

OFFICE OF CHIEF ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICER
Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Item
Consent Agenda
September 29, 2022

DIVISION OF EDUCATOR LICENSURE
OFFICE OF CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

- E. Approval to revise Miss. Admin. Code 7 – 4: Part 4: *Licensure Guidelines K-12* to include requirements for the issuance of the Special License, Expert Citizen – Teacher License as set forth in House Bill 1388 of the 2022 legislative session; establish criteria for renewal of this Special License and Class Level at which license shall be issued
(Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process with public comments)

Background Information: House Bill 1388 of the 2022 legislative session, as now codified in Miss. Code Ann. § 37-3-2, sets forth core requirements for the issuance of the Special License, Expert Citizen – Teacher License to be granted in Career and Technical Education licensure areas only, based on a valid industry-recognized certification related to the subject area in which the individual will teach. House Bill 1388 further directs the Mississippi Department of Education to grant such license based on rules and regulations established by the State Board of Education.

The law establishes the following criteria:

- Special License, Expert Citizen – Teacher License to be issued with a five-year validity instead of one-year validity period
- High school diploma (prospective educator shall not be required to hold an associate or bachelor's degree, provided that he or she possesses the minimum qualifications required for his or her profession)
- Industry-recognized certification related to the subject area in which they are teaching (*If a school board hires a career technical education pathway instructor who does not have an industry certification in his or her area of expertise but does have the required experience, the school board shall spread their decision on the minutes at their next meeting and provide a detailed explanation for why they hired the instructor.*)
- Minimum of five (5) years of relevant experience

While the above core requirements are outlined in HB 1388, criteria for license renewal and license Class Level were not addressed. Therefore, the following rules and regulations are being recommended for addressing the areas not established in law:

- **Class Level of License:** The Class Level of this license is issued according to the applicant's highest level of educational attainment as evidenced and confirmed by the official academic transcript issued by a regionally/nationally accredited education institution.
Class A = Bachelor's level license (High School Diploma – Issued at Class Level A)
Class AA = Master's degree level license
Class AAA = Specialist degree level license
Class AAAA = Doctorate degree level license
- **Validity:** This license is valid for five-years and renewable in accordance with current Mississippi State Board of Education established Career and Technical Education teacher licensure renewal options.

The public comment period was open from July 21, 2022, through 5:00 p.m. August 19, 2022 with public comments received. Based on the comments received, The MDE recommends no changes at this time. It is suggested that the educator submitting the recommendations for amendments to requirements outlined in state law, direct such proposals to the members of the Mississippi Legislature for consideration. The Department will continue to monitor closely and take action, as appropriate. *Please note that this response applies to all proposals made by the education stakeholder outlined in the public comment chart found herein.*

Recommendation: Approval

Back-up material attached

**MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL LICENSE, EXPERT CITIZEN – TEACHER LICENSE**

The Special License, Expert Citizen – Teacher License is a five-year license that can only be requested by an employing local public school district or an eligible nonpublic school accredited or approved by the state of Mississippi in order to allow a school district to offer specialized or technical courses as outlined in Mississippi Code Ann. §37-3-2 (6)(c) and in accordance with rules and regulations established by the State Board of Education.

The Special License, Expert Citizen – Teacher License shall not be converted to any other license type issued by the Mississippi Department of Education. Should the Expert Citizen – Teacher License holder desires to obtain any other standard five (5) year license type, all current requirements of a Mississippi State Board of Education approved Traditional or Non-traditional teacher education preparation program must be met.

Requirements.

To qualify for the Special License, Expert Citizen – Teacher License an applicant shall meet the following:

1. Request initiated by a Mississippi-based local school district or nonpublic school accredited or approved by the state using the local district request application process
2. Completed licensure application
3. Verification of a minimum of five (5) years of relevant experience
4. Official academic transcript(s) verifying at least a high school diploma
5. Verification of valid Industry-recognized certification related to the subject area license is requested

OR

If candidate does not hold industry-recognized certification but does meet the required relevant experience criterion, the local school board shall document as part of their minutes, a detailed explanation for hiring an instructor that does not possess industry certification. The minutes shall be submitted as part of the completed licensure application packet.

Class Level of License: The Class Level of this license is issued according to the applicant’s highest level of educational attainment as evidenced and confirmed by the official academic transcript issued by a regionally/nationally accredited education institution.

