

OFFICE OF QUALITY PROFESSIONALS
Summary of State Board of Education Items
January 15-16, 2009

EDUCATOR LICENSURE

Approval to Begin the Administrative Procedures Action Process:
To Approve a Revision to the Licensure Guidelines to Remove the One Standard Error of Measurement Allowance in the MS Alternate Path to Quality Teacher (MAPQT) Alternate Route Program as Recommended by the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure Development

Specifications:

In June of this year, the United States Department of Education did a highly qualified No Child Left Behind (NCLB) audit at MDE. One of their findings stated that Mississippi was out of compliance with NCLB guidelines in allowing alternate route candidates in the MAPQT program to be admitted without a passing score on the Praxis II exam. The MAPQT has allowed candidates to be admitted with 1 SEM since the program was approved. We are recommending that the 1 SEM be removed from this policy and that all candidates for admittance into the MAPQT program be required to meet the approved cut score before being admitted.

The Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure Development discussed this proposal many times in the past few years. On November 6, 2008, the Commission voted to recommend to the State Board removal of the 1 SEM allowance. The board voted on January 16, 2009, to give initial approval to removal of the 1 standard error of measurement and portfolio component from the MAPQT alternate route program.

Background Information:

In Mississippi, all approved alternative certification teacher preparation programs contain three basic components:

1. Testing – passing score on Praxis I (3 parts) and Praxis II subject area test
2. Training – complete teacher training program or pre-teaching coursework approved for that alternate route program
3. Teaching internship – all alternate route teacher candidates must complete one-year of teaching on a provisional license as an internship before becoming fully licensed.

In 2002, the Mississippi Department of Education contracted with the Mississippi Community College Foundation to administer the Mississippi Alternate Path to Quality Teacher (MAPQT) alternate route program. At the time the MAPQT was approved by the State Board, the program allowed for candidates to be admitted into the program without a passing score on the Praxis II subject area test as long as the candidate had scored within one standard error of measurement of the passing score. These MAPQT participants could complete the 3-week summer training program and begin their teaching internship with the 1 SEM on the Praxis II. During the internship year, these candidates must retake the Praxis II test. If they passed the test and completed the internship, they would qualify for the 5-year standard license. If they did not meet the passing score, they could be issued another 1-year MAPQT license and continue to teach. This was allowed for 3 years. At the end of the 3-year period, if these candidates still had not passed the test, the guidelines for the MAPQT allowed for these candidates to submit to MDE a portfolio. After the portfolio was evaluated by a committee, the candidate could be issued a 5-year standard license. During the last six years that the MAPQT has operated, many candidates with 1 SEM have been admitted into the program but MDE has granted 3 licenses with a portfolio.

All other MS alternate route programs require a passing score before candidates can apply for the initial license. This proposal to remove the 1 SEM from the MAPQT will bring this program into compliance with this requirement.

Attachments:

1. Current Licensure guidelines for the Mississippi Alternate Path to Quality Teacher program (MAPQT)
2. Current MAPQT requirements on the Licensure website

<p align="center">ONE YEAR ALTERNATE ROUTE LICENSE MISSISSIPPI ALTERNATE PATH TO QUALITY TEACHERS (MAPQT) Areas available: Art, Biology, Business, Chemistry, English, French, German, Home Economics, Music, Marketing, Math, Physics, PE, Social Studies, Spanish, Speech Communications, Technology Education, Special Education</p>			
License	Requirements	Validity	To Convert to a Five Year Alternate Route Educator License
Class A	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hold a bachelor's degree from a regionally/nationally accredited institution of higher learning 2. Pass Praxis I (Pre-Professional Skills Test-PPST) 3. Pass Praxis II Specialty Area Test <i>(Applicants may be admitted with a score within at least one standard error of measurement of the passing score.)</i> 4. Acquire admission to the MAPQT Program. <i>(See Appendix H or www.mde.k12.ms.us/licensure/alternate_path.html)</i> Complete 90 clock hours of training. <i>(Times and dates determined by offering colleges.)</i> 5. Secure a teaching position 6. Apply for the One Year Educator License-Alternate route. 	1 year	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Complete New Teacher Practicums (Saturdays during first year of teaching) 2. Pass evaluation by local school district after first year of teaching 3. Complete a local school district mentoring program during first year of teaching 4. Have a passing score on Praxis II or submit Instructional Portfolio to State Board of Education 5. Apply for a Five Year Alternate Route License

Mississippi Alternate Path to Quality Teachers
Sponsored by the Mississippi Community College Foundation

