

**290-3-2-.01 Definitions.**

(1) **30/18.** The semester hours required in a teaching field, including at least 30 semester hours of credit with at least 18 semester hours of upper-division credit.

(2) **Academic Major.** Refer to the definition in the Educator Preparation Chapter of the *Alabama Administrative Code*.

(3) **Administrator.** When “administrator” is used in conjunction with “superintendent,” “administrator” is defined as the chief administrative officer of a nonpublic school or nonpublic school system.

(4) **Administrative Experience.** Experience as a superintendent or assistant superintendent, principal or assistant principal, career and technical administrator or assistant career and technical administrator in a P-12 school system(s).

(5) **Alabama Council for Leadership Development (ACLD).** The ACLD provides advice for the development of a system of professional development for Alabama’s instructional leaders. The Council approves professional studies that fully address the Alabama Standards for Instructional Leaders and are aligned with the Alabama Standards for Professional Development.

(6) **Alabama Educator Certification Assessment Program (AECAP).** The statewide testing program required by the Alabama State Board of Education for educators as a precondition for initial certification in each teaching field or area of instructional support. Official score reports must be submitted electronically from the testing service to the Alabama State Department of Education. Applicants must meet the requirements of the AECAP in effect at the time an application and nonrefundable fee are received in the Educator Certification Section. Additional information is in Rule 290-3-2-.02(9).

(7) **Applicant.** An individual who meets one of the following definitions:

(a) An individual who submits an application or for whom an educator preparation institution or a prospective or current employer submits an application to the Section for any certificate, substitute license, or other license issued by the Alabama State Superintendent of Education.

(b) An individual employed by a local education agency or nonpublic school to act in any capacity in which she or he will have unsupervised access to children in an educational environment.

(c) An individual applying for admission to a State-approved educator preparation program at an Alabama regionally accredited senior institution for the purpose of earning a certificate after completing that program and meeting other current requirements.

(8) **Application for Certification.** Completed, current official forms and supporting documents, including official transcripts and documentation of compliance with the requirements of the AECAP, to substantiate a request for certification. Application for certification includes initial certification, renewal, changing to a higher level of certification, and adding a teaching field and/or an area of instructional support. All requests for certification must include at least the current application form(s), the nonrefundable application fee(s) as indicated on the current application form(s) and the completion of the criminal history background check. A request for certification will not be assigned for review until at least these items are received. The application receipt date is the day on which the current application form(s) is received in the Educator Certification Section. The Section reserves the right to request an updated application form(s) if the application was signed by the applicant more than six months prior to receipt in the Section.

(9) **Area.** Any teaching field and grade level(s) or instructional support area and grade level(s).

(10) **Candidate.** A pre-service or in-service person enrolled in a senior institution for the purpose of earning initial or advanced certification in a teaching field or area of instructional support or for professional development purposes.

(11) **Certificate.** The official document issued by the Alabama State Department of Education to an applicant who has been deemed to meet all requirements for the issuance of the document. Printed information on the document includes the name of the applicant to whom it was issued, the date each area was issued, the degree level(s), valid period(s), and the specific teaching field(s) and/or area(s) of instructional support and grade level(s). Information on proper certification is in Rule 290-3-2-.01(40).

(12) **Certification Officer.** One person, designated by the head of the educator preparation unit at an Alabama regionally accredited senior institution of higher education with State-approved educator preparation programs, who is authorized to represent the unit. Responsibilities of the certification officer include but are not limited to:

(a) Verifying to the Alabama State Department of Education that an applicant for a certificate has successfully completed the State-approved program for the certificate sought and is recommended for certification.

(b) Verifying whether an applicant for a Special Alternative Certificate has met State requirements for unconditional admission to a State-approved program in the teaching field or area of instructional support for which the certificate is sought.

(c) Responding to requests for information from the Alabama State Department of Education.

(13) **Child Abuse Crime.** As defined in Act 2002-457, any crime committed under the law of the state that involves the physical or mental injury, sexual abuse or exploitation, or maltreatment of a child. Conviction of this crime shall cause an applicant to be deemed unsuitable for employment. Additional information about suitability determinations is in Rule 290-3-2-.01(54).

**(14) Church-related / Parochial School.** Includes only schools which offer instruction in Grades P-12, or any combination thereof, through on-site or home programs and are operated as a ministry of a local church, group of churches, denomination, and/or association of churches which do not receive any state or federal funding. Refer to Ala. Code §16-28-1 (1975).

**(15) Criminal History Background Check.** Information received from the Alabama State Bureau of Investigation (ASBI) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), resulting from a fingerprint review. Additional information is in Rule 290-3-2-.02(8).

**(16) Department.** Alabama State Department of Education.

**(17) DoDEA.** Department of Defense Education Activity.

**(18) Educational Administrator.** When used in this chapter or in applying Rules of the Alabama State Board of Education, the term applies to a person who holds a previously issued or current Alabama certificate as a career and technical administrator, educational administrator, instructional leader, principal, superintendent, or superintendent-principal.

**(19) Educator Preparation Program.** A State-approved program at an Alabama senior institution, a state-approved program at a senior institution in another state, or a program in another country leading to professional educator certification within grades P-12 as a teacher or as a provider of instructional support (administrator, counselor, librarian, psychologist, psychometrist, speech language pathologist, sport manager, and/or supervisor).

**(20) Form.** Official, required document(s) completed by or for applicants for a variety of purposes. Any reference to a form in this chapter means the current version of the form.

**(21) GPA (Grade Point Average).** In this chapter, all GPA requirements pertain to calculations on a four-point scale. Appropriate adjustments shall be made for other scales. GPAs may not be rounded. For example, a GPA of 2.74 cannot be rounded to 2.75. The official overall GPA is the GPA posted on the official transcript of the degree granting institution that was used as the basis for granting the degree.

**(22) Initial Certificate.** The first Alabama certificate in each specific teaching field or area of instructional support issued to an educator.

**(23) Instructional Leader.** When used in this chapter or in applying the Rules of the Alabama State Board of Education, the term applies to a person who holds a previously issued or current Alabama certificate as a career and technical administrator, educational administrator, instructional leader, principal, superintendent, superintendent-principal, or supervisor.

**(24) Instructional Support Areas.** The area(s) and grade level(s) printed on the certificate to which a person may be assigned and deemed properly certified. Area(s) include career and technical administrator, educational administrator, instructional leader, library media specialist, principal, school counselor, school psychologist, school psychometrist, speech language pathologist, sport manager, superintendent, superintendent-principal, and supervisor.

**(25) Issuing Authority.** The official state agency responsible for awarding educator credentials for grades P-12, or DoDEA.

**(26) K (Kindergarten).** In Alabama schools and as used in this chapter, kindergarten refers to programs for five-year olds.

**(27) Levels of Professional Educator Certificates.**

(a) Class B: Bachelor's degree level.

(b) Class A: Master's degree level program of at least 30 semester hours of graduate credit in a teaching field or instructional support area. Coursework used to meet Class B certification or bachelor's degree requirements may not be used toward the issuance of higher level certification in any area. Coursework for which credit was applied toward the issuance of a previous level of certification, in any area, may not be used toward the issuance of higher level certification in any area.

(c) Class AA: Planned sixth-year program of at least 30 semester hours of graduate credit, which results in an education specialist degree. Coursework used to meet Class A certification or master's degree requirements may not be used toward the issuance of higher level certification in any area. Coursework for which credit was applied toward the issuance of a previous level of certification, in any area, may not be used toward the issuance of higher level certification in any area.

**(28) Levels of Professional Leadership Certificates.**

(a) Class A: Master's degree level program of at least 30 semester hours of graduate credit. Coursework used to meet Class B certification or bachelor's degree requirements may not be used toward the issuance of higher level certification in any area. Coursework for which credit was applied toward the issuance of a previous level of certification, in any area, may not be used toward the issuance of higher level certification in any area.

(b) Class AA: Planned sixth year program of at least 30 semester hours of graduate credit, which results in an education specialist degree. Coursework used to meet Class A certification or master's degree requirements may not be used toward the issuance of higher level certification in any area. Coursework for which credit was applied toward the issuance of a previous level of certification, in any area, may not be used toward the issuance of higher level certification in any area.

**(29) Mentor.** When used in this chapter in regard to an Alternative Baccalaureate-Level Certificate, Career and Technical Alternative Baccalaureate-Level Certificate, Special Alternative Certificate, Preliminary Certificate, Preliminary Certificate Through Exception, Business and Industry to Educational Administration Certificate, Provisional, or Interim Employment Certificate the term "mentor" is defined as a teacher or instructional support employee of a P-12 public school or a P-12 nonpublic school who has at least three full years of professional educational work experience; has demonstrated effectiveness in the performance of his or her work; has demonstrated excellence in communicating and collaborating with colleagues; and is designated by the superintendent or administrator to provide guidance, support, and assistance in the development and improvement of the professional skills and understanding to a beginning teacher or instructional support person. The mentor should hold a valid certificate in the same teaching field or area of instructional support for which the individual to be mentored is seeking certification.

**(30) Nonpublic School.** Includes P-12 schools that are church-related/parochial, federally operated, special schools that are supported by the state, and schools that are not public. Additional information is in the definition of church-related/parochial school in Rule 290-3-2-.01(14).

(31) **Official Transcript.** A college or university transcript that has been received directly from the issuing institution or from a Department approved electronic transcript delivery agent that bears the college/university seal, date of transcript issuance, and the signature of the Registrar.

(32) **P (Preschool or Pre-K).** Any level prior to kindergarten.

(33) **Professional Development.** Sustained and collaborative activities for teachers and instructional support personnel designed to increase the academic achievement of all students. The activities must strengthen pedagogical knowledge and promote the acquisition of research-based strategies. For currently employed Alabama educators, the need for such activities must be supported by data from local schools. Professional development plans must be approved by the employing superintendent or administrator.

(34) **Professional Educational Work Experience.** Acceptable employment in a teaching field or an area of instructional support. Additional information is in Rule 290-3-2-.02(10).

