

OFFICE OF CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER
Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Items
Consent Agenda
July 21, 2022

OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY EDUCATION AND READING

- H. Approval to establish Miss. Admin. Code 7-3: 14.21, State Board Policy Chapter 14, Rule 14.21 – Mississippi Assistant Teacher Requirements
(Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process without public comments)

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.

On May 26, 2022 the Board granted approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process and the comment period was open from May 26, 2022 to June 25, 2022 with no public comments.

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 7/2022)