Program Entrance Requirements	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bachelor's degree from a regionally/nationally accredited institution of higher learning 2. GPA of 2.0 overall if graduated more than 7 years. Less than 7 years must have 2.5 or 2.75 GPA in major area 3. Praxis I PPST (Reading, Writing, Math) 4. Praxis II, Specialty Area Test in the area of endorsement with a passing score or a score within one "standard error of measurement" <p><i>(Test registration and information is available from Educational Testing Service, 1-800-772-9476 or http://www.ets.org)</i></p>
Subject Areas of Licensure (The attached numbers are the Praxis II Specialty Area Test Codes)	Art-0133, Biology-0235, Business-0100, Chemistry-0245, English-0041, French-0171, German-0182, Home Economics-0120, Marketing-0560, Math-0061, Music-0113, Physical Education-0091, Physics-0265, Social Studies-0081, Spanish-0192, Speech Communications-0220, Technology Education-0050, Special Education (grades 7-12 only)- 0352
Requirements for initial One-Year Alternate Route License (non-renewable)	<p>Complete MAPQT training program consisting of 90 clock hours – approximately three weeks. <i>(Time and dates determined by each participating college)</i></p> <p>*The program consists of effective teaching strategies, state curriculum frameworks, planning and instruction and survival skills in the classroom.</p> <p align="right">SOS FORM APA 001 Effective Date 07/29/2005</p> <p>Upon completion of summer MAPQT program:</p>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Applicants must submit a completed licensure application to the Office of Educator Licensure (www.mde.k12.ms.us/ed_licensure/licensure_application) 2. Packet must include sealed transcripts from all college coursework, including bachelor's degree. 3. Packet must include original copies of Praxis scores (scores will be returned) 4. Packet must include certificate of completion from MAPQT program 5. Packet must include letter from school district verifying employment <p style="text-align: center;"><u>The initial MAPQT license is a one-year license issued only at the bachelor's level and only in the subject area of testing</u></p>
<p>Location and Contact Information</p>	<p>Program locations: Itawamba Community College – Tupelo Hinds Community College – Raymond MS Delta Community College – Indianola Pearl River Community College – Hattiesburg Northwest Community College – Senatobia</p> <p>Contact: Mississippi Community College Foundation 1900 Lakeland Drive Jackson, MS 601-321-3902 email: mapqt@bellsouth.com</p> <p>Website: www.mde.k12.ms.us/ed_licensure/alternate_path.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Registration begins January 1, 2008. Early registration is encouraged due to the limited number of slots available. Fee: varies depending on available funding</i></p>
<p>Requirements for Five Year Alternate Route Renewable License</p>	<p>During the completion of one year internship (first year of teaching), teachers must complete 9 practicums (one Saturday each month)</p> <p>*The practicums will consist of classroom management, peer coaching, school law, data analysis using test results and training modules using interactive video training</p> <p>Upon completion of internship:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Applicants must submit a completed licensure application to the Office of Educator Licensure (www.mde.k12.ms.us/ed_licensure/licensure_application) 2. Packet must include certificate of completion from MAPQT program 3. Packet must include completed mentoring form from school district (Form #OEL 12-02) 4. Passing score on the Praxis II Specialty Area Test or validation of instructional portfolio <p><i>Supplemental endorsements can be added to a five year license</i></p>
<p><u>MAPQT Guidelines Concerning Candidates that have scores within one standard error of measurement of the Praxis II Specialty Area Tests</u></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An individual who has a passing score on the Praxis II Specialty Area Test, and has successfully completed all of the requirements may be issued a Five Year license. 2. An individual who has not achieved a passing score on the Praxis II, Specialty Area Test, after the first year of teaching can apply for another one-year MAPQT license if they meet the following requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • retake the Praxis II during the second year of teaching • continue work on an Instructional Portfolio during the second year (documentation is needed from MAPQT coordinator). • complete additional content specific coursework in area of weakness (documentation is needed from MAPQT coordinator) 3. An individual who has a passing score on the Praxis II Specialty Area Test at the end of the second year of employment will be issued a Five Year License. 4. An individual who has not achieved a passing score on the Praxis II <p style="text-align: right;">SOS FORM APA 001 Effective Date 07/29/2005</p>

	<p>the end of the second year can apply for another one-year MAPQT license if they meet the following requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• retake the Praxis II during the third year of teaching• continue work on an Instructional Portfolio during the third year (documentation is needed from MAPQT coordinator).• complete additional content-specific coursework in area of weakness (documentation is needed from MAPQT coordinator)• local district should conduct an evaluation of the teacher and provide documentation to the OEL. <p>5. An individual who has not achieved a passing score on the Praxis II Specialty Area Test by the end of the third year of teaching, but has a score that is within one standard error measurement of the passing score, shall submit his/her Instructional portfolio to the State Board of Education. The Board will have the portfolio evaluated by an external team. If the portfolio is recommended for approval by the external team, the teacher may be issued a Five Year license.</p>
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