(35) **Professional Educator Certificate.** A certificate to teach in grades P-12 that is issued by the Alabama State Department of Education based on at least an earned bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited senior institution except as prescribed in Rule 290-3-2-.02(7)(c). A certificate to provide instructional support (counselor, librarian, psychologist, psychometrist, speech-language pathologist, sport manager) in grades P-12 that is issued by the Alabama State Department of Education based on at least an earned master's degree from a regionally accredited senior institution. Issuance of the Professional Educator Certificate is based on completion of a State-approved approach to certification. Since January 2010, administrative and supervisory certificates are no longer printed on the certificate entitled Professional Educator Certificate.

(36) **professional educator certificate.** A certificate to teach in grades P-12 that is issued by the certificate issuing authority in another state or DoDEA based on at least an earned bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited senior institution. A certificate to provide instructional support (administrator, counselor, librarian, psychologist, psychometrist, sport manager, supervisor) in grades P-12 that is issued by the certificate issuing authority in another state or DoDEA and is based on at least an earned master's degree.

(37) **Professional Leadership Certificate.** A certificate to provide leadership (career and technical administrator, educational administrator, instructional leader, principal, superintendent, superintendent-principal, and supervisor) in grades P-12 that is issued by the Alabama State Department of Education and is based on at least an earned master's degree from a regionally accredited senior institution and completion of a State-approved approach to certification. Since January 2010, administrative and supervisory certificates are printed on the certificate entitled Professional Leadership Certificate. Prior to January 2010, administrative and supervisory certificates were printed on the certificate entitled Professional Educator Certificate.

**(38) Professional Learning Unit.** A Professional Learning Unit (PLU) is a content driven, long-term unit of professional study for instructional leaders that fully addresses all knowledge and ability indicators under an Alabama Standard for Instructional Leaders. Professional study that constitutes a PLU requires multiple professional development experiences over time and will always be aligned with the Alabama Standards for Professional Development. A PLU is earned at the completion of professional study which fully addresses the knowledge and ability indicators under an Alabama Standard for Instructional Leaders. The professional study must include comprehensive coverage and evaluation of effectiveness in the school setting. Professional study that earns a PLU must be approved either by the Alabama Council for Leadership Development (ACLD) or approved by an Alabama city or county superintendent or an administrator of an Alabama nonpublic school.

**(39) Program Checklist.** An official document identifying all courses required to complete a State-approved educator preparation program. Program checklists are submitted by an institution and approved by the Alabama State Board of Education following a review. The official State-approved checklist will be used as the basis for issuing a certificate. Additional information on program approval is in the current Educator Preparation Chapter of the *Alabama Administrative Code*. If institutions modify the format of the State-approved program checklist to facilitate advisement, all requirements on the official program checklist must be included on the modified forms.

**(40) Proper Certification.** Proper certification is defined as having a valid Alabama certificate in the teaching field(s) and/or area(s) of instructional support in which the person is assigned throughout the school day. The current edition of the *Subject and Personnel Codes* of the Alabama State Department of Education shall be used to determine whether an individual holds proper certification for his or her assignments throughout the school day.

**(41) Reasonable Suspicion.** Reasonable articulable grounds to believe that a crime has been committed by the individual.

**(42) Receipt Date.** The date a document is received and date stamped by the Educator Certification Section. The date a fee is received in the Educator Certification Section.

**(43) Regional Accrediting Agency.** The six regional accrediting agencies recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education and the Department are:

(a) Middle States Commission on Higher Education for institutions of higher education in Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

(b) New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Commission on Institutions of Higher Education for institutions of higher education in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

(c) Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, for institutions of higher education in Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming, including schools of the Navajo Nation.

(d) Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities for institutions of higher education in Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Washington.

(e) Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Commission on Colleges for institutions of higher education in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia.

(f) Western Association of Schools and Colleges, Accrediting Commission for Senior Colleges and Universities for institutions of higher education in California, Hawaii, the United States territories of Guam and American Samoa, the Republic of Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

**(44) Regionally Accredited.** Refers to action taken by one of the regional accrediting agencies in Rule 290-3-2-.01(43) and is specific to the status of the institution at the time credit or degrees were earned.

**(45) Renewal.** The continuation of a valid certificate with a new valid period or the reinstatement of an expired certificate with a new valid period. Additional information is in Rule 290-3-2-.29.

**(46) Revocation.** The process of taking adverse action against a certificate, substitute teacher license, or other license.

**(47) Scholastic Year.** Begins with the first day of July and ends with the thirtieth day of June each year. Refer to Ala. Code §16-1-1 (1975).

**(48) Section.** The Educator Certification Section of the Office of Teaching and Leading of the Alabama State Department of Education.

**(49) Senior Institution.** A college or university that confers at least the bachelor's degree.

**(50) State.** Any state or commonwealth, the District of Columbia, the Department of Defense Education Activity, or territory of the United States of America.

**(51) State-approved Approach.** The various methods of obtaining a Professional Educator Certificate or a Professional Leadership Certificate that have been approved by the Alabama State Board of Education.

**(52) State-approved Program.** An educator preparation program at an Alabama regionally accredited senior institution of higher education that has been formally approved by the Alabama State Board of Education on the basis of Alabama standards. All of the courses in an approved educator preparation program shall be indicated on an Alabama State Department of Education form called a program checklist.

**(53) state-approved Program.** An educator preparation program at a college or university in another state that has been approved by the Department of Education in that state based on its standards.

**(54) Suitability Determination.** Determination issued by the Alabama State Superintendent of Education to employing superintendents, administrators, or applicants in response to a criminal history background check indicating an applicant's or current employee's fitness for employment as prescribed in Act 2002-457.

(55) **Superintendent.** In this chapter, the Alabama State Superintendent of Education shall be designated as the Superintendent.

(56) **superintendent.** In this chapter, an Alabama city, county, or other public school superintendent shall be designated as a superintendent.

(57) **Supervisor.** When used in this chapter or in applying Rules of the Alabama State Board of Education, the term applies to a person who holds a previously issued or current Alabama certificate as a supervisor.

(58) **Supervisory Experience.** Experience directing an educational program at the central office level of a P-12 school system(s).

(59) **Teacher.** When used in this chapter or in applying the Rules of the Alabama State Board of Education, the term applies to a person who holds a previously issued or current Alabama certificate for a teaching field.

(60) **Teaching Field.** Subject(s) and grade level(s) printed on a certificate to which a person may be assigned and deemed properly certified. Additional information about proper certification is in Rule 290-3-2-.01(40).

(61) **Upper-Division.** Coursework designated by an institution of higher education to be at the junior or senior level of undergraduate study.

(62) **Valid.** In effect; not expired.

(63) **Valid Period.** The dates during which a certificate or license is in effect.

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**Statutory Authority:** Ala. Const. Amend. 284, Ala. Code §§16-3-11, 16-23-1 and 16-23-2 (1975).

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**290-3-2-.02 Basic Principles.**

**(1) Certification Authority.**

(a) The Educator Certification Section shall be the sole office within the Alabama State Department of Education to issue certificates and licenses and to implement Alabama laws and Rules adopted by the Alabama State Board of Education relating to the certification of teachers and instructional support personnel for preschool through Grade 12 (P-12). Rules, standards, directives, and memoranda written prior to adoption of these Rules are invalid and shall not be used to determine the application of these Rules. These Rules shall apply to all individuals whose applications for certification have a receipt date of on or after May 1, 2016, unless otherwise noted throughout this chapter.

(b) Unless otherwise provided by law, the educator certification Rules in this chapter shall be the sole authority by which certification is administered. Only the Alabama State Superintendent of Education shall have the authority to make exceptions to these Rules. Additional information on the certification authority of the State Superintendent of Education is in Rule 290-3-2-.04.

(c) Certificates issued by another state, DoDEA, or another certificate issuing authority may not be validated as the authority of their holders to teach in Alabama schools.

(d) State certification Rules grant broad general authority but ensure uniformity of administration.

(e) State certification Rules allow modifications to supporting policies and procedures to facilitate adoption and implementation of new technologies and improved business processes.

**(2) Proper Certification.**

(a) Each person who serves as a teacher or in an instructional support personnel position in the public schools of the State is required to hold a valid Alabama certificate as prescribed in Ala. Code §16-23-1 (1975).

(b) Each person who serves as a private tutor is required to hold a valid Alabama certificate as prescribed in Ala. Code §16-28-5 (1975).

(c) Proper certification is defined as having a valid Alabama certificate in the teaching field(s) and/or area(s) of instructional support in which the person is assigned throughout the school day. The current edition of the *Subject and Personnel Codes* of the Alabama State Department of Education, which is updated annually, shall be used to determine whether a person holds proper certification for his or her assignments throughout the school day.

(d) An individual who is assigned one or more periods per day in a teaching field in which he or she is not properly certified will cause a penalty of a minimum of \$500.00 per teacher per year to be assessed against the employing board of education. Additional information about proper certification is in Rule 290-3-2-.01(40). Additional information about the penalty is in Rule 290-2-1-.01. All teachers must be paid according to the State Minimum Salary Schedule. Additional information about the schedule is in Rule 290-2-1-.01.

(3) **Highly Qualified Teacher.** A teacher may be officially designated highly qualified by the Alabama State Superintendent of Education in a specific core academic subject area(s) and grade level(s) based on having met criteria outlined in the current edition of *The Alabama Model for Identifying Highly Qualified Teachers*. Highly Qualified Teacher status may be verified on the Educator Certification Section of the Departmental website.

(4) **Alabama Special Requirements**

(a) Completion of a criminal history background check as required by the *Alabama Child Protection Act of 1999*, as amended, and in Rule 290-3-2-.02(8).

(b) Verification, on the current application form for each certification approach, of citizenship or nationality status as required by the *Beason-Hammon Alabama Taxpayer & Citizen Protection Act 2011-535*, and as amended, by *Alabama Act No. 2012-491*.

(c) Completion of requirements of the Alabama Educator Certification Assessment Program (AECAP) as prescribed in Rule 290-3-2-.02(9).

(5) **Applications.**

(a) An applicant must meet all certification requirements for the selected approach to certification in effect on the receipt date of the application.

(b) Requirements must be met at the time of application receipt. An applicant who submits an incomplete application for certification must submit the additional required documentation within the 60 day period beginning with the date of a letter from the Educator Certification Section indicating the requirements yet to be verified. If the required documentation is not received in the Section within that 60 day period, the applicant must submit a current application, submit another nonrefundable fee, and meet requirements in effect on the receipt date of the new application.

