

Arkansas Department of Education Rules
Governing Educator Licensure
(released for public comment by the State Board of Education 7/9/2015)

Summary

The Department of Education is proposing an amendment to its Rules Governing Educator Licensure to incorporate the following Department of Education rules concerning licensure into this rule:

- ADE Rules Governing Nontraditional Licensure
- ADE Rules Governing the Lifetime Teaching License
- Licensure provisions only of the ADE Rules Governing Professional Development

The table of contents provides guidance as to where the above-referenced rules have been incorporated into this proposed rule, as well as guidance as to how the existing Rules Governing Educator Licensure have been reorganized into this proposed rule. This proposed rule is being promulgated for a second time; therefore, the markup shows *changes from the emergency rule* (effective July 13, 2015) only, which are italicized below.

Highlights of proposed changes include:

Chapter 1 - Definitions

- Definitions for all chapters of the rule are included in one definitions section under Chapter 1.

Chapter 2 - Traditional Licensure

- A substitution has been allowed for the basic skills assessment.
- A 45-hour ArkansasIDEAS piece on Arkansas History may be substituted in some circumstances for a 3-hour Arkansas History course.
- A provision is added for completion of six (6) hours of instruction in reading that includes at a minimum theories and strategies for teaching reading, diagnosis of reading difficulties, intervention strategies for struggling readers, and disciplinary literacy, and either a 3-hour course in disciplinary literacy or a 45-hour professional development piece in disciplinary literacy through ArkansasIDEAS, when adding an area or endorsement.
- *Provisions relating to the accreditation of educator preparation programs are amended to implement Act 1090 of 2015, Section 4 (see Section 2-1.02.7)*
- *Some exceptions were added to endorsement by testing out to allow greater flexibility in certain licensure areas:*
 - *Section 2.304: A person holding a Standard License with a licensure level of P-4, K-6, K-12, 4-8, or 7-12 may test out of the following licensure content areas: Art; Business; Computer Science; Foreign Language; Music; and Physical Education*
 - *Section 2-3.05: Provides for a Special Education Resource endorsement to specific existing licenses, with a component that consists of 3 hours of coursework and completion of a SPED 101 Academy.*

- *Section 2-3.07 provides for a Special Education Resource endorsement to specific existing licenses through a program of study that consists of 9 hours of coursework, completion of a SPED 101 Academy, and successful completion of the content area assessment for special education.*
 - *1-2.44 is added as a definition of SPED 101 Academy*
- Provisional licensure provisions for out-of-country applicants are revised.
- Provisions are added to implement federal law concerning immigration status.
- Provisions for adding areas and levels of licensure are revised to incorporate language formerly on the Appendices.
- Provisions concerning Additional Licensure Plans (ALPs) are moved to Chapter 4 with similar provisions.

Chapter 3 – Administrator License

- Provisions relating to administrator licenses are revised for clarity and updates.
- Provisions including a waiver of the four-year experience requirement are added to allow flexibility when an administrator applicant is in a leadership program that supports the Department's equity plan. (See 3-1.01.7 and 3-2.01.6)
- Provisions concerning Administrator Licensure Completion Plans (ALCPs) are moved to Chapter 4 with similar provisions.

Chapter 4 - General Provisions for All Licenses

- Some provisions have been moved into this chapter from the original placement in the rule and reorganized for clarity and conciseness.
- License effective dates are revised.
- Professional development requirements for licensure have been incorporated into this chapter.
- Mentoring requirements are moved from these rules and are incorporated in the proposed Rules Governing Educator Mentoring Programs.
- Provisions concerning ALPs and ALCPs are incorporation into Sec. 4-4.0 of this chapter.
- Provisions clarifying what the Department will consider when making a determination as to waivers for long-term substitutes have been added.
- The conversion of an older or provisional license to a standard license will be treated as a renewal of a Standard License.
- *Section 4-2.11 updates provisions concerning the reinstatement of expired licenses to implement Act 1090 of 2015, Section 8.*

Chapter 5 - Nontraditional Licensure

- All provisions of the current Rules Governing Nontraditional Licensure have been incorporated (and reorganized) into this chapter, with the exception of related definitions, which are in Chapter 1.
- *APPEL program provisions are significantly streamlined and reference is made to the APPEL Program Handbook.*
- *Section 5-2.05 is added to implement Act 1090 of 2015, Section 5.*
- *Section 5-5.01.4 adds provisions for a nontraditional licensure through a Special Education Master of Arts in Teaching program of study.*

Chapter 6 - Lifetime Teaching License

- All provisions of the current Rules Governing the Lifetime Teaching License have been incorporated into this chapter, with the exception of related definitions, which are in Chapter 1.
- New provisions were added to:
 - clarify that background checks are required for a lifetime teaching license holder who reenters the educational environment,
 - list “mentor” as an eligible employment position; and
 - require school districts to notify the Department of the employment of a lifetime teaching license holder.

Appendix A - Charts are updated and former regulatory provisions contained in the appendices are now included in Chapter 2.