

## Chapter 14: Certification

### Rule 14.21 Mississippi Assistant Teacher Requirements

Assistant teachers shall have at a minimum a high school diploma or a High School Equivalency Diploma equivalent and shall show demonstratable proficiency in reading and writing skills.

1. Requirements for assistant teachers working in pre-kindergarten
  - a. By August 1, 2022, 50% of assistant teachers in each district will meet the requirements described below. By August 1, 2024, 100% of assistant teachers in each district will meet the requirements described below.

Assistant teachers are required to follow one of the pathways listed below:

Early Childhood associate degree		
<b>OR</b>		
Associate degree OR 60 College Credit Hours	<b>AND</b>	12 early childhood college credit hours* <b>OR</b> Completion of an early childhood training program**
<b>OR</b>		
High School Diploma/GED AND Verification of WorkKeys® Scores***	<b>AND</b>	12 early childhood college credit hours <b>OR</b> Completion of an early childhood training program**

\*These hours can be included in the associate degree or 60 College Credit Hours

\*\*Completion of an early childhood training program includes the Child Development Associate (CDA), National/State Director's Credential, Montessori Credential, and the MDE's intensive specialized early childhood training program.

\*\*\* Prior to 2017, Teacher Assistants would have met WorkKeys® requirements: (1) a Reading for Information score of 4, an Applied Mathematics score of 4, and a Writing or Business Writing score of 3;

OR

After 2017, teacher assistants need to meet the WorkKeys® Silver Level certification.

2. Requirements for assistant teachers working in kindergarten and up

a. Assistant teachers are required to follow one of the pathways listed below:

i. Hold an associate degree or higher

**OR**

ii. Two Years or 48 College Credit Hours  
(Transcript verification required)

**OR**

iii. High School Diploma/GED  
**AND**  
Verification of WorkKeys® Scores\*

\* Prior to 2017, teacher assistants would have met WorkKeys® requirements: (1) a Reading for Information score of 4, an Applied Mathematics score of 4, and a Writing or Business Writing score of 3;

OR

After 2017, teacher assistants need to meet the WorkKeys® Silver Level certification.

Source: Miss Code Ann. §§ 37-21-7, 37-19-7(3), and 37-1-3 (Adopted 5/2022)