



## Mississippi Department of Education

Tom Burnham, Ed.D., State Superintendent of Education

Daphne Buckley, Ph.D. • Deputy Superintendent for Quality Professionals and Special Schools

Cindy Coon, Director, Office of Educator Licensure • 601-359-3483 • Fax: 601-359-2778

### MEMORANDUM

To: School Superintendents  
Members, State Board of Education  
Members, Certification Commission  
District Special Education Directors

From: Cindy Coon, Director *cc*  
Office of Educator Licensure

Date: August 24, 2010

RE: New Licensure policies

On August 20, 2010, the State Board of Education granted approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act (APA) process for the following proposed new policies:

1. Five New Praxis Tests and Passing Scores – Business Education, French, Spanish, German and Special Education – these tests will replace the current tests
2. New Five-Year Renewable License on the Bachelor's level for Speech/Language Teacher with license endorsement 216 (limited to articulation therapy only)
3. New Praxis test for Braille Competency and Passing Score – state law now requires teachers of visually impaired students to show competency in Braille

Comments regarding either document must be in writing and received in the Office of Educator Licensure no later than September 30, 2010. You may submit your comments by email to [ccoon@mde.k12.ms.us](mailto:ccoon@mde.k12.ms.us), or faxed to (601)359-2778, or submitted to the mailing address below. Whichever method you choose, please submit your comments only once. All written comments will be submitted to the State Board of Education at their next scheduled meeting.

If you have questions regarding this proposed policy, please contact the Office of Educator Licensure at 601-359-3483.

*"Quality Education for Every Child"*

Central High School Building • 359 North West Street • P.O. Box 771 • Jackson, MS 39205-0771

**OFFICE OF QUALITY PROFESSIONALS AND SPECIAL SCHOOLS**  
**Summary of State Board of Education Items**  
**August 19-20, 2010**

**EDUCATOR LICENSURE**

34. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act Process: To Approve a New Five-Year Renewable License and Endorsement Code 216 for Speech/Language Teacher

**Specifications:**

In July, the Certification Commission voted to approve a proposal to recommend to the State Board a new 5-year standard license at the bachelor's level for Speech/Language Teachers. Previously, the state offered license #216 for Speech Pathologists at the bachelor's level, but it was discontinued when the Board approved a master's level license. The Commission is requesting the Board to reinstate the 216 license for Speech/Language Teachers at the bachelor's level. The recommendation is being made because of the following:

- the shortage of Speech/Language Teachers;
- the shortage of Speech Programs;
- the limited number of teachers admitted to the master's level programs; and
- the large number of requests from local school districts for the interim licenses.

A bachelor's level Speech Teacher will be limited to providing articulation therapy services to students, and must be supervised by a master's level Speech Language Clinician. Students diagnosed with more severe speech problems must be serviced by a certified Speech Language Clinician.

Approval of this proposal to allow Speech/Language graduates with bachelor's degrees to be hired to service students needing articulation therapy will give tremendous assistance to Mississippi school districts.

Backup-material attached: *(New Proposal & Current Guidelines)*

Recommendation: Approval

## Proposal

### **Proposed Five-Year Standard Renewable License for Speech/Language Teacher and Re-instated Licensure Endorsement Code 216 for Speech/Language Teacher:**

#### **FIVE YEAR EDUCATOR LICENSE – SPEECH/LANGUAGE TEACHER (216)**

*This is a five-year license issued on the bachelor's level for Speech Pathology. The bachelor's level Speech/Language Teacher would be limited to the type of services that they could provide to students. A bachelor's level Speech Teacher could provide Articulation therapy, articulation testing, write IEP's and provide speech therapy. They could not provide language therapy, language assessments, voice or fluency or their corresponding assessments and they could not chair any type of eligibility determination committee. The bachelor's level Speech/Language Teacher must be monitored by a master's level fully certified Speech/Language Clinician.*

<b>License</b>	<b>Requirements</b>	<b>Validity</b>	<b>Renewal</b>
Class A	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Licensure application</li><li>2. Complete an approved bachelor's degree program from an accredited institution in Speech Pathology, Communication Disorders or Speech and Hearing Sciences</li><li>3. Praxis I (Pre-Professional Skills Test-PPST)</li></ol>	5 years	<p>Ten (10) continuing education units (CEUs) in content or job/skill related area</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>OR</b></p> <p>Three (3) semester hours in content or job/skill related area</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>AND</b></p> <p>Five (5) continuing education units (CEUs) in content or job/skill related area</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>OR</b></p> <p>Six (6) semester hours in content or job/skill related area</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>OR</b></p> <p>Completion of the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards process</p>



**Our current MS Licensure Guideline for Speech Pathology licensure:**

<b>FIVE YEAR EDUCATOR LICENSE – SPEECH/LANGUAGE CLINICIAN (215)</b>			
<b>License</b>	<b>Requirements</b>	<b>Validity</b>	<b>Renewal#</b>
Class AA	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Complete an approved master's degree program for speech pathology (American Speech Language Hearing Association-ASHA)</li> <li>2. Praxis I (Pre-Professional Skills Test-PPST) Praxis II (Specialty Area for Speech Pathologist)</li> </ol> <p><b>OR</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Complete an approved master's degree program for speech pathology (American Speech Language Hearing Association-ASHA)</li> </ol> <p>Original ASHA Membership Card</p>	5 years	<p>Three (3) semester hours in content or job/skill related area</p> <p><b>OR</b></p> <p>Five (5) continuing education units (CEUs) in content or job/skill related area</p>
Class AAA	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Meet the requirements for a Five Year Class AA License</li> <li>2. Specialist degree in speech pathology</li> </ol>	5 years	Same as for AA
Class AAAA	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Meet the requirements for a Five Year Class AA License</li> <li>2. Doctoral degree in speech pathology</li> </ol>	5 years	Same as for AA