

**OFFICE OF CHIEF ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICER**  
**Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Item**  
**March 26, 2020**

**OFFICE OF TEACHING AND LEADING**

02. Action: Approval to revise Miss. Admin. Code 7–4: Part 4: Licensure Guidelines K-12 to modify the licensure requirements for obtaining and maintaining the *Special Non-Renewable License for Prospective Non-Traditional Teacher Preparation Program Completers*, to ensure alignment to current Federal guidelines for employing Special Education Teachers who hold a temporary license as required by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) 612(a)(14)(c), as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) [Goal 4 – MBE Strategic Plan]

(Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process without public comments)

Background Information: On January 10, 2020, the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and Development (Licensure Commission) met in its regularly scheduled meeting and approved the recommendations received from the Office of Teaching and Leading, Division of Educator Licensure, to modify the Special Non-Renewable License for Prospective Non-Traditional Teacher Preparation Program Completers. The modification being sought will strengthen the requirements for obtaining and maintaining this license type for any prospective holder of this license and ensure alignment to Federal requirements for employing special education teachers as outlined under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) 612(a)(14)(c), as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

The Division of Educator Licensure 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 and necessary, while ensuring consistency in what is required across all pathways to licensure, as appropriate.

The public comment period was open from February 21, 2020, through 5:00 p.m. on March 17, 2020, with no public comments received.

This item references Goal 4 of the *Mississippi Board of Education 2018-2022 Strategic Plan*.

Recommendation: Approval

Back-up material attached

**MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
SPECIAL, NON-RENEWABLE LICENSE FOR PROSPECTIVE NON-TRADITIONAL  
TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAM COMPLETERS**

The special, non-renewable license for prospective non-traditional teacher preparation program completers is a one-year license that can only be requested by an employing local school district or an eligible nonpublic school in the state of Mississippi for up to three (3) years for a candidate who has not met all certification requirements under the Miss. Code Ann. § 37-3-2(6)(a), (b), and (c), at the time the application is submitted to the Division of Educator Licensure. The special, non-renewable license for prospective non-traditional teacher preparation program completers provides local school officials with the ability to employ a candidate who has the potential to obtain a standard Mississippi teaching license by the completion of a Mississippi State Board of Education approved alternate route teacher education preparation program.

This provisional licensure option provides local school district officials with the ability to employ candidates who possess the potential to earn full educator certification while temporarily addressing the ongoing teacher shortage.

This Special, Non-renewable License type can be requested for a prospective non-traditional teacher preparation program completer who meets one of the following conditions in addition to criteria outlined in the subsequent sections based on application year:

A. Holds at least a bachelor's degree in the endorsement area in which the license is requested from an institution of higher education that was regionally/nationally accredited at the time the degree was conferred; **or**

B. Holds at least a bachelor's degree in any area and eighteen (18) hours of undergraduate and/or graduate level coursework with a grade of "C" or higher in the endorsement area in which the license is requested. Both the degree(s) and the eighteen (18) hours of undergraduate and/or graduate level coursework must have been earned from an institution of higher education that was regionally/nationally accredited at the time the degree was conferred. Remedial courses (also referred to as compensatory, developmental, or basic skills) will not be recognized for certification purposes and are usually numbered below 100 on the transcript (**Elementary Education is not included under option B**); **or**

C. Holds at least a bachelor's degree in any area from an institution of higher education that was regionally/nationally accredited at the time the degree was conferred and a passing score on the appropriate Mississippi State Board of Education approved licensure Subject Area Assessment in the endorsement area in which the license is requested;

The candidate must meet all licensure requirements for a standard, five (5) year renewable license by the end of the third year.

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 wishes to transfer 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. If the educator is nonrenewed by the local school district after the first year, the educator will not be issued a license for another district for the remaining two (2) years.

- The license can only be requested in one (1) endorsement area.
- Additional endorsements will not be added to the special, non-renewable license.

**Obtaining the initial Special, Non-renewable License for prospective non-traditional teacher preparation program completers requires completion of the application process as outlined below in the Year One category. Subsequent year requirements addressing verification of progress toward the standard, five (5) year renewable license are specified under the Year Two and Year Three categories.**

### **Year One Documentation Requirements**

The employing local school district or eligible nonpublic school must submit the following documentation for each candidate who meets the following criteria to be granted the year one special, non-renewable license:

- a) Standard Mississippi Licensure Application; **and**
- b) Local District Request Packet; **and**
- c) Letter of Request and Justification; **and**
- d) Vita or résumé; **and**
- e) Official, sealed transcript showing completion of at least bachelor's degree from an institution of higher education that was regionally/nationally accredited at the time the degree was conferred; **and**
- f) Official, sealed transcript showing degree conferred in the endorsement area in which the license is requested; **or**
- g) Official, sealed transcript(s) documenting eighteen (18) hours of undergraduate and/or graduate level coursework with a grade of "C" or higher in the endorsement area in which the license is requested; **or**
- h) Official test score report(s) documenting a passing score on the appropriate Mississippi State Board of Education approved licensure Subject Area Assessment in the endorsement area in which the license is requested.

