

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

DIVISION OF EDUCATOR LICENSURE

- P. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To establish Licensure Guidelines for Licensure Preparation and Other Programs Completed Outside the State of Mississippi

Background Information: Each state is governed by its own legislatively established licensing authority which is responsible for the approval of educator and administrator preparation programs designed to meet the specific needs of that state. When choosing to complete a program outside of the state of Mississippi, it is the responsibility of the prospective educator and administrator to ensure that the program selected leads to licensure in the state the program is offered and is equivalent to programs approved for licensure in the state of Mississippi, if the ultimate intent is to obtain licensure in Mississippi.

While it is the responsibility of the prospective educator and administrator to ensure that the out-of-state program selected leads to licensure in the state in which the institution of higher education is based, it has been discovered by the MDE Division of Educator Licensure that Mississippians are either being ill-advised or not being advised at all regarding the purpose of the programs candidates are completing under the assumption that such program will lead to licensure in that state and ultimately, in Mississippi. Unfortunately, due to the lack of proper advisement by the out-of-state program provider and the MDE not having the capacity or authority to approve and remain abreast of program requirements across states, the MDE has not been able to offer a license within the confines of current policy despite the candidates' investment of countless hours of studies and thousands upon thousands of dollars.

On November 6, 2020, the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and Development (Licensure Commission) granted approval, as a necessary protection for all Mississippi's prospective and practicing educators seeking to obtain initial licensure in the state of Mississippi by way of completion of a program outside of Mississippi, to require that such candidates shall first be licensed in the state where the preparation occurred. Upon obtaining the out-of-state license, the candidate shall submit an application with required supporting documentation to the MDE Division of Educator Licensure for the purpose of determining eligibility to obtain a Mississippi license via Reciprocity guidelines in effect on the date the complete application is received by the MDE. The Division of Educator Licensure is requesting approval as recommended by the Licensure Commission.

Recommendation: Approval

Back-up material: None