Class A = Bachelor’s level license (High School Diploma – Issued at Class Level A)

Class AA = Master’s degree level license

Class AAA = Specialist degree level license

Class AAAA = Doctorate degree level license

Validity: This license is valid for five-years and renewable in accordance with current Mississippi State Board of Education established Career and Technical Education teacher licensure renewal options.

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 transfers to another school district, the license is no longer valid, unless a new Local District Request Application is received by the Division of Educator Licensure from the local district to which the candidate is transferring. The MDE Division of Educator Licensure must be notified via official correspondence, if the license holder should leave the original local public school district or eligible nonpublic school for any reason, in order that the current license be invalidated and to allow submission of a new application by another employing local public school district or an eligible nonpublic school.
- The license can only be requested in one (1) endorsement area.
- Additional endorsements will not be added to the Special, Expert Citizen-Teacher License. The license holder shall be bound by the MS Code of Ethics, Standards of Conduct.

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Requirements.

To qualify for the Special License, Expert Citizen – Teacher License an applicant shall meet the following:

6. Request initiated by a Mississippi-based local school district or nonpublic school accredited or approved by the state using the local district request application process
7. Completed licensure application
8. Verification of a minimum of five (5) years of relevant experience
9. Official academic transcript(s) verifying at least a high school diploma
10. Verification of valid Industry-recognized certification related to the subject area license is requested

OR

If candidate does not hold industry-recognized certification but does meet the required relevant experience criterion, the local school board shall document as part of their minutes, a detailed explanation for hiring an instructor that does not possess industry certification. The minutes shall be submitted as part of the completed licensure application packet.

Class Level of License: The Class Level of this license is issued according to the applicant’s highest level of educational attainment as evidenced and confirmed by the official academic transcript issued by a regionally/nationally accredited education institution.

Class A = Bachelor’s level license (High School Diploma – Issued at Class Level A)

Class AA = Master’s degree level license

Class AAA = Specialist degree level license

Class AAAA = Doctorate degree level license

Validity: This license is valid for five-years and renewable in accordance with current Mississippi State Board of Education established Career and Technical Education teacher licensure renewal options.

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 transfers to another school district, the license is no longer valid, unless a new Local District Request Application is received by the Division of Educator Licensure from the local district to which the candidate is transferring. The MDE Division of Educator Licensure must be notified via official correspondence, if the license holder should leave the original local public school district or eligible nonpublic school for any reason, in order that the current license be invalidated and to allow submission of a new application by another employing local public school district or an eligible nonpublic school.
- The license can only be requested in one (1) endorsement area.
- Additional endorsements will not be added to the Special, Expert Citizen-Teacher License.
- The license holder shall be bound by the MS Code of Ethics, Standards of Conduct.

Summary of Administrative Procedures Act (APA) Comments

Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise Miss. Admin. Code 7 – 4: Part 4: Licensure Guidelines K-12 to include requirements for the issuance of the Special License, Expert Citizen – Teacher License as set forth in House Bill 1388 of the 2022 legislative session; establish criteria for renewal of this Special License and Class Level at which license shall be issued.

The Office of Teaching and Leading received the following APA comments regarding the proposed criteria for the issuance and maintenance of the Special License, Expert Citizen.														
Summary of Comment		MDE Response												
<p>Myra Pannell –</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Bill/Regulation Statement</th> <th>Issue</th> <th>Possible resolution</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Persons with a high school diploma can receive a five-year expert citizen license</td> <td>The department has worked toward requiring an associate degree for expert citizen license in an effort to strengthen teacher preparedness. This is a lowering of standards.</td> <td>Technical amendment to require an associate degree, at minimum.</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>No mention of required teacher training for those receiving expert citizen license.</td> <td>Add statement that new teacher induction training is required for all expert citizen license recipients.</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>No mention of required subject-area methods training for those receiving expert citizen license.</td> <td>Add statement that subject-area methods training within the related field is required for all expert citizen license recipients.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Bill/Regulation Statement	Issue	Possible resolution	Persons with a high school diploma can receive a five-year expert citizen license	The department has worked toward requiring an associate degree for expert citizen license in an effort to strengthen teacher preparedness. This is a lowering of standards.	Technical amendment to require an associate degree, at minimum.		No mention of required teacher training for those receiving expert citizen license.	Add statement that new teacher induction training is required for all expert citizen license recipients.		No mention of required subject-area methods training for those receiving expert citizen license.	Add statement that subject-area methods training within the related field is required for all expert citizen license recipients.	<p>No Change – The MDE recommends no changes at this time. It is suggested that the educator submitting the recommendations for amendments to requirements outlined in state law, direct such proposals to the members of the Mississippi Legislature. The Department will continue to monitor closely and take action, as appropriate. <i>Please note that this response applies to all proposals made by the education stakeholder outlined in the chart found herein.</i></p>
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The Office of Teaching and Leading received the following APA comments regarding the proposed criteria for the issuance and maintenance of the Special License, Expert Citizen.

