

**OFFICE OF CHIEF OF ACCOUNTABILITY**  
**Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Item**  
**Consent Agenda**  
**March 11, 2021**

**DIVISION OF EDUCATOR LICENSURE**

- H. Approval to establish implementation procedures for recently adopted Licensure Guidelines for Licensure Preparation and Other Programs Completed Outside the State of Mississippi

Background Information: On January 21, 2021, at its regular meeting, the Mississippi State Board of Education granted approval, as a necessary protection, to require that all Mississippi's prospective and practicing educators, administrators, and supplemental service providers seeking to obtain initial licensure in the state of Mississippi by way of completion of a program outside of Mississippi, 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.

While the newly established guidelines do not allow for the issuance of an endorsement without first obtaining licensure in the state where the preparation occurred, at this time, current guidelines do not prohibit the upgrade of an existing valid Mississippi license to a higher "Class" level if all related requirements have been met at the time of application. In essence, for example, an upgrade from a "Class A" Bachelor's level license to a "Class AA" Master's level license may be granted if the degree and the institution were accredited at the time the degree was conferred. Again, however, in order to obtain an initial license in the specific area of study in the state of Mississippi, the applicant 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 new policy became effective Monday, February 22, 2021.

In a good faith effort to allow individuals that were unconditionally admitted to and actively enrolled in a licensure-track educator, administrator, or supplemental service provider preparation program outside of Mississippi prior to February 22, 2021 the opportunity to submit a licensure application to the MDE for the purpose of determining eligibility to obtain initial licensure upon completion of the out of state licensure program, the MDE Division of Educator Licensure is requesting that the newly established policy be implemented in accordance with the subsequent implementation process.

Applicants for licensure will fall into one (1) of the two (2) categories and are subject to the process that most closely describes their situation at the time the policy became effective, Monday, February 22, 2021. Implementation criteria are as follows:

- Those individuals that were unconditionally admitted to and actively enrolled in a licensure-track educator, administrator, or supplemental service provider preparation program outside of Mississippi before February 22, 2021, shall have until June 30, 2023 to submit a complete application with all supporting documentation to the MDE Division of Educator Licensure in order to be considered for initial licensure by way of completion of a preparation program outside of the state of Mississippi. Effective July 1, 2023 and thereafter, the applicant shall adhere to all guidelines in effect on the date the complete application is received by the MDE. This is intended to serve as a good faith effort to allow as many candidates as possible, a window of time for program completion and licensure application submission to potentially obtain a Mississippi license prior to being subject to the newly established policy.
- Effective February 22, 2021, all other individuals that were not unconditionally admitted to and actively enrolled in a licensure-track educator, administrator, or supplemental service provider preparation program outside of Mississippi before February 22, 2021, shall first be licensed in the state where the preparation occurred in order to be considered for initial licensure in the state of Mississippi by way of completion of a program outside of Mississippi. Upon obtaining the out-of-state license, the candidate shall submit a complete 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.

Recommendation: Approval

Back-up material: None