

OFFICE OF CHIEF ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICER
Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Item
Consent Agenda
April 18, 2024

DIVISION OF EDUCATOR PREPARATION

- M. Approval to establish iteach Mississippi as an approved Educator Preparation Provider (EPP) to offer a nontraditional pathway to teacher licensure and to revise Miss. Admin. Code 7 – 4: Part 4: *Licensure Guidelines K-12*, to include requirements for teacher licensure specific to prospective iteach Mississippi program completers
(Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process with public comments)

Background Information: In accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 37-3-2 (5)(a) the Division of Educator Preparation is presenting iteach Mississippi for consideration for approval as an Educator Preparation Provider (EPP) to offer a nontraditional preparation pathway to teacher licensure.

On July 7, 2023, the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification, and Licensure and Development (Licensure Commission) voted to recommend the iteach Mississippi nontraditional teacher licensure-track pathway proposal to the State Board of Education for consideration for approval to be established as an educator preparation provider of certain nontraditional teacher licensure-track programs. The State Board of Education subsequently voted to remand the proposal back to the Licensure Commission for further discussion and/or approval on July 27, 2023.

On November 3, 2023, the Licensure Commission voted to convene an Ad Hoc Committee charged with defining specific licensure criteria for the iteach Mississippi nontraditional teacher licensure-track pathway proposal. The Ad Hoc Committee of the Licensure Commission then met on November 29, 2023, to define specific licensure criteria for the iteach Mississippi nontraditional teacher licensure-track pathway proposal. Ad Hoc Committee members made recommendations for strengthening components presented in the original proposal related to supervision and mentoring of candidates. In addition to the licensure requirements proposed, the Ad Hoc Committee recommended a requirement that the iteach Mississippi nontraditional teacher licensure-track pathway provider shall meet Mississippi State Board of Education approved Educator Preparation Provider related program standards as outlined in the Educator Preparation Process and Performance Review Guidelines as codified in Title 7: Part 107 of the Mississippi Administrative Code.

Furthermore, the iteach Mississippi nontraditional teacher licensure-track pathway provider shall receive annual approval in order to operate, by way of Memorandum of Agreement to be authorized by signature of the Mississippi State Superintendent of Education upon determination that all applicable Educator Preparation Process and Performance Review requirements have been met. On January 5, 2024, the

Licensure Commission granted approval to establish iteach Mississippi as an approved Educator Preparation Provider (EPP) to offer a non-traditional pathway to teacher licensure and to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise Miss. Admin. Code 7 – 4: Part 4: *Licensure Guidelines K-12*, to include requirements for teacher licensure specific to prospective iteach Mississippi program completers.

Based on approval granted by the Mississippi State Board of Education at its regular meeting on February 15, 2024, to begin the Administrative Procedures Act Process, the proposed rules were available for public comment submission from February 22, 2024, through March 22, 2024, 5:00p.m. Public comments were submitted by one (1) local educational agency superintendent of education. Based on the public comments received, no changes are recommended by the MDE.

The following criteria shall be met by candidates prior to the issuance of a three-year non-renewable teacher internship license:

1. Hold a bachelor's degree (non-education) from a regionally/nationally accredited institution of higher education
2. Submission of evidence of having attained a score of Twenty-one (21) ACT (or SAT equivalent) or achieve a qualifying score on the Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators examination or verification of 3.0 overall GPA on a baccalaureate transcript or last 60 hours course credit prior to program admission
3. Submission of evidence of having achieved the minimum qualifying score as established by the Mississippi State Board of Education for the appropriate Praxis Subject Assessment offered in accordance with licensure area designated under the iteach Mississippi nontraditional teacher licensure-track pathway prior to program admission
4. Apply for entrance into the iteach Mississippi nontraditional teacher licensure-track pathway program
5. Completion of Classroom Management (TCMS 5100), Introduction to Special Education (TCMS 5500), and Data Analysis and Evaluation (TCMS 5300) modules
6. Assignment of a Mississippi-based field supervisor that holds, at minimum, a valid standard educator license issued by the Mississippi State Board of Education and master's degree in education that will be responsible for conducting a minimum of four (4) onsite observations during the candidate's year-long teaching residency.
7. Assignment of an effective mentor teacher, as evidenced by a summative Mississippi Professional Growth System observation rating of 3.00 or higher via local school district assurance
8. Online Recommendation by iteach Mississippi Program Director
9. Apply for a Three-Year Nonrenewable Teacher Internship License – Alternate Route for the purpose of completing the required one (1) full-year supervised residency

