

**OFFICE OF CHIEF ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICER**  
**Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Item**  
**Consent Agenda**  
**December 17, 2020**

**DIVISION OF EDUCATOR PREPARATION**

- N. Approval to modify existing policy regarding criteria for the admittance of candidates into Mississippi licensure programs

Background Information: During the 2020 Mississippi Legislative session, the following technical amendments were made to Miss. Code Ann. § 37-3-2 regarding traditional program admittance and nontraditional licensure:

**(6)(a)(v) Standard License - Approved Program**

From and after July 1, 2020, no teacher candidate shall be licensed to teach in Mississippi who did not meet the following criteria for entrance into an approved teacher education program:

1. An ACT Score of twenty-one (21) (or SAT equivalent); or
2. Achieve a qualifying passing score on the Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators examination as established by the State Board of Education; or
3. A minimum GPA of 3.0 on coursework prior to admission to an approved teacher education program.

**(6)(b) Standard License - Nontraditional Teaching Route**

From and after July 1, 2020, no teacher candidate shall be licensed to teach in Mississippi under the alternate route who did not meet the following criteria:

- (i) An ACT Score of twenty-one (21) (or SAT equivalent); or
- (ii) Achieve a qualifying passing score on the Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators examination as established by the State Board of Education; or
- (iii) A minimum GPA of 3.0 on coursework prior to admission to an approved teacher education program.

On November 6, 2020, the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and Development (Licensure Commission) granted approval to establish criteria for the purpose of providing clarity regarding the program admission option of a minimum GPA of 3.0 on coursework prior to admission to an approved teacher education program. The MDE is requesting approval to add specific language to the licensure guidelines as recommended below by the Licensure Commission:

Standard License – Approved Program (Traditional Program Entry) - 3.0 GPA on a minimum of 60 hours of coursework

Standard License – Nontraditional Teaching Route (Nontraditional Program Entry) - 3.0 GPA total undergraduate/graduate GPA or on the last 60 hours of coursework

Recommendation: Approval

Back-up material: None