

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

OFFICE OF TEACHING AND LEADING
DIVISION OF EDUCATOR LICENSURE

03. Action: Approval to suspend specific policies in Miss. Admin. Code 7 – 4: Part 4: *Licensure Guidelines K-12* related to requirements for Traditional and Nontraditional Educator Preparation Program Entry Test Requirement; Educator and Administrator Licensure Test Requirement; Educator and Administrator Licensure Renewal; and Educator Licensure Reciprocity following Governor Tate Reeves’ Proclamation of a State of Emergency as a result of the impact of COVID-19 (coronavirus) on school districts during the Spring of 2020 in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. §§ 33-15-31, 33-15-11(b)(9) and 33-15-11(c)(1) [Goal 4 – MBE Strategic Plan]

President Donald Trump declared a national emergency on March 13, 2020, in response to the COVID-19 (coronavirus) outbreak. On March 14, 2020, Governor Tate Reeves issued a Declaration of a State of Emergency for the state of Mississippi. Included in his Proclamation, Governor Reeves directed that pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. § 33-15-11(c), the provisions of state statutes, rules, regulations or orders may be temporarily suspended or modified if compliance with such provisions would prevent, hinder, or delay action to cope with the outbreak. Furthermore, on March 19, 2020, Governor Reeves issued Executive Order 1460, which in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. §§ 33-15-31, 33-15-11(b)(9) and 33-15-11(c)(1), authorizes and empowers the State Board of Education to suspend the provisions of any regulatory statutes, and to make, amend, rescind such orders, rules and regulations that it deems necessary to assist Mississippi public schools to cope with the COVID-19 emergency.

Due to the unprecedented and unique circumstances arising as a result of COVID-19, such as statewide school closures along with testing companies closing all of its test centers and eliminating access to prospective test takers, it is not economically feasible or practical to expect practicing and prospective educators and administrators to meet certain policies as required in the *Mississippi Guidelines for Educator Licensure K-12*.

The SBE met in its regularly scheduled meeting on March 19, 2020 and affirmed the order by the Governor to close Mississippi public schools as a result of the impact of COVID-19 (coronavirus) on school districts during spring 2020. Additionally, the SBE granted approval to allow school districts to operate for less than 180 days, to suspend the administration of all statewide assessments required by state and federal law for the 2019 – 2020 school year, to suspend the Mississippi Statewide Accountability System for the 2019 – 2020 school year, and to submit a waiver request to the United States Department of Education (ED) as

provided for in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). At that time, the SBE scheduled a special-called meeting of the SBE for March 26, 2020 to address the specific state laws, SBE policies, and process standards that shall be suspended for the 2019 – 2020 school year due to the impact of COVID-19.

It is the recommendation of the MDE that the SBE suspend certain requirements within federal and state laws and State Board Policies related to the following licensure areas:

- Traditional and Nontraditional Educator Preparation Program Entry Test Requirement
- Educator and Administrator Licensure Test Requirement
- Educator and Administrator Licensure Renewal
- Educator Licensure Reciprocity

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

Recommendation: Approval

Back-up Material: Attached

Mississippi Administrative Code 7 – 4: Part 4: *Licensure Guidelines K-12*
Rule Suspension Pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. §§ 33-15-31, 33-15-11(b)(9) and 33-15-11(c)(1)
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2019 – 2020 School Closures Related to COVID-19 (Coronavirus)

Statutes and/or Regulation(s)	Rule	Proposed Suspension and/or Revision of Rules
<p>Mississippi Traditional and Nontraditional Educator Preparation Program Entry Test Requirement</p> <p>Miss. Code Ann. § 37-3-2(6)(a)(v) Miss. Code Ann. § 37-3-2(6)(b)</p> <p>Miss. Admin. Code 7 – 4: Part 4: <i>Licensure Guidelines K-12</i></p>	<p>From and after September 30, 2015, 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:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Twenty-one (21) ACT equivalent or achieve the nationally recommended passing score on the Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators examination; and 2. No less than 2.75 GPA on pre-major coursework of the institution's approved teacher education program provided that the accepted cohort of candidates meets or exceeds a 3.0 GPA on pre-major coursework. 	<p>The MDE Division of Educator Licensure will suspend the <u>educator preparation program entry testing criterion only</u>, for all candidates seeking admission to a Mississippi State Board of Education approved traditional or nontraditional educator preparation program on or before December 31, 2021.</p> <p>Individuals seeking admission to a nontraditional educator preparation program only, shall be required to meet one (1) of the following measures of subject matter competency at the time of admittance:</p> <p>Holds at least a bachelor's degree in the endorsement area in which the license is being sought from an institution of higher education that was regionally/nationally accredited at the time the degree was conferred; OR 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</p>

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		<p>sought. 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 this option);</p> <p>OR</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Beginning January 1, 2022 and thereafter, applicants seeking program admission shall meet all requirements in effect on the date the complete application is received by the Mississippi State Board of Education</p>

