

OFFICE OF QUALITY PROFESSIONALS
Summary of State Board of Education Items
May 14-15, 2009

EDUCATOR LICENSURE

12. To Approve a Revision to the Licensure Guidelines to Remove the Class AA Master's Equivalency Clause from a standard 5-year Vocational License as Recommended by the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure Development (have cleared APA with no comments)

Specifications:

On January 9, 2009, the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and Development approved a change to the Five-year Vocational License. The Department of Vocational and Technical Education recommended to the Certification Commission that the Class AA master's level guideline for this license be amended by removing the master's equivalency portion of that guideline. In order for any educator to hold a Class AA license, they must have a master's degree conferred. This guideline currently allows a vocational instructor to earn the Class AA license without a master's degree conferred but with 36 hours of graduate coursework. There is no other license approved to grant a Class AA license without a master's degree. The Office of Vocational Education, the Office of Educator Licensure and the Certification Commission are requesting that this guideline be changed and the AA equivalency language be deleted from this policy.

Attachments:

Current Licensure guidelines page 27 showing Class AA equivalency clause
Letter from the Office of Vocational Education requesting the amending of this policy

Backup Material: Attached

Recommendation: Approval

**FIVE YEAR VOCATIONAL LICENSE
FOR NON-EDUCATION DEGREE APPLICANTS**

License	Requirements	Validity	Renewal#
Five Year Class A Vocational License	1. Satisfy all requirements to convert the Three Year Vocational License to a Five Year Class A Vocational License	5 years	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 Two hundred forty (240) hours of related work experience* OR Three (3) semester hours in related area and one hundred twenty (120) hours of related work experience* OR Five (5) CEUs and one-hundred-twenty (120) hours of related work experience
Five Year Class AA Vocational License	1. Hold a Five Year Class A Vocational License 2. Master's degree in the area of endorsement or vocational education OR Complete an approved program of 36 semester hours as prescribed by the Dean of Vocational/Technical Education at Alcorn State University, Mississippi State University, or University of Southern Mississippi	5 years	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 One hundred twenty (120) hours of related work experience)*
Five Year Class AAA Vocational License	1. Hold a Five Year Class A Vocational License 2. Specialist degree in the area of endorsement or vocational education	5 years	Same as for Class AA
Five Year Class AAAA Vocational License	1. Hold a Five Year Class A Vocational License 2. Doctoral degree in the area of endorsement or vocational education	5 years	Same as Class for AA

****The related work experience requirements must be approved by the Superintendent, Principal or Vocational Director to ensure the work experiences are relative to the teaching area. The administrator and the employer must provide verification of successful completion of these activities to be submitted in the application packet when renewal is requested.***



Mississippi Department of Education

Hank M. Bounds, State Superintendent of Education

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MEMORANDUM #09.073

TO: Cindy Coon, Director
Office of Educator Licensure

FROM: Chris B. Wall, Director *CBW*
Bureau of Vocational Instructional Development

DATE: October 14, 2008

RE: Request for Change in *Guidelines for Mississippi Educator Licensure*

More than two decades ago, a program was established to allow vocational teachers to earn a Class AA Equivalency license. This program continued for about ten (10) years and was discontinued. A statement related to that Class AA Equivalency license program now appears on page 28 of the current Guidelines for Mississippi Educator License as part of the "requirements" as the Class AA category. This full statement reads as follows:

- "2 Master's degree in the area of endorsement or vocational education
OR
Complete an approved program of 36 semester hours as prescribed by the Dean of Vocational-Technical Education at Alcorn State University, Mississippi State University or University of Southern Mississippi"

Therefore, the Office of Vocational Education and Workforce Development is requesting that the AA Equivalency part of the requirements – that part that follows OR – should be deleted from the guidelines. The AA Equivalency program no longer exists and all references to it should be removed from the above publication. We realize that this request must be presented and approved by the Mississippi Licensure Commission and the State Board of Education. Please notify this office of their actions as they are finalized.

If further information is needed, please do not hesitate to contact this office at your convenience. Thanks for your assistance with this matter.

Attachment

c: Mike Mulvihill
Dr. Daphne Buckley
Dr. Kris Kaase
Barbara Varnell