(c) Applicants required to successfully complete the Alabama Educator Certification Assessment Program (AECAP) must submit verification of meeting the test requirements within the 6 month period beginning with the date of a letter from the Educator Certification Section indicating certificate eligibility status. If the testing requirements are not met or verification is not received in the Section within that 6 month period, the applicant must submit a current application, submit another nonrefundable fee, and meet requirements in effect on the receipt date of the new application. Some approaches to certification require successful completion of the AECAP at a specific time and must be met as prescribed in this chapter.

**(6) Application Fee.**

(a) The Educator Certification Section shall collect fees for certification purposes pursuant to Ala. Code § 16-23-4 (1975).

(b) Each application for certification must be accompanied by a \$30.00 nonrefundable fee.

1. If the applicant is eligible or becomes eligible for certification within 60 days or 6 months as prescribed in Rule 290-3-2-.02(5), a certificate will be issued. Additional fee(s) may be requested for certification in more than one area.

2. If the applicant does not become eligible for certification within 60 days or 6 months as prescribed in Rule 290-3-2-.02(5), an Emergency Certificate or Substitute License may be issued for a qualified applicant at the request of an employing superintendent or administrator. Otherwise, the \$30.00 fee is non-transferable and will be forfeited.

3. If eligibility requirements are not met within 60 days or 6 months as prescribed in Rule 290-3-2-.02(5), the applicant must submit a current application, submit another nonrefundable fee, and meet requirements in effect on the receipt date of the new application.

(c) A cashier's check, money order, or receipt for online payment through the Department approved payment system is required. No other form of payment is accepted. Money orders and cashier's checks must be payable to the Alabama State Department of Education.

(d) All fees are nonrefundable.

**(7) Minimum Degree and Academic Requirements.**

(a) Specific degree requirements must be met in the Rules as prescribed in this chapter.

(b) An applicant whose only degree is a bachelor's degree that has been earned from a non-regionally accredited senior institution may apply for a Class B Professional Educator Certificate with acceptable verification that all of the following conditions have been met:

1. Completion of a state-approved educator preparation program.

2. Valid professional educator certificate from another state or DoDEA in an area in which Alabama offers comparable certification at the Class B level.

3. Nine semester hours of graduate credit with grades of "B" or above earned from an Alabama institution with State-approved programs and posted on the official transcript of that institution.

(c) An applicant who holds a bachelor's degree from a non-regionally accredited senior institution and a bachelor's or higher degree from a regionally accredited senior institution shall have both degrees recognized for certification purposes.

(d) Degrees above the bachelor's level earned from non-regionally accredited senior institutions will not be recognized for certification purposes.

(e) Remedial courses will not be recognized for certification purposes. Other than remedial, these courses may be called compensatory, developmental, or basic skills. These courses are usually numbered below 100.

**(8) Criminal History Background Check.**

(a) Effective July 1, 2002, an applicant for certification/licensure or an applicant employed by a local school system or nonpublic school who will have unsupervised access to children in an educational environment and who has not completed a background check since July 1, 1999, as required by the Alabama Child Protection Act of 1999, as amended, shall be required to be fingerprinted for a criminal history background check through the Alabama Bureau of Investigation (ABI) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) pursuant to Act 2002-457.

1. The applicant shall be fingerprinted by the approved third party contractor designated by the Alabama Department of Education who has been trained to take acceptable fingerprints.

2. An applicant for certification/licensure:

(i) Shall be fingerprinted by the approved third party contractor designated by the Alabama Department of Education who has been trained to take acceptable fingerprints, submit the required nonrefundable and nontransferable fee, and authorize the Alabama Department of Public Safety to conduct a criminal history background check and allow the release of any criminal history information to the Alabama Department of Education; and

(ii) After a suitability determination by the Alabama State Superintendent of Education, the appropriate certificate shall be issued, if other requirements for certification are met.

3. An applicant recommended for employment by a local employing board of a public school:

(i) Shall be fingerprinted by the approved third party contractor designated by the Alabama Department of Education who has been trained to take acceptable fingerprints, submit the required nonrefundable and nontransferable fee, and authorize the Alabama Department of Public Safety to conduct a criminal history background check and allow the release of any criminal history information to the Alabama Department of Education; and

(ii) Shall be issued a suitability determination from the Alabama State Superintendent of Education if the individual is a certified applicant for employment; or

(iii) Shall be issued a clear report or a report consisting of confirmed convictions and pending criminal charges if the individual is a noncertified applicant for employment; and

(iv) Shall have the suitability determination or report issued to the local employing superintendent.

4. An applicant recommended for employment in a nonpublic school:

(i) Shall be fingerprinted by the approved third party contractor designated by the Alabama Department of Education who has been trained to take acceptable fingerprints, submit the required nonrefundable and nontransferable fee, and authorize the Alabama Department of Public Safety to conduct a criminal history background check and allow the release of any criminal history information to the Alabama Department of Education; and

(ii) Shall have a suitability determination issued by the Alabama State Superintendent of Education to the administrator of the nonpublic school requesting the determination.

(b) Effective July 1, 2002, a current certified/licensed or noncertified employee who has or will have unsupervised access to children in an educational environment and who has not completed a background check since July 1, 1999, through the ABI and the FBI for the purposes of Alabama certification/licensure or employment with a local employing board or nonpublic school shall be required to submit fingerprints for a background check pursuant to Act 2002-457.

1. Any current certified/licensed or noncertified employee in a public school system:

(i) Shall be fingerprinted by the approved third party contractor designated by the Alabama Department of Education who has been trained to take acceptable fingerprints, submit the required nonrefundable and nontransferable fee, and authorize the Alabama Department of Public Safety to conduct a criminal history background check and allow the release of any criminal history information to the to the Alabama Department of Education;

(ii) Shall be issued a suitability determination from the Alabama State Superintendent of Education; and

(iii) Shall have the same suitability determination issued to the local employing superintendent.

2. Any current certified/licensed or noncertified employee in a nonpublic school:

(i) Shall be fingerprinted by the approved third party contractor designated by the Alabama Department of Education who has been trained to take acceptable fingerprints, submit the required nonrefundable and nontransferable fee, and authorize the Alabama Department of Public Safety to conduct a criminal history background check and allow the release of any criminal history information to the Alabama Department of Education; and

(ii) Shall have a suitability determination issued by the Alabama State Superintendent of Education to the administrator of the nonpublic school requesting the determination.

(c) Effective July 1, 2002, a background check shall be required for any current employee and any new employee of the Alabama Department of Education who has unsupervised access to and provides education, training, instruction, or supervision for children in an educational setting.

1. An Alabama Department of Education employee shall be fingerprinted by the approved third party contractor designated by the Alabama Department of Education who has been trained to take acceptable fingerprints, submit the required nonrefundable and nontransferable fee, and authorize the Alabama Department of Public Safety to conduct a criminal history background check and allow the release of any criminal history information to the Alabama Department of Education.

2. An Alabama Department of Education employee shall be issued a suitability determination by the Alabama State Superintendent of Education.

(d) Effective no later than the beginning of the fall 2008 semester, any candidate applying for admission to a State-approved teacher education program shall be required to be fingerprinted for a criminal history background check through the Alabama Department of Education to the Alabama Bureau of Investigation (ABI) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) pursuant to Act 2002-457.

1. The candidate shall be fingerprinted by the approved third party contractor designated by the Alabama Department of Education who has been trained to take acceptable fingerprints, submit the required nonrefundable and nontransferable fee, and authorize the Alabama Department of Public Safety to conduct a criminal history background check and allow the release of any criminal history information to the Alabama Department of Education.

2. The candidate shall be issued a suitability determination from the State Superintendent of Education. The candidate must provide the designated official of the teacher education unit documentation of having cleared the criminal history background check prior to admission to a State-approved teacher education program.

3. A candidate whose suitability determination precludes admission to a State-approved teacher education program has the right to due process procedures in accordance with Rule 290-3-2-.04, Revocation and Suspension of Certificates and Unsuitability Determinations.

(e) After such time that all current employees have been fingerprinted for a background check, any individual who submits an application for additional certification or for the renewal of a certificate, and who has not completed a background check shall be required to be fingerprinted by the approved third party contractor designated by the Alabama Department of Education who has been trained to take acceptable fingerprints, submit the required nonrefundable and nontransferable fee, and authorize the Alabama Department of Public Safety to conduct a criminal history background check and allow the release of any criminal history information to the Alabama Department of Education.

(f) A background clearance shall also be required of an applicant or current employee who completed a background check for certification/licensure purposes prior to July 1, 2002, but no longer has those prints on file due to the lapse of the certificate or license or because the individual was not eligible for a certificate or license.

(g) When the Alabama State Superintendent of Education has reasonable suspicion that an individual who holds a certificate or license issued by the Alabama State Board of Education or is a current public employee has been convicted of a felony or a misdemeanor other than a minor traffic violation or has been guilty of immoral, indecent or unbecoming behavior, that individual shall be subject to a background clearance through a fingerprint review. In such case, the individual will not be responsible for the required fee. A letter of notification from the Alabama State Superintendent of Education regarding the intent to conduct a review will be sent to the individual. The individual shall be fingerprinted by the approved third party contractor designated by the Alabama Department of Education who has been trained to take acceptable fingerprints and authorize the Alabama Department of Public Safety to conduct a criminal history background check and allow the release of any criminal history information to the Alabama Department of Education. Failure to comply with this requirement shall result in appropriate disciplinary action.

(h) No local employing board or nonpublic school shall hire an applicant who may have unsupervised access to a child without first obtaining a criminal history background information check, except on a temporary emergency basis. In the event that this exception is used and a position is filled by the employer due to exigent circumstances, the applicant so employed may be placed on payroll until such time as a criminal history background information check on the employee is completed as prescribed in Act 2002-457.

**(9) Alabama Educator Certification Assessment Program (AECAP).** The statewide testing program required by the Alabama State Board of Education.

(a) Applicants must meet the AECAP requirements in effect at the time the application is received in the Educator Certification Section.

(b) Additional information regarding AECAP requirements may be found in the Rule for each approach as prescribed in this chapter and on the Departmental website.

(c) Only electronic score reports submitted directly from the testing service to the Alabama State Department of Education will be accepted.

