

OFFICE OF CHIEF ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICER
Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Item
Consent Agenda
January 19, 2023

OFFICE OF TEACHING AND LEADING
OFFICE OF SCHOOL FINANCIAL SERVICES

- E. Approval to revise Miss. Admin. Code 7 – 4: Part 4: *Licensure Guidelines K-12 and State Board of Education Policy Rule 71.2*, to ensure consistency regarding certain criteria found therein required for the licensing of School Business Administrators (Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process without public comments)

Background Information: The Office of Teaching and Leading, Division of Educator Licensure in collaboration with the Office of School Financial Services continues to review all guidelines pertaining to the issuance of an educator license to ensure that all requirements remain relevant to the contextual framework of present day, while ensuring consistency in what is required across all pathways to licensure, as appropriate. As a result of continuous review of requirements related to the licensing of School Business Administrators, it was discovered that there was discrepancy in the criterion denoting the level of education required in the *Licensure Guidelines K-12* document and *State Board of Education Policy Rule 71.2*. On November 4, 2022, the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification, and Licensure and Development (Licensure Commission) voted to grant approval of the amendments as presented. Therefore, the Division of Educator Licensure and the Office of School Financial Services are seeking approval to revise the respective policies to ensure consistency as recommended by the Licensure Commission.

The School Business Administrator License was established in an effort to ensure that those serving in this role possess the minimum knowledge and skills to begin safe practice as part of the State Board of Education's established financial management system which seeks to ensure the proper accountability for funds administered through the local school districts on a timely and accurate basis, to provide and interpret financial information by which the local school board makes educational decisions, and to promote professional growth. The State Department of Education was authorized to create a Licensed School Business Administrator position for the public-school districts of this state beginning with the 2012– 2013 school year. This license is issued by the Mississippi Department of Education, Division of Educator Licensure and the license holder is bound by the Mississippi Educator Code of Ethics, Standards of Conduct. Full criteria are provided via the attached back-up materials.

The public comment period was open from December 15, 2022, through 5:00 p.m. January 13, 2023. The MDE received no public comments.

Recommendation: Approval

Back-up material attached

Part 4 Chapter 71: School Business Officials

Rule 71.1 REPEALED

Rule 71.2 Licensure of School Business Administrator.

1. Purpose

In order to provide a financial management system which ensures the proper accountability for funds administered through the local school districts on a timely and accurate basis, to provide and interpret financial information by which the local school board makes educational decisions, and to promote professional growth, the State Department of Education is authorized to create a Licensed School Business Administrator position for the public school districts of this state beginning with the 2012–2013 school year. This license shall be issued by the Mississippi Department of Education, Office of Educator Licensure and the license holder shall be bound by the MS Educator Code of Ethics, Standards of Conduct.

2. Accreditation Standard

Per the Commission on School Accreditation process standard 2.5, the school district shall employ a school business officer/administrator whose qualifications meet the criteria established by the Mississippi Department of Education and whose primary job responsibilities are conducting, supervising, and/or directing the financial affairs and operations of the school district. Although any individual who meets the minimum requirements may obtain the license, the district may only designate one individual as the Licensed School Business Administrator. The individual designated as the Licensed School Business Administrator shall hold the School Business Administrator License. Individuals in a school district holding the School Business Administrator license, but who are not the designated Licensed School Business Administrator and are not employed in a position in the district requiring any other license issued by the Mississippi Department of Education Office of Educator Licensure shall not be considered a licensed employee as that term is used in Mississippi Code, Annotated.

Any School Business Administrator or Officer who was satisfactorily performing in that position on or before June 30, 2012 and did not meet the minimum requirements for obtaining a School Business Administrator License is required to maintain the School Business Administrator/Officer certificate issued by the Mississippi Department of Education, Office of School Financial Services by completing 20 hours of continuing training each fiscal year. One hour of credit will be given for each hour of training. Hours may be obtained by participating in approved local, state, regional, or national school business related conferences, courses, or workshops. Districts that have a certified School Business Administrator or Officer in lieu of a Licensed School Business Administrator are considered to be in compliance with the accreditation standard requiring a Licensed School Business Administrator. However, these individuals are not considered a licensed employee as the term is used in Mississippi Code, 1972 Annotated.

Any individual newly hired or appointed as a school district's Licensed School Business Administrator, shall meet the minimum requirements of the Licensed School Business Administrator, and obtain the license from the Mississippi Department of Education, Office of Educator Licensure prior to being named as the school district's Licensed School Business Administrator.

3. Initial Licensure

The following minimum qualifications shall be met for initial licensing:

A baccalaureate degree or higher from an accredited four-year college or university in Accounting; ~~Other or a~~ baccalaureate degree or higher degrees from an accredited four-year college or university in Finance, Business Administration, or other business-related curriculum may will be considered but shall include a minimum of fifteen (15) specified semester hours successfully completed in accounting from the following course list:

- a. Principles of Accounting I and II (6 semester hours)
- b. Intermediate Accounting I and II (6 semester hours)
- c. Advanced Accounting (3 semester hours)
- d. Governmental Accounting (3 semester hours)
- e. Managerial Accounting (3 semester hours)
- f. Auditing (3 semester hours)
- g. Cost Accounting (3 semester hours)
- h. Business Law (3 semester hours)
- i. Financial Management (3 semester hours)
- j. School Finance or School Law (3 hours)

The State Department of Education, Office of School Financial Services, shall approve all courses titled differently than those listed.

4. Administration

This process shall be administered jointly through the State Department of Education Office of School Financial Services and Office of Educator Licensure.

5. Rule and Regulation Authority

The State Department of Education is authorized to promulgate other rules and regulations necessary to implement and administer this matter.

Source: Miss. Code Ann. § 37-1-3 (Adopted 7/2012)

SCHOOL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR LICENSE

No other endorsements may be added to this license. If an applicant desires to be licensed to teach academic subjects, the individual must meet standard approved testing and licensure requirements. This license cannot be used as a substitute for the District or School-based Administrator license. If an applicant desires to be licensed as a District or School-based Administrator, they individual must meet all requirements for that license. The license holder shall be bound by the MS Code of Ethics, Standards of Conduct.

License	Requirements	Validity	Renewal
Class A Provisional	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Completed licensure application 2. Transcript(s) verifying <u>at least a</u> bachelor's degree <u>or higher</u> in Accounting or a bachelor's degree <u>or higher</u> in another business-related field with a minimum of 15 hours of Accounting coursework as specified in SBE Policy 	3 years	Non-renewable
Class A Standard	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Completed licensure application 2. Transcript(s) verifying <u>at least a</u> bachelor's degree <u>or higher</u> in Accounting or a bachelor's degree <u>or higher</u> in another business-related field with a minimum of 15 hours of Accounting coursework as specified in SBE Policy 3. Holds the required certificate of training from the Office of School Financial Services. 	5 years	100 hours continuing education units (CEUs). One hour of credit will be given for each hour of training. Hours may be obtained by participating in approved local, state, regional or national school business related conferences, courses or workshops.
Class AA, AAA, or AAAA	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Meet requirements for a Five-Year Class A license 2. Master's, Specialist, or Doctoral degree from a regionally/nationally accredited college or university. 	5 years	100 hours continuing education units (CEUs). One hour of credit will be given for each hour of training. Hours may be obtained by participating in approved local, state, regional or national school business related conferences, courses or workshops.