

Important Facts Regarding the Mississippi Department of Education *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001*
Highly Qualified Teacher Definition

- ❖ The Mississippi Department of Education has designated that middle grades will include grades 7-8, at a minimum.
- ❖ Teachers with a K-8 license are “highly qualified” to teach grades K-6 regardless of the classroom configuration.
- ❖ Teachers who teach grades 7-12 will be required to have an endorsement in the core academic subject that the teacher teaches to be considered “highly qualified.”
- ❖ All veteran teachers have until the end of the school year 2005-2006 to become “highly qualified.”
- ❖ All teachers have the opportunity to add endorsements with 18 hours of coursework with a grade of “C” or higher if the coursework was taken prior to September 1, 2004, after September 1, 2004, 21 hours of coursework with a grade of “C” or higher is required to add on an endorsement.

APPENDIX G GUIDELINES for “HIGHLY QUALIFIED” STATUS
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NEW TEACHERS

The “No Child Left Behind Act” of 2001 (NCLB Act) mandates that teachers *new to the profession (employed for the first time in a Mississippi public school after the first day of school, 2002 –2003)* meet the “highly qualified” status:

New Elementary K-6

- Holding a baccalaureate degree
- Complete one of the following:
 1. an approved pre-service teacher preparation program for elementary education from a regionally/nationally-accredited Institution of Higher Learning **OR**
 2. an approved alternate route to certification program (4-8 only) for elementary education
- Pass designated Praxis tests

New Middle 7-8

- Holding a baccalaureate degree
- Complete one of the following:
 1. an approved pre-service teacher preparation program for middle/secondary education from a regionally/nationally-accredited Institution of Higher Learning **OR**
 2. an approved alternate route certification program for middle/secondary education
- Pass designated Praxis tests
- Hold an endorsement for every core academic subject taught (*English, reading or language arts, mathematics, science, foreign languages, civics and government, economics, arts, history, and geography*)

New Secondary 9-12

- Holding a baccalaureate degree
- Complete one of the following:
 3. an approved pre-service teacher preparation program for middle/secondary education from a regionally/nationally-accredited Institution of Higher Learning **OR**
 4. an approved alternate route certification program for middle/secondary education
- Pass designated Praxis tests

- Hold an endorsement for every core academic subject taught (*English, reading or language arts, mathematics, science, foreign languages, civics and government, economics, arts, history, and geography*)

VETERAN TEACHERS

The “No Child Left Behind Act” of 2001 (NCLB Act) mandates that teachers *new to the profession* (employed for the first time in a Mississippi public school after the first day of school, 2002 –2003) meet the “highly qualified” status:

Veteran Elementary K-6

- Hold at least a bachelor’s degree
- Pass the Praxis II (specialty-area assessment)
- Hold at least a valid Class A Educator License
- Teach in a grade covered by that license

Veteran Middle 7-8

- Hold at least a bachelor’s degree
- Hold at least a Class A Educator License, and at least a Class A Educator License with an endorsement for every core academic subject taught (*English, reading or language arts, mathematics, science, foreign languages, civics and government, economics, arts, history, and geography*)

Options for “HIGHLY QUALIFIED” Status for Middle School 7-8:

- Pass the PRAXIS II (specialty-area assessment), **OR**
- Pass the PRAXIS II (specialty-area assessments for middle school), **OR**
- Hold National Board Certification in each core academic subject area taught, **OR**
- Hold a master’s degree in each core academic subject taught, **OR**
- Obtain CEU’s through the Mississippi Department of Education’s Middle Grades Professional Development Institute, **OR**
- Obtain an endorsement with a minimum of 21 hours of coursework with a grade of “C” or higher in each core academic subject taught (*English, reading or language arts, mathematics, science, foreign languages, civics and government, economics, arts, history, and geography*)

Veteran Secondary School 9-12

- Hold at least a bachelor's degree
- Hold at least a Class A Educator License, and at least a Class A Educator License with an endorsement for every core academic subject taught (*English, reading or language arts, mathematics, science, foreign languages, civics and government, economics, arts, history, and geography*)

Options for “HIGHLY QUALIFIED” Status for Secondary School 9-12:

- Pass the PRAXIS II (specialty-area assessment), **OR**
- Pass the PRAXIS II (specialty-area assessments for middle school available 9/04), **OR**
- Hold National Board Certification in each core academic subject area taught, **OR**
- Hold a master's degree in each core academic subject taught, **OR**
- Obtain an endorsement with a minimum of 21 hours of coursework with a grade of “C” or higher in each core academic subject taught (*English, reading or language arts, mathematics, science, foreign languages, civics and government, economics, arts, history, and geography*)

Note: For more clarification of “Highly Qualified” definition visit www.mde.k12.ms.us/ed_licensure/highly_qualified_teacher.html