Upon successful completion of the year-long residency and the remaining required

modules noted below, candidates may be recommended by the iteach Mississippi Program Director and apply for the five-year standard non-traditional teaching license in the initial licensure area in which the three-year non-renewable internship license was issued. The following criteria shall be met by candidates prior to the issuance of the five-year standard renewable teaching license:

1. Completion of one (1) full-year residency through a supervised internship
2. Completion of modules:
 - TCMS 5000: The Road to Certification;
 - TCMS 5200: Learner Development;
 - TCMS 5400: Literacy, 21 Century Instruction, and Pedagogical Content Knowledge;
 - TCMS 5600: Diverse Student Populations;
 - TCMS 5700: Field Experience
3. Foundations of Reading assessment (This applies to candidates seeking to obtain licensure in the area of Elementary Education (4-6) only)
4. Online Recommendation by iteach Mississippi Program Director
5. Apply for a Five-Year Standard Teaching License –Alternate Route

The following teacher licensure areas are applicable to be offered through the iteach Mississippi Program:

- Biology (7-12)
- Chemistry (7-12)
- Chinese (K-12)
- Elementary Education (4-6)
- English (7-12)
- French (K-12)
- German (K-12)
- Latin (K-12)
- Mathematics (7-12)
- Physics (7-12)
- Spanish (K-12)

Recommendation: Approval

Back-up material attached

About iteach

iteachU.S. is a nontraditional teacher preparation provider that offers a competency-based educator preparation program that combines the convenience of online learning with the support of face-to-face mentorship. iteachU.S. was founded in the state of Texas in 2003 and is currently approved by the respective Education Commissions/State Boards of Education, as appropriate, to operate in Arizona, District of Columbia, Florida, Hawaii, Indiana, Louisiana, Nevada, Tennessee, Texas, and West Virginia. iteachU.S. earned the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) accreditation designation in 2012 and earned the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) accreditation status in 2019. iteachU.S. is the first and only non-IHE educator preparation program to achieve accreditation by way of a national accreditor.

The program is comprised of eight, self-paced virtual, pedagogical modules. The modules consist of the following:

1. an overview of teaching,
2. learning environments,
3. learner development,
4. planning for instruction and assessment,
5. literacy 21st century instruction and pedagogical content knowledge,
6. learner differences and adaptation for students with disability,
7. diverse student populations/English Language Learners and bilingual students, and
8. field experience.

Course syllabi goals and objectives are based on the InTASC Standards. iteachU.S. maintains field supervisors local to a state, and where possible, candidates' districts of hire. Supervisors are charged with conducting classroom observations and providing support to local candidates.

iteach MISSISSIPPI

Areas available: Biology (7-12), Chemistry (7-12), Chinese (K-12), Elementary Education (4-6), English (7-12), French (K-12), German (K-12), Latin (K-12), Mathematics (7-12), Physics (7-12), Spanish (K-12)

License	Requirements	Validity	To Convert to a Five-Year Alternate Route Educator License
Class A	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hold a bachelor’s degree (non-education) from a regionally/ nationally accredited institution of higher education 2. Twenty-one (21) ACT (or SAT equivalent) or achieve a qualifying passing score on the Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators examination or verification of 3.0 overall GPA on a baccalaureate transcript or last 60 hours of course credit 3. Praxis Subject Assessment in accordance with the licensure area designated under the iteach Mississippi program 4. Apply for entrance into iteach Mississippi Program 5. Complete required pre-teaching courses in an approved iteach Mississippi Program licensure area 6. Assignment of Mississippi-based field supervisor that holds a valid standard Mississippi educator license with a master’s degree in education responsible for conducting a minimum of four in-person observations 7. Assignment of an effective mentor teacher, as evidenced by a summative Mississippi Professional Growth System observation rating of 3.00 or higher via local school district assurance 8. * Secure Verification of Program Completion 9. Apply for a Three-Year Nonrenewable Teacher Internship License –Alternate Route 	3 years	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Completion of one full-year residency supervised internship 2. Verification of completion of remaining required modules 3. Foundations of Reading Assessment (Elementary Education 4-6 only) 4. *Secure Verification of iteach Mississippi Program Completion 5. Apply for the Five-Year Standard Teacher License - Alternate Route