(d) Components of the AECAP are:

1. Basic skills assessments from the ACT WorkKeys System (Applied Mathematics, Reading for Information, and Writing). The requirements for the basic skills assessments became effective January 1, 2003, as a precondition for initial certification. Effective September 1, 2013, successful passage of the basic skills assessments became a precondition for unconditional admission to a Class B program or an Alternative Class A program. The basic skills assessments are also a precondition for selected State-approved approaches. Additional information regarding the basic skills assessments may be found on the Departmental website and on the ACT website. Effective April 17, 2019, Praxis Core was rescinded as a requirement for unconditional admission to an Alternative Class A program. Effective June 11, 2020, Praxis Core will no longer be required for unconditional admission to a Class B program.

2. Praxis II tests from Educational Testing Service (ETS). The requirements for the Praxis II tests became effective April 14, 2005, as a precondition for initial certification in any teaching field or area of instructional support. Additional information regarding the Alabama prescribed Praxis II tests can be found on the Departmental website and on the ETS website.

3. Effective September 1, 2018, a performance assessment. The performance assessment, administered by Pearson, will be required for initial certification in a teaching field or area of instructional support.

**(10) Professional Educational Work Experience.**

(a) Acceptable professional educational work experience is full-time employment in teaching or an area of instructional support (e.g., counseling, etc.) in the following educational settings:

1. A state or local P-12 public school;
2. An Alabama P-12 nonpublic school;
3. A P-12 nonpublic school outside of Alabama that was regionally accredited or approved by the State Department of Education where the school was geographically located when the experience was earned;
4. A P-12 church-related school;
5. A P-12 charter school that was regionally accredited or approved by the State Department of Education where the school is geographically located when the experience was earned;
6. State Departments of Education;
7. An Alabama State Department of Education sponsored Initiative (e.g., Alabama Reading Initiative, etc.);
8. A professional educational association (e.g., National Education Association, National Federation of Teachers, etc.);
9. A post-secondary institution that was regionally accredited when the professional educational work experience was earned. Full-time employment in a post-secondary institution is determined by the written policies of that institution.
10. A P-12 federally operated school (e.g., Department of Defense Education Activity, Bureau of Indian Affairs, etc.);



11. A Head Start Program under the legal jurisdiction of a public school system when the experience was earned;

12. A childcare facility below Kindergarten (Age 5) if the facility was accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) when the experience was earned.

(b) Professional educational work experience earned outside of the United States will be considered on an individual basis.

(c) Employment in increments of less than one semester (4.5 months) will not be considered.

(d) Educational experience as an intern, graduate assistant, student teacher, member of a board of education, or in positions such as an aide, clerical worker, or substitute teacher is not acceptable.

(e) Supplement EXP must be used to document professional educational work experience.

**(11) Valid Periods for Certificates and Licenses.**

(a) If applicable, deadlines for meeting requirements to issue a certificate are outlined in the specific rule for that certification approach.

(b) Current valid periods for Professional Educator Certificates, Professional Leadership Certificates, and renewable Career and Technical Certificates. Professional Educator Certificates, Professional Leadership Certificates, and renewable Career and Technical Certificates issued beginning December 2013 are valid from the date of issuance through the remainder of the same scholastic year, and thereafter, for the next five consecutive scholastic years unless otherwise prescribed elsewhere in this chapter.

(c) Changing valid periods when a new Professional Educator Certificate, Professional Leadership Certificate, or renewable Career and Technical Certificate is added. When an additional Professional Educator Certificate, Professional Leadership Certificate, or renewable Career and Technical Certificate is issued, the valid period for each valid Professional Educator Certificate, Professional Leadership Certificate, or renewable Career and Technical Certificate shall be updated to reflect the valid period of the newest Professional Educator Certificate, Professional Leadership Certificate or renewable Career and Technical Certificate.

(d) Changing valid periods when an additional teaching field is added to a Professional Educator Certificate. When an additional teaching field is added to a valid Professional Educator Certificate, the valid period for each valid Professional Educator Certificate, Professional Leadership Certificate, or renewable Career and Technical Certificate shall be updated to the valid period of the newest Professional Educator Certificate.

(e) Additional information regarding the valid period of a certificate is in the Rule for the specific certificate.

(f) Valid period historical information.

1. From July 1, 1997 through November 2013, the Department issued Professional Educator Certificates with a valid period of five scholastic years. In January 2010, the Department began to issue Professional Leadership Certificates with a valid period of five scholastic years.

2. Prior to July 1, 1997, a Class B Professional Educator Certificate was issued with a valid period of 8 scholastic years, a Class A Professional Educator Certificate was issued with a valid period of 10 scholastic years, and a Class AA Professional Educator Certificate was issued with a valid period of 12 scholastic years.

**(12) Failure to Maintain a Valid Certificate.** An individual who allows a certificate to expire cannot qualify for a certificate at the same degree-level in the same teaching field or area of instructional support based on the same approach and criteria or credentials that were used to earn the certificate initially. Additional information on the requirements for reinstating an expired certificate is in Rule 290-3-2-.29.

**(13) Foreign Credential Evaluations.**

(a) An individual who earned a bachelor's or higher degree at a university or college in another country must submit an evaluation of their foreign credentials from a Department-approved foreign credential evaluation agency.

(b) The original complete evaluation must be submitted and must include **all** of the following:

1. An accurate course-by-course and credit hour-by-credit hour translation of the coursework completed.

2. A statement verifying the degree earned which is equivalent to a degree granted by a regionally accredited senior institution in the United States.

3. The major program area.

4. The overall grade point average (GPA). The overall GPA is the GPA posted on the official transcript of the degree granting institution that was used as a basis for granting the degree.

(c) An individual who earned a bachelor's or higher degree and completed an educator preparation program at a university or college in another country may seek a Professional Educator Certificate in a teaching field. Additional information may be found in Rule 290-3-2-.25.

**Author:** Dr. Eric G. Mackey.

**Statutory Authority:** Ala. Code §§16-3-11, 16-23-1 and 16-23-2 (1975).

**History:** New 12-19-78, repealed 12-8-94, effective 12-31-96; new adopted 12-8-94, effective 1-1-97, repealed 11-14-96 and amended repealed date of original chapter to 6-30-97 new adopted 1-9-97 effective 7-1-97; amended: 6-14-99; effective 7-19-99, repealed and new adopted 06-13-02; emergency Rule to appeal and adopt new filed on 6-13-02; new adopted 8-8-02, effective 9-12-02; emergency Rule to appeal and adopt new filed on 10-10-02; new adopted 12-12-02, effective 1-16-03; repealed and new adopted 09-11-03 effective 10-16-03; emergency amended Rule adopted 4-14-05, effective 4-14-05; amended Rule adopted 6-9-05, effective 7-14-05; amended 8-7-06, effective 9-11-06; repealed and adopted new, 8-4-08, effective 9-18-08; repealed and adopted new 12-9-10, effective 1-14-11; emergency Rule to amend filed 1-10-13; amended Rule adopted 3-14-13, effective 4-18-13; emergency Rule to repeal filed 11-14-13; repealed and adopted new 1-17-14, effective 2-21-14; repealed and adopted new 3-10-16, effective 4-24-16; amended 08-13-20, effective 10-15-20.

**290-3-2-.17 Degree Equivalent Health Science Certificate Approach.**

(1) **Overview.** An individual may seek a Degree Equivalent Health Science Certificate for Grades 6-12 in health science. These certificates are Career and Technical Certificates.

(2) **Bachelor's Equivalent Health Science 1 Certificate.**

(a) **Application.**

1. The applicant is required to submit to the superintendent the current application for this approach and documentation of having met all requirements as prescribed in Rule 290-3-2-.17 and on the application.

2. The superintendent who wishes to employ the applicant or wishes for the applicant, who is an employee of a business or governmental agency with which a partnership has been established, to teach health science is required to submit to the Educator Certification Section:

(i) A recommendation requesting issuance of the Bachelor's Equivalent Health Science 1 Certificate.

(ii) The applicant's current application and documentation of having met all requirements.

(b) **Requirements.**

1. Successful completion of the Alabama Special Requirements in Rule 290-3-2-.02(4).

2. Verification of a currently valid Department-approved ENTRY or MASTER level occupational proficiency assessment for health science which shall include an active Alabama license in a registered nursing, paramedical, or approved allied health specialty. The active license must have been attained prior to the date the application is received in the Educator Certification Section. Information on the approved occupational proficiency assessments can be obtained from the Office of Career and Technical Education of the Department.

3. Verification of current passing scores for the basic skills assessments. This requirement does not apply to an applicant who holds at least a bachelor's degree from a senior institution that was regionally accredited at the time the degree was earned or to an applicant holding a valid Specialty Area Certificate, a valid Degree Equivalent Certificate, a valid Professional Educator Certificate, or a valid Professional Leadership Certificate. This requirement may be met through one (1) of the following three (3) options:

(i) Passing scores on the CTE Basic Skills Assessment, approved by the State Board of Education on June 13, 2019, administered through ACT WorkKeys. The required assessments are Applied Mathematics, Business Writing, and Workplace Documents. Passing scores must be attained prior to the date the application is received in the Educator Certification Section. Passing scores attained prior to July 1, 2019, will not be accepted.

(ii) Passing scores on the Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators (Core) basic skills assessments, the current basic skills assessment of the Alabama Educator Certification Assessment Program (AECAP). The required assessments are Mathematics, Reading, and Writing. Passing scores must have been attained prior to July 1, 2019.

(iii) Passing scores on the modified ACT WorkKeys basic skills assessments, the previous basic skills assessment of the AECAP. The required assessments are Applied Mathematics, Reading for Information, and Writing. Passing scores must have been attained prior to September 1, 2017. This option is only available for applications received prior to September 1, 2022.

4. Education and work experience through one of the following two options:

(i) **Option 1.**

(I) Verification on an official transcript(s) that an associate's degree, in a healthcare or related area, was earned from a regionally accredited postsecondary institution prior to the date the application is received in the Educator Certification Section. The Office of Career and Technical Education of the Department must approve the degree.

(II) Verification of having attained, within the seven years immediately prior to the date the application is received in the Educator Certification Section, a minimum of 5,400 clock hours (three years) of acceptable part-time or full-time work experience as prescribed in Rule 290-3-2-.17(7).

