

OFFICE OF QUALITY PROFESSIONALS
Summary of State Board of Education Items
April 17 - 18, 2008

EDUCATOR LICENSURE

Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act Process: To Approve the Revision to the Licensure Guidelines for Reinstatement of an Expired License as Recommended by the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure Development

Background Information:

Several Commission members, as well as school district personnel, have expressed concern over the interpretation of the current guidelines for Reinstatement. This guideline was originally intended to allow Mississippi educators who have been out of the profession for a period of time to come back to education and have their license reinstated, however, the policy as it currently reads, allows someone whose license has been expired for less than five years to reinstate their standard license with no college coursework or continuing education units. The guideline was originally approved so that mothers could stay at home with small children and then come back to teaching when their children went to school; or military personnel on active duty whose license expired could return to the classroom or educators that moved out-of-state to return to MS and teach. While the original proposal was well-intended, many educators that are currently employed by MS school districts are allowing their licenses to expire and requesting reinstatement without earning the coursework or CEUs required for renewal of a standard license. If educators choose to let their license expire and have it reinstated rather than meeting renewal requirements, the Office of Educator Licensure has no choice but to reinstate the license because the current Reinstatement policy allows this.

On March 7, 2008, the Certification Commission approved this proposal to revise the current licensure guidelines for Reinstatement. With the amended policy, educators with expired licenses can still reinstate for five years if they have a valid out-of-state license, or six hours of college coursework taken within the last five years, or if they are a retired educator and show PERS documentation. However, the proposal revision will only allow educators whose licenses have expired to reinstate for one year if they do not have the documentation listed above. They would then have one year to earn the approved number of continuing education units (CEUs) or hours of coursework appropriate for their license Class level. The Certification Commission approved that when the educator submits the appropriate CEUs or coursework, the educator license would be reinstated for four additional years (the remainder of a five-year cycle).

Current Licensure Guideline for Reinstatement of an Expired License (page 27)

FIVE YEAR LICENSE - REINSTATEMENT		
Years since expiration	Requirements	Validity
Less than 5 years	Completed application requesting reinstatement	5 years
5 to 10 years	1. Completed application requesting reinstatement 2. Three (3) semester hours of course work (with a grade of "C" or higher) in content or job/skill related area* OR Valid out-of-state license	5 years
More than 10 years	1. Completed application requesting reinstatement 2. Six (6) semester hours of course work (with a grade of "C" or higher) in content or job/skill related area* OR Valid out-of-state license	5 years
<i>Retired educator from Mississippi public schools</i>	1. Completed application requesting reinstatement 2. Official documentation of retirement from service in Mississippi public schools (<i>MS Retirement System may be contacted by calling 1-800-444-7377</i>)	5 years

***NOTE: Coursework for reinstatement must have been taken after the latest license issuance date.**

Proposed Change to Licensure Guideline for Reinstatement of an Expired License:

FIVE YEAR LICENSE – REINSTATEMENT		
<i>Mississippi educators may reinstate an expired five-year standard license with one of the following options:</i>		
	Requirements	Validity
<i>One-year Reinstatement (issued at Class level of last five-year license)</i>	1. Completed application requesting reinstatement <i>(During the 1-year license, the educator must meet approved five-year <u>renewal</u> requirements with CEUs or coursework appropriate for the Class level of the standard license. CEUs or coursework for renewal must be completed within the last five-years. When renewal requirements are met, educators must reapply for the remaining four years of a standard five-year license)</i>	1 year (nonrenewable)
<i>Reinstatement By Reciprocity</i>	1. Completed application requesting reinstatement 2. Valid out-of-state license	5 years
<i>Reinstatement By Coursework</i>	1. Completed application requesting reinstatement 2. Six (6) semester hours of course work (with a grade of “C” or higher) in content or job/skill related area* <u>completed within the last five years.</u>	5 years
<i>Reinstatement of Retired educator from Mississippi public schools</i>	1. Completed application requesting reinstatement 2. Official documentation of retirement from service in Mississippi public schools <i>(MS Retirement System may be contacted by calling 1-800-444-7377)</i>	5 years

**Licenses that have been revoked, suspended, or surrendered may only be reinstated by order of the Certification Commission after a disciplinary hearing.*

Current requirements for Renewal of a five-year standard license:

Class A: Ten (10) continuing education units (CEUs) 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 (CEUs) 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 of Professional Teaching Standards process

Class AA, AAA or AAAA:

Three (3) semester hours in content or job/skill related area

OR

Five (5) continuing education units (CEUs) in content or job/skill related area

OR

Completion of the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards process

Standard Career Administrator:

Seventy (70) School Executive Management Institute (SEMI) credits
Or
Six (6) hours of coursework
or
35 SEMI credits AND 3 hrs coursework
Or
Completion of a specialist or doctoral degree in educational administration/leadership