

**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

#### 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 following “highly qualified” status:

##### New Elementary K-6

- Hold 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 middle/secondary education
- Pass designated Praxis tests

##### New Middle 7-8

- Hold 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, language arts, mathematics, science, foreign language, civics, government, economics, arts, history, geography*)

##### New Secondary 9-12

- Hold 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, language arts, mathematics, science, foreign language, civics, government, economics, arts, history, geography*)

## VETERAN TEACHERS

The "No Child Left Behind Act" of 2001 (NCLB Act) mandates that teachers *not new* to the profession (employed in a Mississippi public school before or on the first day of school, 2002-2003) have until the end of the 2005-2006 school year to meet the following "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 with an endorsement for every core academic subject taught (*English, reading, language arts, mathematics, science, foreign language, civics, government, economics, arts, history, 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 assessment for middle school), **OR**
- Hold National Board Certification in each core academic subject 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 School 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, language arts, mathematics, science, foreign language, civics, government, economics, arts, history, geography*)

### Veteran Secondary School 9-12

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

#### *Options for "Highly Qualified" Status for Secondary School 9-12:*

- Pass the Praxis II (specialty-area assessment), **OR**
- Pass Praxis II (specialty-area assessment for middle school available 9/04), **OR**
- Hold National Board Certification in each core academic subject 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 for each core academic subject taught

**Note:** For more clarification of "Highly Qualified" definition visit [www.mde.k12.ms.us/ed\\_licensure/highly\\_qualified\\_teacher.html](http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/ed_licensure/highly_qualified_teacher.html)