(ii) **Option 2.**

(I) Verification on an official transcript(s) that a bachelor's or higher degree, with a major in a healthcare or related area, was earned from a regionally accredited senior institution prior to the date the application is received in the Educator Certification Section. The Office of Career and Technical Education of the Department must approve the degree.

(II) Verification of having attained, within the five years immediately prior to the date the application is received in the Educator Certification Section, a minimum of 3,600 clock hours (two years) of acceptable part-time or full-time work experience as prescribed in Rule 290-3-2-.17(7).

(3) **Bachelor's Equivalent Health Science 2 Certificate.**

(a) **Application.** The applicant is required to submit to the Educator Certification Section the current application for this approach and documentation of having met all requirements as prescribed in Rule 290-3-2-.17 and on the application.

(b) **Requirements.** All requirements must be successfully completed prior to the date the application is received in the Educator Certification Section.

1. Successful completion of the Alabama Special Requirements in Rule 290-3-2-.02(4).

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**290-3-2-.17(3)(b)2.**

**EDUCATOR CERTIFICATION**

**290-3-2-.17(4)(b)4.(i)**

2. A valid, or completion of all requirements in (2) above for issuance of a valid, Bachelor’s Equivalent Health Science 1 Certificate.

3. Verification of a currently valid Department-approved ENTRY or MASTER level occupational proficiency assessment for health science which shall include an active Alabama license in a registered nursing, paramedical, or approved allied health specialty. Information on the approved occupational proficiency assessments can be obtained from the Office of Career and Technical Education of the Department.

4. Verification, if the applicant does not hold a valid Professional Educator Certificate in a career and technical education teaching field, of successful completion of the Career and Technical Education Teacher Certification Program (CTE TCP) Level 1 by submission of one of the following:

- (i) Department-approved professional development training history.
- (ii) Certificate of completion.

**(4) Master’s Equivalent Health Science 3 Certificate.**

(a) **Application.** The applicant is required to submit to the Educator Certification Section the current application for this approach and documentation of having met all requirements as prescribed in Rule 290-3-2-.17 and on the application.

(b) **Requirements.** All requirements must be successfully completed prior to the date the application is received in the Educator Certification Section.

1. Successful completion of the Alabama Special Requirements in Rule 290-3-2-.02(4).

2. A valid, or completion of all requirements in (3) above for issuance of a valid, Bachelor’s Equivalent Health Science 2 Certificate.

3. Verification of a currently valid Department-approved MASTER level occupational proficiency assessment for health science which shall include an active Alabama license in a registered nursing, paramedical, or approved allied health specialty. Information on the MASTER level approved occupational proficiency assessments can be obtained from the Office of Career and Technical Education of the Department.

4. Completion of one of the following two options:

(i) **Option 1.** Verification on an official transcript(s) of earned credit, with a grade of “C” or above, for the two required courses and two of the elective courses listed below. These courses must be completed at an Alabama institution with a State-approved program in a career and technical education teaching field and within the five years (60 months) immediately prior to the date the application is received in the Educator Certification Section.

Courses	Courses
Classroom Management and CTE Lab*	Industrial Health and Shop Safety**
Meeting the Needs of Exceptional CTE Students*	Learning Resources and Technology in CTE**
Career and Technical Student Youth Organizations**	Teaching CTE**
Course Development and Evaluation in CTE**	Testing/Evaluation in CTE**
History and Principles of CTE**	

\*Required courses

\*\*Elective courses from which two must be selected

**(ii) Option 2.**

(I) Verification of having attained a minimum of 12,600 clock hours (seven years) of acceptable part-time or full-time work experience as prescribed in Rule 290-3-2-.17(7).

(II) Verification of successful completion of the Career and Technical Education Teacher Certification Program (CTE TCP) Level 2 by submission of one of the following:

- I. Department-approved professional development training history.
- II. Certificate of completion

**(5) Sixth-Year Equivalent Health Science 4 Certificate.**

(a) **Application.** The applicant is required to submit to the Educator Certification Section the current application for this approach and documentation of having met all requirements as prescribed in Rule 290-3-2-.17 and on the application.

(b) **Requirements.** All requirements must be successfully completed prior to the date the application is received in the Educator Certification Section.

1. Successful completion of the Alabama Special Requirements in Rule 290-3-2-.02(4).

2. A valid, or completion of all requirements in (4) above for issuance of a valid, Master's Equivalent Health Science 3 Career and Technical Certificate.

3. Verification of a currently valid Department-approved MASTER level occupational proficiency assessment for health science which shall include an active Alabama license in a registered nursing, paramedical, or approved allied health specialty. Information on the MASTER level approved occupational proficiency assessments can be obtained from the Office of Career and Technical Education of the Department.

4. Verification on an official transcript(s) of at least an earned master's degree in a healthcare or related area from a regionally accredited senior institution. The Office of Career and Technical Education of the Department must approve the degree.

**(6) Professional Educator Certification.** Individuals holding at least a valid **Master's Equivalent Health Science 3 Certificate** may be eligible for a Professional Educator Certificate. Additional information may be found in Rule 290-3-2-.19.

**(7) Acceptable Work Experience.**

(a) Acceptable part-time or full-time work experience must have been attained through one or more of the following:

1. Employee in the healthcare industry in a compensated position as a healthcare practitioner. The work experience must be verified with submission of:

(i) Supplement CTV; and

(ii) A notarized cover letter verifying the applicant's prior work experience. The cover letter must be on the employer's business/company stationery and must include at least a description of the nature of the business/company, a brief description of the scope and quality of the applicant's work history, and the original signature of the employer or owner of the business/company.

2. Self-employment in the healthcare industry as a healthcare practitioner. The self-employment experience must be verified with submission of:

- (i) Supplement CTV; and
- (ii) A notarized cover letter on company stationery, a copy of each business license held during the verification period, and notarized letters from three individuals and/or companies with which business or work transactions occurred during the verification period.

3. Teaching experience at the postsecondary level in health science or a related area. The postsecondary institution must have been regionally accredited at the time the experience was earned. The teaching experience must be verified on Supplement EXP.

(b) The following cannot be used as acceptable part-time or full-time work experience:

1. Teaching experience in grades P-12 while holding any valid Alabama certificate.
2. Teaching experience in grades P-12 while not holding any valid Alabama certificate.

**(8) Type Career and Technical Certificates.**

(a) Upon application to the Educator Certification Section an applicant holding a valid Type II or III Career and Technical Certificate in health science may convert the Type Certificate to a Bachelor's Equivalent Health Science 2 Certificate.

(b) A valid Type II or III Career and Technical Certificate in health science may be used as a prerequisite for a Master's Equivalent Health Science 3 Certificate.

(c) The Type II and III Career and Technical Certificates in health science are valid for five years. Prior to May 1, 2016, the certificates could be continued, but could not be reinstated. Effective May 1, 2016, the certificates may be continued or reinstated as a Bachelor's Equivalent Health Science 2 Certificate. Renewal requirements are prescribed in Rule 290-3-2-.29.

(d) Type I Career and Technical Certificates in health science were issued on the basis of the Rules in effect prior to July 1, 1997. Prior to January 1, 2008, at the request of the certificate holder, a valid Type I Career and Technical Certificate in health science was converted to the appropriate Level 4 or 5 Career and Technical Certificate in health science as determined by the Office of Career and Technical Education of the Department. Type I Career and Technical Certificates in health science cannot be continued or reinstated. An individual holding an expired Type I Career and Technical Certificate in health science who is seeking a current Career and Technical Certificate in health science must meet requirements for the Bachelor's Equivalent Health Science 1 Certificate as a prerequisite to Degree Equivalent Health Science 2, 3, or 4 Certificates.

**(9) Level Career and Technical Certificates.**

(a) Upon application to the Educator Certification Section an applicant holding a valid Level 4 or 5 Career and Technical Certificate in health science may convert the Level 4 or 5 Certificate to the appropriate Degree Equivalent Health Science 2, 3, or 4 Certificate.

(b) A Level 4 or 5 Career and Technical Certificate in health science will be continued or reinstated as the appropriate Degree Equivalent Health Science 2, 3, or 4 Certificate. Renewal requirements are prescribed in Rule 290-3-2-.29.

(c) Level 1, 2, and 3 Career and Technical Certificates in health science were nonrenewable certificates and cannot be continued or reinstated. An applicant holding an expired Level 1, 2, or 3 Career and Technical Certificates in health science who is seeking a current Career and Technical Certificate in health science must meet requirements for the Bachelor's Equivalent Health Science 1 Certificate as a prerequisite to Degree Equivalent Health Science 2, 3, or 4 Certificates.

**(10) Specialty Area Career and Technical Certificates.**

(a) Upon application to the Educator Certification Section an applicant holding a valid Specialty Area 2, 3, 4, or 5 Career and Technical Certificate in health science may convert the Specialty Area Certificate to the appropriate Degree Equivalent Health Science 2, 3, or 4 Certificate.

(b) A Specialty Area 2, 3, 4, or 5 Career and Technical Certificate in health science may be continued or reinstated as the appropriate Degree Equivalent Health Science 2, 3, or 4 Certificate. Renewal requirements are prescribed in Rule 290-3-2-.29.

(c) The Specialty Area 2 Career and Technical Certificate in health science, valid for five years and issued with a valid period beginning prior to July 1, 2012, was nonrenewable. Effective August 1, 2012, the Specialty Area 2 Career and Technical Certificate in health science may be continued or reinstated.

(d) The Specialty Area 1 Career and Technical Certificate in health science was a nonrenewable certificate and cannot be continued or reinstated. An applicant holding an expired Specialty Area 1 Career and Technical Certificate in health science who is seeking a current Career and Technical Certificate in health science must meet requirements for the Bachelor's Equivalent Health Science 1 Certificate as a prerequisite to Degree Equivalent Health Science 2, 3, or 4 Certificates.



(11) Name of Certificate, Degree Equivalency, Valid Period, and Renewability.