Summary of Comment			MDE Response
	Dual-credit opportunities may not be considered by postsecondary institutions if the instructor holds only a high school diploma.	Technical amendment to require an associate degree, at minimum.	<p>No Change – The MDE recommends no changes at this time. It is suggested that the educator submitting the recommendations for amendments to requirements outlined in state law, direct such proposals to the members of the Mississippi Legislature. The Department will continue to monitor closely and take action, as appropriate. <i>Please note that this response applies to all proposals made by the education stakeholder outlined in the chart found herein.</i></p>
HB 1388 increases CTE accountability, expects more dual credit/dual enrollment opportunities for students, and monitors return on investment but lowers the expectations for teacher quality.	Requiring more accountability with less teacher education and preparation creates conflicts of interests.	Technical amendment to require an associate degree, at minimum. Add statement that new teacher induction training is required for all expert citizen license recipients. Add statement that subject-area methods training within the related field is required for all expert citizen license recipients.	
	The agreement between Mississippi and the federal government through the federal CTE legislation--Perkins V—states that new teacher induction training will be provided to all new CTE teachers. The omission of this training from expert citizen licensure requirements is in conflict with the federal agreement.	Add statement that new teacher induction training is required for all expert citizen license recipients. Add statement that subject-area methods training within the related field is required for all expert citizen license recipients.	
Verification of a minimum of five (5) years of relevant experience	If the recipient holds a high school diploma, there could be ambiguity	Add statement that more clearly defines what counts as relevant experience in CTE disciplines.	

The Office of Teaching and Leading received the following APA comments regarding the proposed criteria for the issuance and maintenance of the Special License, Expert Citizen.

Summary of Comment			MDE Response
	in what is counted as “relevant” experience.		<p>No Change – The MDE recommends no changes at this time. It is suggested that the educator submitting the recommendations for amendments to requirements outlined in state law, direct such proposals to the members of the Mississippi Legislature. The Department will continue to monitor closely and take action, as appropriate. <i>Please note that this response applies to all proposals made by the education stakeholder outlined in the chart found herein.</i></p>
	Hiring teachers with an expert citizen license reflects negatively on a district’s accountability rating for each of the five years they hold it.	Add a statement on the licensure document that informs districts that choosing to hire someone with an expert citizen’s license will negatively affect their accountability rating for each recipient of this license for each of the five years they hold it.	
<p>Dr. Murphy,</p> <p>I have lived in Mississippi all my life. I have been in education for the past 42 years and spent the bulk of my career as a teacher educator at Mississippi University for Women. I understand that there is a regulation statement in HB 1388 allowing people with a high school diploma to receive a 5 year Expert Citizen license, which would allow them to go directly into the classroom with no training, resources. To me, this is lowering our standards and will most definitely result in reducing teacher and student success in Mississippi. To strengthen Career and Technical Education (CTE), I recommend the following amendments to this regulation:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. New teacher induction training should be required for all those receiving the Expert Citizen license. This would equip these teachers with the best evidence-based teaching strategies. 2. Subject area methods training should be required to give these teachers the tools and resources used by the best Mississippi teachers across all curriculum pathways. 			<p>No Change – The MDE recommends no changes at this time. It is suggested that the educator submitting the recommendations for amendments to requirements outlined in state law, direct such proposals to the members of the Mississippi Legislature. The Department will continue to monitor closely and take action, as appropriate. <i>Please note that this response applies to all proposals made by the education</i></p>

The Office of Teaching and Leading received the following APA comments regarding the proposed criteria for the issuance and maintenance of the Special License, Expert Citizen.

Summary of Comment	MDE Response
<p>3. A minimum of an associate degree should be required.</p> <p>I believe that, without these added amendments, Mississippi would be in violation of the federal government’s Perkins V Act, which requires new teacher induction training for new CTE teachers. I strongly encourage you to consider these amendments to the current interpretation of HB 1388. Not doing so, I believe, will lower our standards and set Mississippi teachers and students up for failure.</p> <p>Thank you, Suzanne Bean</p>	<p><i>stakeholder outlined in the chart found herein.</i></p>