

OFFICE OF CHIEF ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICER
Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Items
Consent Agenda
June 21, 2018

OFFICE OF TEACHING AND LEADING

- L. Approval to revise Part 4: *Licensure Guidelines K-12* to include revisions to the Special, Non-renewable License for Traditional Teacher Preparation Program Completers (Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process with public comments)

Background Information: On November 9, 2017, the State Board of Education approved the recommendation of the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and Development.

The Office of Teaching and Leading is seeking approval to revise the established policy as currently written to remove the reference to the “January 1, 2014” date. Since implementation, it has been discovered that the date does not allow local school districts and eligible nonpublic schools in the state of Mississippi to employ prospective teachers who have completed a traditional teacher education preparation program prior to the January 1, 2014 date. Removal would allow hiring officers to begin to temporarily address the critical shortage faced while working on long-term solutions. The removal of the references to January 1, 2014, was approved by the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and Development on May 4, 2018.

On May 17, 2018, the State Board of Education granted approval of a temporary Rule to revise Part 4: *Licensure Guidelines K-12* to include revisions to the Special, Non-renewable License for Traditional Teacher Preparation Program Completers.

The temporary rule and final action was necessary to implement the policy revisions to Part 4: *Licensure Guidelines K-12* for the 2018-2019 school year 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. The public comment period was open through June 15, 2018, and one (1) response was received. No changes are recommended based on the public comments received.

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
Special, Non-renewable License for Traditional Teacher Preparation Program Completers

The special, non-renewable license for specific traditional teacher preparation program completers 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 up to three (3) years for a candidate who has not 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 license for traditional teacher preparation program completers provides local school district officials with the ability to employ a 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.

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

This Special, Non-renewable License type can be requested for a specific traditional teacher preparation program completer who meets one of the following conditions in addition to criteria outlined in the subsequent sections based on application year:

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

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 endorsement 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 education 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; **or**

C. Holds at least a bachelor's degree in any area from an institution of higher education that was regionally/nationally accredited at the time the degree was conferred and a passing score on the appropriate Mississippi State Board of Education approved licensure Subject Area Assessment in the endorsement area in which the license is requested;

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:

- 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 no longer 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 nonrenewed by the local school 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 to the special, non-renewable license.

Obtaining the initial Special, Non-renewable License for specific traditional teacher preparation program completers 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 license:

- a) Standard Mississippi Licensure Application; **and**
- b) Local District Request Packet; **and**
- c) Letter of Request and Justification; **and**
- d) Vita or résumé; **and**
- e) Official, sealed transcript showing completion of a Traditional teacher education preparation program documenting successful completion of student teaching experience with an earned grade of “C” or higher. Transcript must indicate the date on which the degree was conferred; **and**
- f) Official, sealed transcript showing degree conferred in the endorsement area in which the license is requested; **or**
- g) Official, sealed transcript(s) documenting twenty-one (21) hours of undergraduate and/or graduate level coursework with a grade of “C” or higher in the endorsement area in which the license is requested; **or**
- h) Official test score report(s) documenting a passing score on the appropriate Mississippi State Board of Education approved licensure Subject Area Assessment in the endorsement area in which the license is requested.

Year Two Documentation Requirements

The employing local school district or eligible nonpublic school must submit documentation indicating that the special, non-renewable license holder is making sufficient progress toward the completion of requirements for obtaining full state certification. Sufficient evidence includes the following for the specific Traditional teacher education preparation program completer:

- a) Official test score report(s) documenting attempt(s) to achieve a qualifying passing score on all required applicable Mississippi State Board of Education approved testing requirements during the time the year one Special, Non-renewable License was valid; **and**
- b) Standard Licensure Application; **and**
- c) Local District Request Packet; **and**
- d) Letter of Request and Justification.

Year Three Documentation Requirements

The employing local school district or eligible nonpublic school must submit documentation indicating that the special, non-renewable license holder is making sufficient progress toward the completion of requirements for obtaining full state certification. Sufficient evidence includes the following for the specific Traditional teacher education preparation program completer:

- a) Official test score report(s) documenting attempt(s) to achieve a qualifying passing score on all required applicable Mississippi State Board of Education approved testing requirements during the time the year two Special, Non-renewable License was valid; **and**
- b) Standard Licensure Application; **and**
- c) Local District Request Packet; **and**
- d) Letter of Request and Justification.

Summary of Administrative Procedures Act (APA) Comments
Revisions to Part 4: *Licensure Guidelines K-12*

The Office of Teaching and Leading received the following APA comments regarding revisions to Part 4: *Licensure Guidelines K-12* to include modifications to the Special, Non-renewable License for Traditional Teacher Preparation Program Completers.

Summary of Comment	MDE Response
I have been offered a job in the special education area of a Mississippi school district but due to the wording of this policy I will be unable to accept the position. Please reconsider only allowing MS institution graduates to obtain an Emergency license.	Thank you for your comments. We will make certain to submit the proposed changes to the Mississippi State Board of Education for consideration. Should you require assistance in the interim, please do not hesitate to contact me directly. We value and appreciate the opportunity to serve you.

From: Carrie Adams <ccadams1231@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 14, 2018 2:45 PM
To: Cory Murphy <cmurphy@mdek12.org>
Subject: Special Non - Renewable License wording

To Whom It May Concern

After reviewing this policy and speaking with multiple MDE employees I have been informed that due to specific wording I will be unable to obtain my license through this route. I hold a Bachelors degree in Elementary Education from Grand Canyon University and I am also at the halfway point of completing my Master of Arts in Autism Spectrum Disorders from this same institution.

I have been offered a job in the special education area of a Mississippi school district but due to the wording of this policy I will be unable to accept the position. Please reconsider only allowing MS institution graduates to obtain an Emergency license.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Carrie Adams

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