Name of Certificate	Degree Equivalency	Valid Period	Renewable
Bachelor's Equivalent Health Science 1	Bachelor's	Minimum of 2 years <sup>a</sup>	No
Bachelor's Equivalent Health Science 2	Bachelor's	Minimum of 5 years <sup>c</sup>	Yes
Master's Equivalent Health Science 3	Master's	Minimum of 5 years <sup>c</sup>	Yes
Sixth-Year Equivalent Health Science 4	Sixth-year	Minimum of 5 years <sup>c</sup>	Yes
Specialty Area 1	Bachelor's	Minimum of 2 years <sup>a</sup>	No
Specialty Area 2	Bachelor's	Minimum of 5 years <sup>b, c</sup>	Yes
Specialty Area 3	Master's	Minimum of 5 years <sup>c</sup>	Yes
Specialty Area 4	Master's	Minimum of 5 years <sup>c</sup>	Yes
Specialty Area 5	Sixth-year	Minimum of 5 years <sup>c</sup>	Yes
Level 1 <sup>d</sup>	Bachelor's	3 years	No
Level 2 <sup>d</sup>	Bachelor's	3 years	No
Level 3 <sup>d</sup>	Master's	3 years	No
Level 4 <sup>d</sup>	Master's	5 years	Yes
Level 5 <sup>d</sup>	Sixth-year	5 years	Yes
Type I <sup>e</sup>	Master's	10 years	No
Type II <sup>c, f</sup>	Bachelor's	Minimum of 5 years	Yes
Type III <sup>c, f</sup>	Bachelor's	Minimum of 5 years	Yes

<sup>a</sup>Bachelor's Equivalent Health Science 1 Certificates and Specialty Area 1 Certificates are valid from the date of issuance through the remainder of the same scholastic year, and thereafter, for the next two consecutive scholastic years.

<sup>b</sup>Specialty Area 2 Certificates issued prior to August 1, 2012, were valid for five years and nonrenewable. Effective August 1, 2012, the Specialty Area 2 Certificate may be continued or reinstated.

<sup>c</sup>These Career and Technical Certificates are valid from the date of issuance through the remainder of the same scholastic year, and thereafter, for the next five consecutive scholastic years.

<sup>d</sup>The Level Certificates were initially issued on the basis of Rules in effect prior to September 2008. The Level 4 and 5 certificates were converted to the appropriate Specialty Area Certificate. Expired Level 4 and 5 Certificates may be reinstated as the appropriate Degree Equivalent Health Science 2, 3, or 4 Certificate.

<sup>e</sup>Type I Certificates were initially issued on the basis of Rules in effect prior to July 1, 1997. These certificates were converted to the appropriate Level Certificate. As prescribed in Rule 290-3-2-.17(8)(d), expired Type I Certificates cannot be reinstated.

<sup>f</sup>Type II and III Certificates were initially issued on the basis of Rules in effect prior to July 1, 1997. These certificates may be continued or reinstated as a Bachelor's Equivalent Health Science 2 Certificate.

**Author:** Dr. Eric Mackey

**Statutory Authority:** Ala. Const. Amend. 284, Ala. Code §§16-3-11, 16-23-1 and 16-23-2 (1975).

**History:** Adopted new, 8-4-08, effective 9-18-08; repealed and adopted new 12-9-10, effective 1-14-11; repealed and adopted new 6-14-12, effective 7-19-12; emergency Rule to amend filed 1-10-13; amended Rule adopted 3-14-13, effective 4-18-13; emergency Rule to amend filed 6-13-13; amended Rule adopted 8-8-13; effective 9-12-13; emergency Rule to repeal filed 11-14-13; repealed and adopted new 1-17-14, effective 2-21-14.; repealed and adopted new 3-10-16, effective 4-24-16; emergency Rule to amend filed 6-11-20; amended 8-13-20, effective 10-15-20.

**290-3-2-.18 Degree Equivalent Technical Education Certificate Approach.**

(1) **Overview.** An individual may seek a Degree Equivalent Technical Education Certificate for Grades 6-12 in selected technical education program areas. The specific technical education program areas are identified by the Office of Career and Technical Education of the Department. These certificates are Career and Technical Certificates.

(2) **Bachelor's Equivalent Technical Education 1 Certificate.**

(a) **Application.**

1. The applicant is required to submit to the superintendent the current application for this approach and documentation of having met all requirements as prescribed in Rule 290-3-2-.18 and on the application.

2. The superintendent who wishes to employ the applicant or wishes for the applicant, who is an employee of a business or governmental agency with which a partnership has been established, to teach in the technical education program area for which a certificate is sought is required to submit to the Educator Certification Section:

(i) A recommendation requesting issuance of the Bachelor's Equivalent Technical Education 1 Certificate in a technical education program area.

(ii) The applicant's current application and documentation of having met all requirements.

(b) **Requirements.**

1. Successful completion of the Alabama Special Requirements in Rule 290-3-2-.02(4).

2. Verification of a currently valid passing score on the Department-approved ENTRY or MASTER level occupational proficiency assessment (test score, license, or credential) for the technical education program area for which the certificate is sought. Information on the approved occupational proficiency assessments can be obtained from the Office of Career and Technical Education of the Department. Successful completion must be obtained prior to the date the application is received in the Educator Certification Section.

3. Verification of current passing scores for the basic skills assessments. This requirement does not apply to an applicant who holds at least a bachelor's degree from a senior institution that was regionally accredited at the time the degree was earned or to an applicant holding a valid Specialty Area Certificate, a valid Degree Equivalent Certificate, a valid Professional Educator Certificate, or a valid Professional Leadership Certificate. This requirement may be met through one (1) of the following three (3) options:

(i) Passing scores on the CTE Basic Skills Assessment, approved by the State Board of Education on June 13, 2019, administered through ACT WorkKeys. The required assessments are Applied Math, Business Writing, and Workplace Documents. Passing scores must be attained prior to the date the application is received in the Educator Certification Section. Passing scores attained prior to July 1, 2019, will not be accepted.

(ii) Passing scores on the Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators (Core) basic skills assessments, the current basic skills assessment of the Alabama Educator Certification Assessment Program (AECAP). The required assessments are Mathematics, Reading, and Writing. Passing scores must have been attained prior to July 1, 2019.

(iii) Passing scores on the modified ACT WorkKeys assessments, the previous basic skills assessment of the AECAP. The required assessments were Applied Mathematics, Reading for Information, and Writing. Passing scores must have been attained prior to September 1, 2017. This option is only available for applications received prior to September 1, 2022.

4. Education and work experience through one of the following three options:

(i) **Option 1.**

(I) Verification on an official transcript(s) of graduation from high school or high school equivalency or a technical certificate or an associate's degree from a regionally accredited postsecondary institution prior to the date the application is received in the Educator Certification Section.

(II) Verification of having attained, within the seven years immediately prior to the date the application is received in the Educator Certification Section, a minimum of 5,400 clock hours (three years) of acceptable part-time or full-time work experience in the technical education program area for which the certificate is sought as prescribed in Rule 290-3-2-.18(9).

(ii) **Option 2.**

(I) Verification on an official transcript(s) of an earned bachelor's or higher degree from a regionally accredited senior institution. The degree must have been earned prior to the date the application is received in the Educator Certification Section.

(II) Verification of having attained, within the five years immediately prior to the date the application is received in the Educator Certification Section, a minimum of 3,600 clock hours (two years) of acceptable part-time or full-time work experience in the technical education program area for which the certificate is sought as prescribed in Rule 290-3-2-.18(9).

(iii) **Option 3.** Verification of having attained, prior to the date the application is received in the Educator Certification Section, a minimum of 18,000 clock hours (ten years) of acceptable part-time or full-time work experience in the technical education program area for which the certificate is sought as prescribed in 290-3-2-.18(9).

**(3) Bachelor's Equivalent Technical Education 2 Certificate.**

(a) **Application.** The applicant is required to submit to the Educator Certification Section the current application for this approach and documentation of having met all requirements as prescribed in Rule 290-3-2-.18 and on the application.

(b) **Requirements.** All requirements must be successfully completed prior to the date the application is received in the Educator Certification Section.

1. Successful completion of the Alabama Special Requirements in Rule 290-3-2-.02(4).

2. A valid, or completion of all requirements in (2) above for issuance of a valid, Bachelor's Equivalent Technical Education 1 Certificate in the technical education program area for which the Bachelor's Equivalent Technical Education 2 Certificate is sought.

3. Verification of a currently valid passing score on the Department-approved ENTRY or MASTER level occupational proficiency assessment (test score, license, or credential) for the technical education program area for which the certificate is sought. Information on the approved occupational proficiency assessments can be obtained from the Office of Career and Technical Education of the Department.

4. Verification, if the applicant does not hold a valid Professional Educator Certificate in a career and technical education teaching field, of successful completion of the Career and Technical Education Teacher Certification Program (CTE TCP) Level 1 by submission of one of the following:

- (i) Department-approved professional development training history.
- (ii) Certificate of completion.

**(4) Master's Equivalent Technical Education 3 Certificate.**

(a) **Application.** The applicant is required to submit to the Educator Certification Section the current application for this approach and documentation of having met all requirements as prescribed in Rule 290-3-2-.18 and on the application.

(b) **Requirements.** All requirements must be successfully completed prior to the date the application is received in the Educator Certification Section.

1. Successful completion of the Alabama Special Requirements in Rule 290-3-2-.02(4).

2. A valid, or completion of all requirements in (3) above for issuance of a valid, Bachelor's Equivalent Technical Education 2 Certificate in a technical education program area for which the Master's Equivalent Technical Education 3 Certificate is sought.

3. Verification of a currently valid passing score on the Department-approved MASTER level occupational proficiency assessment (test score, license, or credential) for the technical education program area for which the certificate is sought. Information on the MASTER level approved occupational proficiency assessments can be obtained from the Office of Career and Technical Education of the Department.

4. Completion of one of the following two options:

(i) **Option 1.** Verification on an official transcript(s) of earned credit, with a grade of “C” or above, for the two required courses and two of the elective courses listed below. These courses must be completed at an Alabama institution with a State-approved program in a career and technical education teaching field and within the five years (60 months) immediately prior to the date the application is received in the Educator Certification Section.

<b>Courses</b>	<b>Courses</b>
Classroom Management and CTE Lab*	Industrial Health and Shop Safety**
Meeting the Needs of Exceptional CTE Students*	Learning Resources and Technology in CTE**
Career and Technical Student Youth Organizations**	Teaching CTE**
Course Development and Evaluation in CTE**	Testing/Evaluation in CTE**
History and Principles of CTE**	

\*Required courses

\*\*Elective courses from which two must be selected

(ii) **Option 2.**

(I) Verification of having attained a minimum of 12,600 clock hours (seven years) of acceptable part-time or full-time work experience in the technical education program area for which the certificate is sought as prescribed in Rule 290-3-2-.18(9).

