

OFFICE OF QUALITY PROFESSIONALS
Summary of State Board of Education Items
April 15-16, 2010

EDUCATOR LICENSURE

20. **To Amend the Licensure Guideline for Child Development PreK-K as Recommended by the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure (cleared APA with no comments)**

Specifications:

On January 8, 2010, the Certification Commission approved an addition to the current guideline that will allow a teacher that is already fully certified in Elementary Education K-3, K-4 or K-6 to add on the PreK-K certification by completing an approved program of coursework that would include a minimum of 9-12 hours in Early Childhood. Before any programs can be approved, the board must amend the guideline to certify not just a degree in Child Development but a supplemental endorsement in this area for those already licensed in Elementary Education.

Background Information:

In 2008, the state Legislature approved new statute and funding to implement pre-school programs in the public and parochial schools in our state. Many school districts have already implemented programs for 3's and 4 year olds. The MDE offices of Curriculum and Early Childhood Education have been working with a task force to develop new curriculums for pre-school education as a result of this legislation. This new law has increased the need for a change to the licensure guidelines for the Child Development PreK-K license. Currently, our approved licensure guideline for the 153 license in Child Development for PreK-K only allows certification for those that have completed a degree in Early Childhood Education or Child Development from one of the five approved programs in Mississippi. These approved programs are Alcorn University, Delta State University, Jackson State University, Mississippi State University and the University of Southern Mississippi. In current guidelines, the only way someone could teach preschool children in our schools is to complete a degree from one of these schools. An Elementary certified teacher could not become licensed for PreK-K without completing another degree.

In the spring of 2009, IHL convened a forum to discuss how our colleges and universities can amend current programs or develop new programs to certify teachers for these preschool areas. The consensus of the meeting was that colleges could develop programs and submit proposals for an "add-on" or supplemental program in PreK-Kindergarten for teachers already licensed in K-3 or K-4 or K-6 Elementary Education. Many of our current Child Development programs have proposals ready to submit that will train Elementary

certified teachers to teach preschoolers and add the 153 PreK-K to their license.

The board is being asked to approve the recommendation from the Certification Commission to amend the guideline for Child Development to include a supplemental endorsement clause.

Attachments:

1. Page 16 of the Licensure guidelines

SPECIAL LICENSES

FIVE YEAR EDUCATOR LICENSE - CHILD DEVELOPMENT (PreK – K) (153)			
License	Requirements	Validity	Renewal#
Class A	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Bachelor's degree or higher with child development emphasis from a regionally/nationally accredited institution of higher learning Official verification of program accreditation by the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences or National Association for Education of Young Children (see Form) Praxis I (Pre-Professional Skills Test-PPST) Praxis II (Specialty Area Test) <p>OR</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Hold a valid five-year license in Elementary Ed. K-3, K-4 or K-6. Complete an approved supplemental endorsement program in PreK-K 	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
Class AA	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Meet the requirements for a Five Year Class A License in Child Development Master's degree in the endorsement area in which license is requested <p>OR</p> Master of Education Degree	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
Class AAA	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Meet the requirements for a Five Year Class A License in Child Development Specialist degree in the endorsement area in which license is requested <p>OR</p> Specialist of Education Degree	5 years	Same as for AA
Class AAAA	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Meet the requirements for a Five Year Class A License in Child Development Doctoral degree in the endorsement area in which license is requested <p>OR</p> Doctor of Education Degree	5 years	Same as for AA

NOTE: 1) Individuals who have completed an approved teacher education program in Elementary Education and hold or qualify for a license in Elementary Education K-3 (116), Kindergarten–Grade 4 (152), or Elementary Education 1-9 (115) may obtain a supplemental endorsement in Nursery-Grade 1 (150) by completing an approved program. Mississippi institutions offering a program in Nursery-Grade 1 (150) are Alcorn State University, Mississippi Valley State University, Belhaven College, and Mississippi State University.

2) Nursery-Grade 1 (150) and Child Development (153) may not be added to Elementary Ed 4-8.