***This license requires an online recommendation from the alternate route program. Once the online recommendation is made, the prospective educator must apply for the license online.**

**APPENDIX H
ALTERNATE ROUTE TEACHER LICENSURE PROGRAMS**

Iteach Mississippi

<p>Subject Areas for Licensure – To Obtain Information for Required Praxis Subject Assessments Please Visit: www.ets.org/praxis/ms</p>	<p>Biology (7-12), Chemistry (7-12), Chinese (K-12), Elementary Education (4-6), English (7-12), French (K-12), German (K-12), Latin (K-12), Mathematics (7-12), Physics (7-12), Spanish (K-12)</p>
<p>Program Entrance Requirements</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bachelor’s degree (non-education) from a regionally/nationally accredited institution of higher education 2. Twenty-one (21) ACT (or SAT equivalent) or achieve a qualifying passing score on the Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators examination or verification of 3.0 overall GPA on a baccalaureate transcript or last 60 hours of course credit 3. Praxis Subject Assessment in accordance with the licensure area designated under the iteach Mississippi program 4. Application for entrance into iteach Mississippi program
<p>Requirements for Three Year Alternate Route License</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Completion of the following iteach modules: TCMS 5100: Learning Environments, Classroom Management TCMS 5300: Planning Instruction and Assessment, Data Analysis and Evaluation, and TCMS 5500: Learner Differences and Adaptations for Students with Disabilities, Introduction to Special Education 2. Assignment of Mississippi-based field supervisor that holds a valid standard Mississippi educator license with a master’s degree in education responsible for conducting a minimum of four in-person observations 3. Assignment of an effective mentor teacher, as evidenced by a summative Mississippi Professional Growth System observation rating of 3.00 or higher via local school district assurance 4. Recommendation by Mississippi Program Director 5. Application for the Three-Year Nonrenewable Teacher Internship License –Alternate Route
<p>Location and Contact Information</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Iteach P.O. Box 1626 Denton, TX 76202 Website: www.iteach.net E-mail: admin@iteach.net Phone: 866-914-2653</p>

Requirements for Five Year Alternate Route License	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Completion of one full-year residency supervised internship 2. Completion of the following iteach modules: TCMS 5000: The Road to Certification TCMS 5200: Learner Development TCMS 5400: Literacy, 21 Century Instruction, and Pedagogical Content Knowledge TCMS 5600: Diverse Student Populations TCMS 5700: Field Experience 3. Foundations of Reading Test (Elementary Education 4-6 only) 4. Recommendation by Mississippi Program Director 5. Application for the Five-Year Standard Teacher License –Alternate Route
Fees	Fee to enroll Fee for program

Summary of Administrative Procedures Act (APA) Comments
 Approval to revise Miss. Admin. Code 7 – 4: Part 4: *Licensure Guidelines K-12*, to include requirements for teacher licensure specific to prospective iteach Mississippi program completers.

The Office of Teaching and Leading received the following APA comments regarding the establishment of requirements for teacher licensure specific to prospective iteach Mississippi program completers.	
Summary of Comments	MDE Response
<p>David Martin, Superintendent, Lincoln County School District - As a member of the licensure commission this criteria was debated and discussed for months. The Division of Educator Preparation is responsible for ensuring Educator Preparation Providers (EPPs) are producing high quality educators for the state's K-12 schools. Specifically, the Division is responsible for designing, coordinating, and conducting process and performance reviews and accreditation visits to ensure EPPs are meeting standards for program approval. Multiple meetings and several drafts were needed to determine the criteria for allowing a new provider the opportunity to offer their services to Mississippians seeking to become teachers. As a new provider we set several criteria in place to monitor their effectiveness as they are given the opportunity to provide services in our state.</p> <p>There are currently great options for preparation provided throughout our state and each individual aspiring to teach must decide the pathway that best suits their needs to be successful in obtaining a teaching license. While we currently have options, not enough prospects are being produced to combat the teacher shortage we continue to face in local school districts throughout our State. The provider iteach would simply serve as another option among our current proven and effective providers that will help us in our efforts to eliminate this shortage while ensuring that every child has access to a licensed teacher and not a long-term substitute.</p>	<p><u>No change recommended.</u> Comments represent a position of support.</p>