(II) Verification of successful completion of the Career and Technical Education Teacher Certification Program (CTE TCP) Level 2 by submission of one of the following:

- I. Department-approved professional development training history.
- II. Certificate of completion.

(5) **Master’s Equivalent Technical Education 4 Certificate.**

(a) **Application.** The applicant is required to submit to the Educator Certification Section the current application for this approach and documentation of having met all requirements as prescribed in Rule 290-3-2-.18 and on the application.

(b) **Requirements.** All requirements must be successfully completed prior to the date the application is received in the Educator Certification Section.

1. Successful completion of the Alabama Special Requirements in Rule 290-3-2-.02(4).

2. A valid, or completion of all requirements in (4) above for issuance of a valid, Master's Equivalent Technical Education 3 Certificate in a technical education program area for which the Master's Equivalent Technical Education 4 Certificate is sought.

3. Verification of a currently valid passing score on the Department-approved MASTER level occupational proficiency assessment (test score, license, or credential) for the technical education program area for which the certificate is sought. Information on the MASTER level approved occupational proficiency assessments can be obtained from the Office of Career and Technical Education of the Department.

4. Completion of one of the following options:

(i) **Option 1.** Verification of at least a valid Alabama Class B Professional Educator Certificate in a teaching field.

(ii) **Option 2.** Verification on an official transcript(s) of at least an earned bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited senior institution in the technical education program area, or in an area related to the technical education program area, for which the Master's Equivalent Technical Education 4 Certificate is sought. The Office of Career and Technical Education of the Department must approve the degree.

**(6) Sixth-Year Equivalent Technical Education 5 Certificate.**

(a) **Application.** The applicant is required to submit to the Educator Certification Section the current application for this approach and documentation of having met all requirements as prescribed in Rule 290-3-2-.18 and on the application.

(b) **Requirements.** All requirements must be successfully completed prior to the date the application is received in the Educator Certification Section.

1. Successful completion of the Alabama Special Requirements in Rule 290-3-2-.02(4).

2. A valid, or completion of all requirements in (5) above for issuance of a valid, Master's Equivalent Technical Education 4 Certificate in a technical education program area for which the Sixth-Year Equivalent Technical Education 5 Certificate is sought.

3. Verification of a currently valid passing score on the Department-approved MASTER level occupational proficiency assessment (test score, license, or credential) for the technical education program area for which the certificate is sought. Information on the MASTER level approved occupational proficiency assessments can be obtained from the Office of Career and Technical Education of the Department.

4. Completion of one of the following options:

(i) **Option 1.** Verification of at least a valid Alabama Class A Professional Educator Certificate in a teaching field or area of instructional support or a valid Alabama Class A Professional Leadership Certificate.

(ii) **Option 2.** Verification on an official transcript(s) of at least an earned master's degree from a regionally accredited senior institution in the technical education program area, or in an area related to the technical education program area, for which the Sixth-Year Equivalent Technical Education 5 Certificate is sought. The Office of Career and Technical Education of the Department must approve the degree.

(7) **Professional Educator Certification.** Individuals holding at least a valid Master's Degree Equivalent Technical Education 4 Certificate in a technical education program area may be eligible for a Professional Educator Certificate. Additional information may be found in Rule 290-3-2-.19.

(8) **Adding Other Technical Education Program Areas.** An applicant who holds at least a valid Bachelor's Equivalent Technical Education 2 Certificate in a technical education program area may add additional program areas.

(a) **Application.** The applicant is required to submit to the Educator Certification Section the current application for this approach and documentation of having met all requirements as prescribed in Rule 290-3-2-.18(8) and on the application.

(b) **Requirements.** All requirements must be successfully completed prior to the date the application is received in the Educator Certification Section.

1. Verification of two full scholastic years of full-time classroom teaching experience within a P-12 setting. Partial years cannot be combined to meet this requirement. Experience must be verified on Supplement EXP.

2. Verification of a passing score on the appropriate Department-approved occupational proficiency assessment (test score, license, or credential) in the area of the technical education program area to be added. Information on the approved occupational proficiency assessments can be obtained from the Office of Career and Technical Education of the Department.

(c) **Degree Equivalent Technical Education Certificate to be issued.**

1. If the applicant's occupational proficiency assessment is less than the MASTER level, the new technical education program area will be added to the applicant's valid Bachelor's Equivalent Technical Education 2 Certificate. If the applicant does not hold a valid Bachelor's Equivalent Technical Education 2 Certificate, the applicant will be issued a Bachelor's Equivalent Technical Education 2 Certificate in the new technical education program area.

2. If the applicant's occupational proficiency assessment is at the MASTER level, the new technical education program area will be added to the applicant's valid Bachelor's Equivalent Technical Education 2 Certificate if it is the only valid Degree Equivalent Technical Education Certificate held by the applicant.

3. If the applicant's occupational proficiency assessment is at the MASTER level, the new technical education program area will be added to the applicant's highest valid Degree Equivalent Technical Education Certificate above the Bachelor's Equivalent Technical 2 Certificate.

**(9) Acceptable Work Experience.** Acceptable full-time or part-time work experience must have been attained through one or more of the following:

(a) Work experience in business and industry as an employee in a compensated position in the technical education program area for which the certificate is sought. The work experience must be verified with submission of:

1. Supplement CTV; and
2. A notarized cover letter verifying the applicant's prior work experience. The cover letter must be on the employer's business/company stationery and must include at least a description of the nature of the business/company, a brief description of the scope and quality of the applicant's work history, and the original signature of the employer or owner of the business/company.

(b) Self-employment in business and industry in the technical education program area for which the certificate is sought. The self-employment experience must be verified with submission of:

1. Supplement CTV; and
2. A notarized cover letter on company stationery, a copy of each business license held during the verification period, and notarized letters from three individuals and/or companies with which business or work transactions occurred during the verification period.

(c) Teaching experience at the postsecondary level in the technical education program area, or in an area related to the technical education program area, for which the certificate is sought. The postsecondary institution must have been regionally accredited at the time the experience was earned. The teaching experience must be verified on Supplement EXP.

(d) The following cannot be used as acceptable part-time or full-time work experience:

1. Teaching experience in grades P-12 while holding any valid Alabama certificate.
2. Teaching experience in grades P-12 while not holding any valid Alabama certificate.



**(10) Type Career and Technical Certificates.**

(a) Type II and III Career and Technical Certificates in technical education and/or in a technical education program area were converted to Bachelor's Equivalent Technical Education 2 Certificates on May 1, 2016.

(b) Type I Career and Technical Certificates in technical education were issued on the basis of the Rules in effect prior to July 1, 1997. Prior to January 1, 2008, at the request of the certificate holder, a valid Type I Career and Technical Certificate was converted to the appropriate Level 3, 4, or 5 Career and Technical Certificate as determined by the Office of Career and Technical Education of the Department. Type I Career and Technical Certificates in technical education cannot be renewed. An individual holding an expired Type I Career and Technical Certificate in technical education who is seeking a current Career and Technical Certificate in a technical education program area must meet requirements for the Bachelor's Equivalent Technical Education 1 Certificate in a technical education program area as a prerequisite to subsequent Degree Equivalent Certificates in a technical education program area.

**(11) Level Career and Technical Certificates.**

(a) An applicant holding a valid Level 2, 3, 4, or 5 Career and Technical Certificate in technical education and/or a technical education program area with a valid period ending on or prior to June 30, 2015, could apply for conversion of the Level Certificate to the appropriate Specialty Area 2, 3, 4, or 5 Career and Technical Certificate in technical education and/or a technical education program area.

(b) Expired Level 2, 3, 4, and 5 Career and Technical Certificates in technical education and/or a technical education program area may be reinstated as the appropriate Degree Equivalent Technical Education Certificate. Renewal requirements are prescribed in Rule 290-3-2-.29.

(c) The Level 1 Career and Technical Certificate in technical education was a nonrenewable certificate and cannot be continued or reinstated. An applicant holding an expired Level 1 Career and Technical Certificate in technical education who is seeking a current Career and Technical Certificate in a technical education program area must meet requirements for the Bachelor's Equivalent Technical Education Certificate 1 in a technical education program area as a prerequisite to subsequent Degree Equivalent Technical Education Certificates in a technical education program area.

**(12) Specialty Area Career and Technical Certificates.**

(a) Specialty Area 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 Career and Technical Certificates in technical education and/or a technical education program area were converted to the appropriate Degree Equivalent Certificate on May 1, 2016.

(b) Expired Specialty Area 2, 3, 4, and 5 Career and Technical Certificates in technical education and/or a technical education program area may be reinstated as the appropriate Degree Equivalent Technical Education Certificate. Renewal requirements are prescribed in Rule 290-3-2-.29.

**(13) Name of Certificate, Degree Equivalency, Valid Period, and Renewability.**

<b>Name of Certificate</b>	<b>Degree Equivalency</b>	<b>Valid Period</b>	<b>Renewable</b>
Bachelor's Equivalent 1	Bachelor's	Minimum of 2 years <sup>a</sup>	No
Bachelor's Equivalent 2	Bachelor's	Minimum of 5 years <sup>c</sup>	Yes
Master's Equivalent 3	Master's	Minimum of 5 years <sup>c</sup>	Yes
Master's Equivalent 4	Master's	Minimum of 5 years <sup>c</sup>	Yes
Sixth-Year Equivalent 5	Sixth-Year	Minimum of 5 years <sup>c</sup>	Yes
Specialty Area 1	Bachelor's	Minimum of 2 years <sup>a</sup>	No
Specialty Area 2	Bachelor's	Minimum of 5 years <sup>b,c</sup>	Yes
Specialty Area 3	Master's	Minimum of 5 years <sup>c</sup>	Yes
Specialty Area 4	Master's	Minimum of 5 years <sup>c</sup>	Yes
Specialty Area 5	Sixth-year	Minimum of 5 years <sup>c</sup>	Yes
Level 1	Bachelor's	3 years	No
Level 2 <sup>d</sup>	Bachelor's	5 years	Yes
Level 3 <sup>d</sup>	Master's	5 years	Yes
Level 4 <sup>d</sup>	Master's	5 years	Yes
Level 5 <sup>d</sup>	Sixth-year	5 years	Yes
Type I <sup>e</sup>	Master's	10 years	No
Type II <sup>c,f</sup>	Bachelor's	Minimum of 5 years	Yes
Type III <sup>c,f</sup>	Bachelor's	Minimum of 5 years	Yes

<sup>a</sup>Bachelor's Equivalent 1 and Specialty Area 1 Certificates are/were valid from the date of issuance through the remainder of the same scholastic year, and thereafter, for the next two consecutive scholastic years.

