

OFFICE OF QUALITY PROFESSIONALS AND SPECIAL SCHOOLS
Summary of State Board of Education Items
August 18 - 19, 2011

EDUCATOR LICENSURE

24. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act Process: To Approve Standards for a Supplemental Endorsement Program in Child Development PreK-Kindergarten as Recommended by the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure Development

Background Information:

In the spring of 2010, the Commission and State Board approved a change to the licensure guidelines for the 153 license for Child Development PreK-K. Prior to that change, the guidelines only allowed someone to earn this license by completing a degree in Child Development. If a teacher already held an Elementary Education K-3, K-4 or K-6 license, they could not add on PreK (one additional grade) without completing another degree. The change to the guidelines allows institutions to be approved offering a supplemental endorsement program in Early Childhood/Child Development courses to add PreK-K to an existing Elementary Education license. At the time the policy was approved, the Commission asked MDE to establish a committee to determine what standards needed to be established for a supplemental program in PreK-K before any approved program could be implemented. In January of 2011, the Committee brought a proposal for discussion of their findings to the Certification Commission and a recommendation of what courses an approved program in PreK-K should consist.

The proposal for an add-on endorsement in PreK-K brought by the committee requires 18 hours of coursework to add PreK to an Elementary license. MDE held an internal meeting to discuss this proposal. It is the MDE opinion that 18 hours (6 courses) is too much coursework just to add on one grade level. MDE leadership offered a counter proposal of 9 hours for this add-on at the May 2011 Commission meeting. The recommendation has also been made to allow PreK to be added to a K license by passing the Praxis in Early Childhood.

At the July 2011 Commission meeting, the Commission considered three proposals for the standards for a supplemental endorsement program in Child Development PreK-K. The Commission discussed the following options:

- 1) to accept the PreK-K committee's 18-hr proposal;
- 2) to accept MDE's proposal of 9 hours;
- 3) also to consider whether to allow PreK to be added to an Elementary license by passing PreK Praxis test.

Additionally, the Commission received a letter from Dr. Ann Blackwell, Dean of Education at the University of Southern Mississippi. Dr. Blackwell is writing in response to MDE's amended proposal. She is asking the Commission to consider adding the Child Development course to the proposal for a program of at least 12 hours.

After much discussion, the Commission approved the standards for an add-on in PreK-K and makes the following proposal to the State Board:

All state programs approved for a supplemental endorsement program for licensed Elementary Education teachers who want to add Child Development PreK-K must offer the following courses:

- Child Development I or Child Development II
- Early Language in Literacy
- Early Childhood Methods
- Special Education for Early Childhood Development

The Commission further agreed that many Elementary teachers may have already had some of these courses which would count toward the endorsement.

Additionally, the Commission approved the proposal to allow Child Development PreK-K to be added to an Elementary Education K-3, K-4 or K-6 license by passing the Praxis II test for Early Childhood Education test 0021.

Recommendation: Approval

Back-up material attached