

## MEMORANDUM

To: Local Superintendents of Education, Officials of Eligible Non-public Schools, and All Other Educational Stakeholders

From: Dr. Cory M. Murphy, Executive Director  
Office of Teaching and Leading

Date: Wednesday, March 27, 2019

Subject: Division of Educator Licensure – Updates and Reminders

### **Newly Appointed Team Members**

**Update:** On March 1, 2019, Mrs. Krystal Cormack began serving as the Bureau Director of the Division of Educator Licensure and on February 1, 2019, Ms. Tamika Lipsey began serving as Assistant Director. In addition, we have concluded the selection process for hiring four (4) new customer service representatives who will aid in our efforts to meet your needs when soliciting information and support via the Educator Licensure Call Center. Representatives are available to serve you and may be contacted between the hours of 9:00AM – 4:00PM at 601-359-3483. The full team will begin the onboarding process April 15, 2019.

### **Removal of Praxis Core/21 ACT Equivalent/Principles of Learning & Teaching (PLT) Assessment Requirement for Instructional Support/Administrator Licensure Areas**

**Update:** On February 21, 2019, the Mississippi State Board of Education (SBE) granted approval to modify certain licensure assessment guidelines for Instructional Support and Administrator Licensure Endorsement Areas. Particularly, the State Board approved the removal of the requirement of Praxis Core, or ACT, or SAT and Principles of Learning & Teaching (PLT) assessments, as applicable, as one criterion in the multi-step process for receiving a license in the following areas: Guidance and Counseling (436); Library Media (440); Psychometrist (213); School Psychologist (451); Speech/Language Clinician (215); Audiologist (202); and Administrator – Nontraditional Licensure Pathway. The new requirements are effective for complete licensure applications received Monday, March 25, 2019 and thereafter. *Guidelines for Mississippi Educator Licensure K-12* may be accessed via the following web link:  
<https://www.mdek12.org/OTL/OEL/K12>.

### **Special, Non-renewable License Requests**

**Reminder:** All Local District Request Application Packets are now accessible and should be submitted via the Educator Licensure Management System (ELMS) District Portal. Applications for school year 2019-2020 may now be submitted. Please allow the following to serve as a reminder:

Special, Non-renewable License for Prospective Non-traditional Teacher Preparation Program Completers (**Non-traditional Program Enrollment No Longer Required Year-One/No Test Requirement for the Issuance of Year-One Special, Non-renewable License**)

- 2018-2019 Year-One License Holders must be unconditionally admitted to nontraditional educator preparation program in order to receive the 2019-2020 Year-Two License
- 2018-2019 Year-Two License Holders must be unconditionally admitted to nontraditional educator preparation program in order to receive the 2019-2020 Year-Three License
- 2018-2019 Year-Three License Holders: Final Special, Non-renewable License

A scanned PDF copy of certain supporting licensure application documentation can now be submitted electronically/uploaded directly into the applicant's ELMS account (**excludes official transcripts and licensure test score reports – transcripts should continue to be submitted electronically directly from the respective institution and test score reports from testing company**). Photographs of documents will not be accepted. Local Districts can access the Special, Nonrenewable License Application Packet and review all requirements for obtaining a license utilizing this pathway by clicking on the following web link: <https://www.mdek12.org/OTL/OEL/licensureapplication>.

**Renewal of Standard Educator License**

***Reminder:*** On or about March 27, 2018, the Division of Educator Licensure disseminated a memorandum to educational stakeholders notifying them that the Division would, ***on a temporary basis***, accept ***all professional learning completed between July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2017 if earned during the educator's licensure renewal cycle which can be found in the bottom left corner of the Mississippi Educator License***.

Renewal applications and supporting documents meeting the criteria outlined in that memorandum will be accepted through June 30, 2019. This provision does not apply to educators who renewed their educator license prior to July 1, 2017 or the date of that notice. Further, this provision does not apply to educators with a renewal cycle beginning July 1, 2017 and thereafter. On and after July 1, 2019, all educators shall adhere to the requirements set forth in the *Guidelines for Mississippi Educator Licensure K-12*. The MDE reserves the right and authority to question the authenticity, refuse to accept, and/or request additional documents regarding any documentation submitted to the Division of Educator Licensure for the purposes of initial licensure or renewal. A scanned PDF copy of the original CEU certificate(s) and/or certain other supporting licensure application documentation can now be submitted electronically/uploaded directly into the applicant's ELMS account (**excludes official transcripts and licensure test score reports – transcripts should continue to be submitted electronically directly from the respective institution and test score reports from testing company**). Photographs of documents will not be accepted. *Guidelines for Mississippi Educator Licensure K-12* may be accessed via the following web link: <https://www.mdek12.org/OTL/OEL/K12>. To obtain an original copy of the memorandum referenced herein, please use the following web link: <https://www.mdek12.org/OTL/OEL/Updates>.

Please continue to encourage educators to engage in professional learning throughout the five-year validity of the current license renewal cycle indicated on the educator's license. When seeking to engage in professional learning opportunities intended for improving practice, one suggestion would be to pursue those opportunities that target areas for growth as identified using the Mississippi Educator and Administrator Professional Growth System.

When determining whether professional learning opportunities completed by an educator for the purpose of licensure renewal is acceptable, it is our practice to apply the following questions:

- How does the selected professional learning opportunity improve the teacher's knowledge and skills related to the role(s) in which he/she is serving? In essence, how will the professional learning opportunity improve teaching practice that will ultimately yield better student learning outcomes?
- How will the professional learning activity improve and sustain the professional growth of teachers?

### **School Leaders Licensure Assessment**

**Reminder:** Effective September 1, 2018, the state of Mississippi transitioned to the new version of the School Leaders Licensure Assessment (SLLA) test code 6990. The qualifying passing score of 151 represents Mississippi's required score for the new replacement version of the SLLA, test code 6990. Test preparation materials may be accessed via the following web link: <https://www.ets.org/sls/prepare/materials/6990>.

According to current policy, if the previous version, SLLA 6011, was taken and a score of 169 was earned on or before August 31, 2018, that passing score will be accepted until August 31, 2020. Please note that the score of 151 does not represent an adjusted score for SLLA 6011, rather, a score of 151 represents the required passing score for the new version of the SLLA, test 6990.

### **2019 Elevate Teachers' Conference**

**Reminder:** There are approximately 400 seats remaining for attendance at the Mississippi Department of Education's (MDE) Office of Teaching & Leading *2019 Elevate Teachers' Conference*. The conference will be held at the Jackson Convention Center in Jackson, Mississippi on July 8-9, 2019. Participants attending both days will receive 1.0 FREE CEU credit. Proposed sessions include, but are not limited to, *Culturally Responsive Teaching Practices, Classroom Management, Teacher Leadership & Advocacy, Educator Licensure*, and a host of others. You must register to attend by using the following web link: <https://gsmu.mdek12.org/public/Course/browse?courseid=10364>.

Please assist us with disseminating and orally communicating the contents of this memorandum to all prospective and practicing educators. Please do not hesitate to contact a member of the Educator Licensure team for assistance via telephone at (601) 359-3483. We value and appreciate the opportunity to serve you.

c: Dr. Paula A. Vanderford  
Mrs. Krystal Cormack