

OFFICE OF CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER
Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Items
Consent Agenda
May 26, 2022

OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY EDUCATION AND READING

- J. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To establish Miss. Admin. Code 7-3: 14.21, State Board Policy Chapter 14, Rule 14.21 – *Mississippi Assistant Teacher Requirements*

Background and Purpose: The Assistant Teacher Program Requirements will provide clarity on the minimum qualifications for instructional assistant teachers in pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, and upper grade levels.

The Office of Elementary Education and Reading (OEER) is requesting approval to establish requirements for instructional assistant teachers serving pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, and upper grade classrooms.

Recommendation: Approval

Back-up material attached

Chapter 14: Certification

Rule 14.21 Mississippi Assistant Teacher Requirements

Assistant teachers shall have at a minimum a high school diploma or a High School Equivalency Diploma equivalent and shall show demonstratable proficiency in reading and writing skills.

1. Requirements for assistant teachers working in pre-kindergarten

- a. By August 1, 2022, 50% of assistant teachers in each district will meet the requirements described below. By August 1, 2024, 100% of assistant teachers in each district will meet the requirements described below.

Assistant teachers are required to follow one of the pathways listed below:

| | | |
|--|------------|--|
| Early Childhood associate degree | | |
| OR | | |
| Associate degree OR 60 College Credit Hours | AND | 12 early childhood college credit hours* OR Completion of an early childhood training program** |
| OR | | |
| High School Diploma/GED AND Verification of WorkKeys® Scores*** | AND | 12 early childhood college credit hours OR Completion of an early childhood training program** |

*These hours can be included in the associate degree or 60 College Credit Hours

**Completion of an early childhood training program includes the Child Development Associate (CDA), National/State Director's Credential, Montessori Credential, and the MDE's intensive specialized early childhood training program.

*** Prior to 2017, Teacher Assistants would have met WorkKeys® requirements: (1) a Reading for Information score of 4, an Applied Mathematics score of 4, and a Writing or Business Writing score of 3;

OR

After 2017, teacher assistants need to meet the WorkKeys® Silver Level certification.

2. Requirements for assistant teachers working in kindergarten and up

a. Assistant teachers are required to follow one of the pathways listed below:

i. Hold an associate degree or higher

OR

ii. Two Years or 48 College Credit Hours
(Transcript verification required)

OR

iii. High School Diploma/GED
AND
Verification of WorkKeys® Scores*

* Prior to 2017, teacher assistants would have met WorkKeys® requirements: (1) a Reading for Information score of 4, an Applied Mathematics score of 4, and a Writing or Business Writing score of 3;

OR

After 2017, teacher assistants need to meet the WorkKeys® Silver Level certification.

Source: Miss Code Ann. §§ 37-21-7, 37-19-7(3), and 37-1-3 (Adopted 5/2022)