of this section shall be applicable to any superintendent of schools selected on or after July 1, 2017, who has not previously served as a superintendent or assistant superintendent within the last five (5) years.

Credits

Laws 1953, 1st Ex. Sess., Ch. 20, § 4; Laws 1960, Ch. 300, § 1; Laws 1981, Ch. 499, § 3; Laws 1986, Ch. 492, § 60; Laws 1987, Ch. 307, § 7; Laws 1988, Ch. 342, § 1; [Laws 1997, Ch. 545, § 7](#), eff. from and after passage (approved April 10, 1997). Amended by [Laws 2016, Ch. 311 \(S.B. 2438\), § 1](#), eff. July 1, 2016; [Laws 2017, Ch. 301 \(H.B. 32\), § 1](#), eff. from and after

§ 37-9-13. Selection of school district superintendent, MS ST § 37-9-13

passage (approved January 17, 2017); [Laws 2017, Ch. 442 \(S.B. 2398\), § 1, eff. July 1, 2017.](#)

[Notes of Decisions \(3\)](#)

Miss. Code Ann. § 37-9-13, MS ST § 37-9-13

The Statutes and Constitution are current through the 2017 Regular and First Extraordinary Sessions.

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