<sup>b</sup>Specialty Area 2 Certificates issued prior to August 1, 2012, were valid for five years and nonrenewable. Effective August 1, 2012, the Specialty Area 2 Certificate could be continued or reinstated.

<sup>c</sup>These Career and Technical Certificates are valid from the date of issuance through the remainder of the same scholastic year, and thereafter, for the next five consecutive scholastic years.

<sup>d</sup>The Level Certificates were initially issued on the basis of Rules in effect prior to September 2008. These certificates were converted to the appropriate Specialty Area Certificate. Expired Level 2, 3, 4, or 5 Certificates may be reinstated as the appropriate Degree Equivalent Certificate.

<sup>e</sup>Type I Certificates were initially issued on the basis of Rules in effect prior to July 1, 1997. These certificates were converted to the appropriate Level Certificate. As prescribed in Rule 290-3-2-.18(10)(e), expired Type I Certificates cannot be reinstated.

<sup>f</sup>Type II and III Certificates were initially issued on the basis of Rules in effect prior to July 1, 1997. These certificates may be continued or reinstated as a Bachelor's Equivalent Technical Education 2 Certificate.

**Author:** Dr. Eric Mackey

**Statutory Authority:** Ala. Const. Amend. 284, Ala. Code §§16-3-11, 16-23-1 and 16-23-2 (1975).

**History:** Adopted new, 8-4-08, effective 9-18-08; repealed and adopted new 12-9-10, effective 1-14-11; repealed and adopted new 6-14-12, effective 7-19-12; emergency Rule to amend filed 1-10-13; amended Rule adopted 3-14-13, effective 4-18-13; emergency Rule to amend filed 6-13-13; amended Rule adopted 8-8-13; effective 9-12-13; emergency Rule to repeal filed 11-14-13; repealed and adopted new 1-17-14, effective 2-21-14; repealed and adopted new 3-10-16, effective 4-24-16; emergency Rule to amend filed 6-11-20; amended 8-13-20, effective 10-15-20.

**290-3-2-.19 Career and Technical Certificate to a Professional Educator Certificate.**

(1) **Overview.** An individual holding a valid Master's Equivalent Technical Education 4 Certificate or Sixth-Year Equivalent Technical Education 5 Certificate in a technical education program area or a valid Master's Equivalent Health Science 3 Certificate or Sixth-Year Equivalent Health Science 4 Certificate may meet requirements for a Class B Secondary Professional Educator Certificate in the same technical education program area or in health science.

(2) **Limitations on Issuance.** This approach is available only in health science and the technical education program areas listed on the valid Master's Equivalent Technical Education 4 Certificate or Sixth-Year Equivalent Technical Education 5 Certificate.

(3) **Application.** The applicant is required to submit to the Educator Certification Section the current application for this approach and documentation of having met all requirements as prescribed in Rule 290-3-2-.19 and on the application.

(4) **Requirements for Health Science.** All requirements must be successfully completed prior to the date the application is received in the Educator Certification Section.

(a) Successful completion of the Alabama Special Requirements in Rule 290-3-2-.02(4).

(b) A valid Master's Equivalent Health Science 3 Certificate or Sixth-Year Equivalent Health Science 4 Certificate.

(c) Verification of a currently valid Department-approved MASTER level occupational proficiency assessment for health science which shall include an active Alabama license in a registered nursing, paramedical, or approved allied health specialty. Information on the MASTER level approved occupational proficiency assessments can be obtained from the Office of Career and Technical Education of the Department.

(d) Verification on an official transcript(s) of an earned bachelor's or higher degree in a healthcare or related area from a regionally accredited senior institution. The Office of Career and Technical Education of the Department must approve the degree.

1. The bachelor's degree must be posted with a minimum overall GPA of at least 2.75 or the master's or higher degree must be posted with a minimum overall GPA of at least 3.0. The overall GPA is the GPA posted on the official transcript of the degree granting institution that was used as the basis for granting the degree.

2. The GPA requirement does not apply to an applicant holding a valid Professional Educator Certificate or Professional Leadership Certificate.

(e) Verification on an official transcript of earned credit, with a grade of "C" or above, for strategies for teaching special needs students in inclusive settings at an Alabama institution with State-approved programs. The credit must have been earned within the five years (60 months) prior to the date the application is received in the Educator Certification Section.

(f) Verification of two full scholastic years of full-time classroom teaching experience in grades 6-12 health science. Partial years cannot be combined to meet this requirement. Experience must be verified on Supplement EXP.

(g) Verification of a current passing score for the prescribed Praxis Principles of Learning and Teaching Test of the Alabama Educator Certification Assessment Program (AECAP). This requirement does not apply to an applicant holding a valid Professional Educator Certificate or a valid Professional Leadership Certificate.

**(5) Requirements for Technical Education Program Areas.** All requirements must be successfully completed prior to the date the application is received in the Educator Certification Section.

(a) Successful completion of the Alabama Special Requirements in Rule 290-3-2-.02(4).

(b) A valid Master's Equivalent Technical Education 4 Certificate or Sixth-Year Equivalent Technical Education 5 Certificate in a technical education program area for which the Professional Educator Certificate is sought.

(c) Verification of a passing score on the Department-approved MASTER level occupational proficiency assessment (test score, license, or credential) for the technical education program area for which the certificate is sought. Information on the approved MASTER level occupational proficiency assessments can be obtained from the Office of Career and Technical Education of the Department.

(d) Verification on an official transcript(s) of an earned bachelor's or higher degree in the technical education program area, or in an area related to the technical education program area, for which the certificate is sought from a regionally accredited senior institution. The Office of Career and Technical Education of the Department must approve the degree.

1. The bachelor's degree must be posted with a minimum overall GPA of at least 2.75 or the master's or higher degree must be posted with a minimum overall GPA of at least 3.0. The overall GPA is the GPA posted on the official transcript of the degree granting institution that was used as the basis for granting the degree.

2. The GPA requirement does not apply to an applicant holding a valid Professional Educator Certificate or Professional Leadership Certificate.

(e) Verification on an official transcript of earned credit, with a grade of "C" or above, for strategies for teaching special needs students in inclusive settings at an Alabama institution with State-approved programs. The credit must have been earned within the five years (60 months) prior to the date the application is received in the Educator Certification Section.

(f) Verification of two full scholastic years of full-time classroom teaching experience in grades 6-12 in the technical education program area for which the certificate is sought. Partial years cannot be combined to meet this requirement. Experience must be verified on Supplement EXP.

(g) Verification of a current passing score for the prescribed Praxis Principles of Learning and Teaching Test of the Alabama Educator Certification Assessment Program (AECAP). This requirement does not apply to an applicant holding a valid Professional Educator Certificate or a valid Professional Leadership Certificate.

(6) **Degree Level.** The Professional Educator Certificate issued through this approach shall be issued only at the Class B (bachelor's degree) level.

(7) **Valid Period.** The valid period of the certificate shall be from the date of issuance through the remainder of the same scholastic year, and thereafter, for the next five consecutive scholastic years.

**Author:** Dr. Eric G. Mackey

**Statutory Authority:** Ala. Const. Amend. 284, Ala. Code §§16-3-11, 16-23-1 and 16-23-2 (1975).

**History:** Adopted new 3-10-16, effective 4-24-16; emergency Rule to amend filed 6-11-20; amended 8-13-20, effective 10-15-20.

**290-3-2-.27 National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) Approach.**

(1) **Overview.** An individual who holds valid NBPTS certification may seek a Professional Educator Certificate.

(2) **Limitations on Issuance.** This approach is only available if the applicant's NBPTS certification is in an area, at a grade level, and at a degree level in which Alabama offers comparable certification. Additional information about a Professional Educator Certificate for teaching fields is in Rule 290-3-2-.03. Additional information about a Professional Educator Certificate for areas of instructional support is in Rule 290-3-2-.03.

(3) **Application.** The applicant is required to submit to the Educator Certification Section the current application for this approach and documentation of having met all requirements as prescribed in Rule 290-3-2-.27 and on the application.

(4) **Requirements.** All requirements must be successfully completed prior to the date the application is received in the Educator Certification Section.

(a) Successful completion of the Alabama Special Requirements in Rule 290-3-2-.02(4).

(b) Verification on official transcript(s) of all degrees earned.

(c) For teaching fields, verification on an official transcript(s) of an earned bachelor's or higher degree from a regionally accredited senior institution.

(d) For areas of instructional support, verification on an official transcript(s) of an earned master's or higher degree from a regionally accredited senior institution.

(e) Verification of the applicant's valid NBPTS certification.

(f) For areas of instructional support, verification on Supplement EXP that the applicant has met the professional education work experience required for issuance of the Professional Educator Certificate. Additional information is in Rule 290-3-2-.03.

(5) **Degree Level.** The Professional Educator Certificate issued through this approach shall be issued at the Class B, A, or AA level based upon:

(a) The level of the applicant's highest earned degree from a regionally accredited senior institution in the area of the certificate to be issued; or

(b) The level of the applicant's highest earned degree from a regionally accredited senior institution in an education field.

(6) **Valid Period.** The valid period of the certificate shall be from the date of issuance through the remainder of the same scholastic year, and thereafter, for the next five consecutive scholastic years.

**Author:** Dr. Eric G. Mackey

**Statutory Authority:** Ala. Const. Amend. 284, Ala. Code §§16-3-11, 16-23-1 and 16-23-2 (1975).

**History:** Adopted New, 8-4-08, effective 9-18-08; repealed and adopted new 12-9-10, effective 1-14-11; repealed and adopted new 3-10-16, effective 4-24-16; emergency Rule to amend filed 6-11-20; amended 8-13-20, effective 10-15-20.