



STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Eric G. Mackey, Ed.D.
State Superintendent of Education

April 9, 2020

MEMORANDUM

TO: City and County Superintendents of Education

FROM: Eric G. Mackey 
State Superintendent of Education

SUBJECT: Educator Certification Flexibilities

The Alabama State Board of Education and the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) are continuing to evaluate the impact of the 2020 COVID-19 school closure. In reviewing policies and procedures related to Educator Certification, the flexibilities outlined on the attachment have been established.

We hope the flexibility offered will give you time to plan and to assist our educators. For additional information or if there are questions, please contact the certification specialist assigned to your local education agency.

EGM/SHC

Attachment

cc: Deans of Colleges of Education
Dr. Daniel Boyd
Mrs. Jessica Sanders
Dr. Jayne A. Meyer
Dr. Deanise F. Peacock

FY20-2062

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**Alabama State Department of Education
Educator Certification Section**



2020 COVID-19 Certification Flexibilities

Certificate Renewal (Continuation) <i>To maintain a certificate that is valid</i>	
Flexibility	Requirements must be met prior to October 1, 2020, and the application must be postmarked prior to October 1, 2020.
Certificate Renewal (Reinstatement) <i>For Certificates that have lapsed for 12 months or less, that is June 30, 2019.</i>	
Flexibility	Requirements must be met prior to October 1, 2020, and the application must be postmarked prior to October 1, 2020.
Certificate Renewal (Reinstatement) <i>For Certificates that have lapsed for more than 12 months, requirements must be met as outlined on the appropriate renewal application.</i>	
LEA Online Renewal (OLR)	
Flexibility	<p>a. If a renewal is approved by the local education agency (LEA) prior to July 1, 2020, the OLR payment link will remain active for individuals who pay prior to October 1, 2020.</p> <p>b. Since the names for OLR are populated through Ed Dir and LEAs will begin making employment changes for the upcoming year, any renewals not approved through OLR prior to July 1, 2020, must be submitted as paper applications. Requirements must be met prior to October 1, 2020, and the application must be postmarked prior to October 1, 2020.</p>
Professional Education Work Experience	
Flexibility	Individuals employed no later than October 1, 2019, through the 2020 COVID-19 school closure date ordered by Governor Kay Ivey, can use 2019-2020 as a full scholastic year of professional education work experience.
Correspondence Deadlines	
Flexibility	<p>a. Correspondence with 60-day deadlines will be extended an additional 60 days.</p> <p>b. Correspondence with 6-month deadlines will be extended an additional 6 months.</p>
Provisional Certificates in Teaching Fields <i>For individuals who held a 1st Provisional Certificate in a Teaching Field (PCTF) during the 2019-2020 scholastic year.</i>	
Flexibility	<p>A passing score on the appropriate Educative Teacher Performance Assessment (edTPA) Handbook will not be required for issuance of the PEC.</p> <p>A passing score on the Alabama Educator Certification Assessment Program Praxis Principles of Learning and Teaching (PLT) test will be required for issuance of the PEC by all individuals who held a 1st PCTF during the 2019-2020 scholastic year. Additional information will be provided on the application.</p> <p>This flexibility option does not apply to individuals who are issued a 1st PCTF during the 2020-2021 scholastic year and beyond. The edTPA will be required for issuance of the PEC.</p>

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2020 COVID-19 Certification Flexibilities

Background Review

Although we understand the concern, we are unable to make any accommodations regarding the background check requirements at this time.

Flexibility

Background Review correspondence with 30-day deadlines will be extended for an additional 30 days from the time local courts reopen. In the event more time is needed to receive information from the local court, the individual may request an additional extension.

Certificate Reciprocity

Individuals who apply to Alabama through certificate reciprocity must meet an Alabama content knowledge assessment option even if their state waived that requirement. Current test options may be found on Supplement HTO at (click [Out of State Certificates](#) & [Forms](#)).