

OFFICE OF CHIEF ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICER
Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Items
Consent Agenda
May 17, 2018

OFFICE OF TEACHING AND LEADING

- E. Approval of a temporary rule and to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise Part 4: *Licensure Guidelines K-12* to include revisions to the Alternative Qualifications for Prospective Local Superintendents of Education

Background Information: Senate Bill No. 2398 of the 2017 legislative session charged the State Board of Education with the development of alternative qualifications for prospective district superintendents. As a result, the Office of Teaching and Leading, Division of Educator Licensure convened a group of stakeholders for the purpose of developing alternative qualifications. On December 14, 2017, the State Board of Education approved the proposed alternative qualifications as recommended by the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and Development.

The Office of Teaching and Leading is seeking approval to revise current alternative qualifications for prospective district superintendents. Proposed changes include a modification to the current title and inclusion of prospective candidates inadvertently excluded at the time the policy was initially adopted.

The current title is being interpreted in a literal sense to mean the policy only applies to prospective candidates who have never served in the field of education. The qualifications outlined therein, should be interpreted to include not only individuals new to the profession but also those who might have once served as an educator, changed professions, and now desire to return to service at the local district level.

The proposed revisions to the Alternative Qualifications for Prospective Local Superintendents of Education was approved by the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and Development on May 4, 2018.

The temporary rule and final action is necessary to implement the policy revisions to Part 4: *Licensure Guidelines K-12* immediately upon its filing with the Secretary of State in accordance with Mississippi Code Annotated §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 Goal 4 of the *Mississippi Board of Education 2016-2020 Strategic Plan*.

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~~ District Superintendent License Criteria: ~~for Non-Education Local 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, K-12 education-direct report to state/local superintendent (senior/executive leadership position), 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~~ District Superintendent License is non-renewable but, may be converted to a Standard ~~Career Level Administrator~~ Five-Year District Superintendent License if the following pre-conditions are met.

The Initial Three-Year ~~Alternative Administrator~~ District Superintendent License may be converted to the Standard ~~Career Level Administrator~~ Five-Year District Superintendent License upon completion 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. If one or more of the specific aforementioned professional growth opportunities were completed prior to obtaining the initial District Superintendent License, the district superintendent shall not be required to complete again;

AND

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 or maintained the "A" or "B" rating in a local school district rated as such at the time of appointment;

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*.

Note: The Standard Five (5) Year District Superintendent License is renewable. Five-Year District Superintendent License holders must meet current State Board approved license renewal requirements prescribed for the Standard Career Level Administrator License. Current license renewal requirements may be found in the Licensure Guidelines K-12 document.

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.