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<p>Mississippi Traditional and Nontraditional Educator and Administrator <u>Licensure</u> Test Requirement</p> <p>Miss. Code Ann. § 37-3-2(6)(a)(iii) Miss. Code Ann. § 37-3-2(6)(b) Miss. Code Ann. § 37-3-2(7)(a-d)</p> <p>Miss. Admin. Code 7 – 4: Part 4: <i>Licensure Guidelines K-12</i></p>	<p>Traditional and Nontraditional Educator Preparation Program Completers: Miss. Code Ann. § 37-3-2(6)(a)(iii) Miss. Code Ann. § 37-3-2(6)(b)</p> <p>Applicants for a standard license shall submit to the department:</p> <p>-- A copy of test scores evidencing satisfactory completion of nationally administered examinations of achievement, such as the Educational Testing Service's teacher testing examinations;</p> <p>Traditional and Nontraditional Administrator Preparation Program Completers: Miss. Code Ann. § 37-3-2(7)(a-d)</p> <p>-- Individuals seeking school administrator licensure under paragraph (b), (c) or (d) shall successfully complete a training program and an assessment process prescribed by the State Board of</p>	<p>approved educator preparation program provider.</p> <p>The MDE Division of Educator Licensure will suspend the <u>licensure testing criterion only</u>, for all complete applications received in the MDE Division of Educator Licensure on or before December 31, 2021 for Five-Year Standard Licenses sought by way of the completion of an approved traditional or nontraditional educator or administrator preparation program as defined by the Mississippi State Board of Education.</p> <p>Please note that applicants seeking the three-year internship license or five-year standard license by way of the completion of the respective appropriate components of a nontraditional educator preparation program only, shall have met one (1) of the following measures of subject matter competency at the time of program admittance:</p> <p>Holds at least a bachelor's degree in the endorsement area in which the license is being sought from an institution of higher education that was regionally/nationally accredited at the time the degree was conferred;</p>

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	<p>Education. All applicants for school administrator licensure shall meet all requirements prescribed by the department under paragraph (b), (c) or (d), and the cost of the assessment process required shall be paid by the applicant.</p>	<p>OR 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 sought. 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 this option);</p> <p>OR 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.</p>

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		Beginning January 1, 2022 and thereafter, applicants for licensure shall meet all requirements in effect on the date the complete application is received in the MDE Division of Educator Licensure.
<p>Educator and Administrator Licensure Renewal:</p> <p>Miss. Code Ann. § 37-3-2(9)</p> <p>Miss. Code Ann. § 37-3-2(6)(c)</p> <p>Miss. Code Ann. § 37-3-2(6)(d)</p> <p>Miss. Admin. Code 7 – 4: Part 4: <i>Licensure Guidelines K-12</i></p>	<p>Renewal and Reinstatement of License:</p> <p>The State Board of Education is authorized to establish rules and regulations for the renewal and reinstatement of educator and administrator licenses.</p> <p><u>Renewal of License</u></p> <p>Only a five-year, standard license is eligible for renewal. Current requirements for renewal of a five-year standard license for each class are as follows:</p>	<p>The MDE Division of Educator Licensure is <u>suspending the renewal requirements for those who licenses are set to expire on June 30, 2020</u> and will grant a one-year extension for all license types with a current valid expiration date of June 30, 2020. If approved, qualifying licenses will be dated to expire June 30, 2021. Beginning July 1, 2021 and thereafter, applicants for licensure renewal shall meet all requirements in effect on the date the complete application is received in the MDE Division of Educator Licensure.</p> <p>The request is due in part to the MDE’s and local school districts’, as appropriate, inability to ensure equitable access to high-quality professional learning opportunities for all educators and administrators for the purpose of meeting State Board of Education licensure renewal requirements.</p>

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	<p><u>Standard Educator Licensure Renewal:</u> <u>Class A:</u> Ten (10) continuing education units (CEU's) in content or job/skill related area OR Three (3) semester hours in content or job/skill related area AND Five (5) continuing education units (CEU's) in content or job/skill related area OR Six (6) semester hours in content or job/skill related area OR Completion of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards process</p> <p><u>Class AA, AAA or AAAA:</u> Three (3) semester hours in content or job/skill related area OR Five (5) continuing education units (CEU's) in content or job/skill related area OR Completion of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards process</p>	

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	<p><u>Standard Career Level Administrator:</u> Seventy (70) School Executive Management Institute (SEMI) credits OR Six (6) hours of coursework OR 35 SEMI credits AND 3 hours coursework OR Completion of a specialist or doctoral degree in educational administration/leadership.</p>	
<p>Educator Licensure Reciprocity: Miss. Code Ann. § 37-3-2(8)(a)</p>	<p><u>Five-Year Standard License Reciprocity:</u> The department shall grant a standard license to any individual who possesses a valid standard license from another state and meets minimum Mississippi license requirements or equivalent requirements as determined by the State Board of Education. The issuance of a license by reciprocity to a military-trained applicant or military spouse shall be subject to the provisions of Section 73-50-1.</p>	<p>The MDE Division of Educator Licensure will suspend <u>the licensure testing criterion only for all complete applications for Five-Year Standard Reciprocity</u> received in the MDE Division of Educator Licensure on or before December 31, 2021. Beginning January 1, 2022 and thereafter, applicants for reciprocity shall meet all requirements in effect on the date the complete application is received in the MDE Division of Educator Licensure.</p>

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<p>Miss. Admin. Code 7 – 4: Part 4: <i>Licensure Guidelines K-12</i></p>	<p>Valid out-of-state license (Upload PDF copy of valid out-of-state educator license via Educator Licensure Management System (ELMS) account or submit photocopy of original educator license via postal mail)</p> <p>AND</p> <p>Official Sealed copy of all college transcripts</p> <p>AND</p> <p>Documentation must be provided to show a passing score on a subject assessment required for each endorsement area of certification by the issuing state, or documentation that verifies the out-of-state license was obtained in a manner equivalent with current Mississippi license guidelines for that license.</p>	