During the school year the valid special, non-renewable license is issued, the employing Mississippi local school district or eligible nonpublic school shall provide the special, non-renewable license holder:

- a) Appropriate ongoing activities that lead to obtaining unconditional admission to a Mississippi State Board of Education approved non-traditional teacher preparation program as one criterion for the issuance of Year Two license; **and**
- b) High-quality professional development that is sustained, intensive, and classroom-focused; **and**
- c) Intensive supervision that consists of structured guidance and regular ongoing support or teacher mentoring with a fully certified teacher.

## Year Two Documentation Requirements

The employing local school district or eligible nonpublic school must submit documentation indicating that the special, non-renewable license holder is making sufficient progress toward the completion of requirements for obtaining full state certification to be granted the year two special, non-renewable license:

Demonstrate sufficient progress toward completion of requirements for obtaining full state certification:

- i. Official test score report(s) documenting achievement of or attempt(s) to achieve the qualifying passing score(s) on required applicable Mississippi State Board of Education approved testing requirements, during the time the year one Special, Non-renewable License was valid; **and/or**
- ii. Official letter of unconditional acceptance to a Mississippi State Board of Education approved non- traditional teacher preparation program from the appropriate State Board approved program provider. The Mississippi teacher preparation program provider must ensure that the candidate has met all minimum admission requirements prior to enrolling the candidate in the non-traditional teacher preparation program-- Official letter must be completed by the Dean of Education or Certification Officer; **and/or**
- iii. Official, sealed transcript showing required course(s) status as “in progress” or “completed” with an earned grade of “C” or higher. Evidence of program progress and/or completion must reflect acceptable forms of documentation based on the specific non-traditional educator preparation program being completed; **and**
- iv. Evidence of having received high-quality professional development that is sustained, intensive, and classroom-focused during the preceding school year; **and**
- v. Evidence of having participated in intensive supervision that consisted of structured guidance and regular ongoing support or teacher mentoring with a certified teacher during the preceding school year; **and**
- vi. Standard Licensure Application; **and**
- vii. Local District Request Packet; **and**
- viii. Letter of Request and Justification.

During the school year the valid special, non-renewable license is issued, the employing Mississippi local school district or eligible nonpublic school shall provide the special, non-renewable license holder:

- a) Appropriate ongoing activities that lead to obtaining unconditional admission to a Mississippi State Board of Education approved non- traditional teacher preparation program as one criterion for the issuance of Year Three license; **and**
- b) High-quality professional development that is sustained, intensive, and classroom-focused; **and**
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**NOTE:** Educator preparation program providers shall ensure that candidates have met all requirements in effect at the time the application for admission to a Mississippi State Board of Education approved non-traditional educator preparation program is received. Requirements include, but are not limited to, the following: **(To obtain the most accurate and up-to-date requirements, please visit the Educator Licensure Section at [www.mde.k12.ms.us/k12.org/OEL](http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/k12.org/OEL))**

- a) The candidate must hold at least a bachelor's degree from an institution of higher education that was regionally/nationally accredited at the time the degree was conferred;  
**and**
- b) The candidate must present official score report(s) from the appropriate testing vendor documenting earned passing qualifying scores on all required non-traditional educator preparation program admission and licensure tests such as, Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators\*, or minimum score of Twenty-one (21) ACT equivalent, Praxis Subject Assessment(s)\*\* in the area in which the educator license is sought, and Foundations of Reading Assessment (if applicable to area of certification sought) \*\*\*.

\*Candidate must have achieved the Mississippi State Board of Education's approved Minimum Passing Score requirement for Reading, Writing, and Mathematics prior to non-traditional program admission.

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\*\*\*Candidate must have achieved the Mississippi State Board of Education's approved Minimum Passing Score requirement for Foundations of Reading assessment prior to non-traditional program admission for Elementary Education (4-6) certification.

*Meeting all testing requirements is but one criterion for completing the multi-step educator licensure process for obtaining full state certification in the state of Mississippi. Please visit the Educator Licensure Section of the MDE website to obtain the most accurate and up to date information.*

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