

Descriptor Term: LEGAL STATUS OF SUPERINTENDENT  
Descriptor Code: ABD  
Board Approved: 1/4/2021  
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Each school district shall have a superintendent of schools, selected in the manner provided by law. No person shall be eligible for the office of superintendent of schools unless such person holds a valid administrator's license issued by the State Department of Education and shall have classroom or administrative experience of not less than six (6) years which shall include at least three (3) years of administrative experience as a school building principal

- (a) in a school with an "A" or "B" accountability rating, or
- (b) in a school that increased its accountability rating by a letter grade during the period in which the principal was employed as principal at the school, or
- (c) in a school with comparable accountability rating or improvement in another state which shall be verified by the Mississippi Department of Education.

The Mississippi State Board of Education authorizes the appointment of a superintendent of schools that meets the following alternative qualifications:

**Initial Three-Year District Superintendent License Criteria:**

1. Hold at least a Master's degree or higher from an institution of higher education that was accredited at the time the degree was conferred; AND
2. Have a minimum of six (6) years of documented successful leadership experience, as determined and verified by the appointing local school board. Examples include, but are not limited to, for profit or not for profit organizations, state agencies, business, industry, K-12 education – district level senior/executive leadership direct report to local superintendent of education, higher education or law, senior leadership position such as CEO, Commissioned Officers – Pay Grade 03 or above; AND
3. Obtain a position as district superintendent and submit local board resolution of appointment to that position. Note: The Initial Three (3) Year District Superintendent License is non-renewable but, may be converted to a Standard Five-Year District Superintendent License if the following pre-conditions are met.

**The Initial Three-Year District Superintendent License may be converted to the Standard Five-Year District Superintendent License upon completion of the following:**

4. Successful completion of ongoing professional learning aligned to the responsibilities of Mississippi local school district superintendents as outlined in Miss. Code Ann. § 37-9-14. The professional learning activities must be completed during the three (3) year

validity of the license while actively employed as district superintendent. This would include the completion of Mississippi Department of Education approved professional growth opportunities such as Superintendent's Academy or Executive Leadership Institute or Educational Administration/Leadership degree program or any other professional growth opportunity approved by the Mississippi Department of Education. If one or more of the specific aforementioned professional growth opportunities were completed prior to obtaining the initial District Superintendent License, the district superintendent shall not be required to complete again; AND

5. Demonstrate evidence that the district increased its accountability rating by a minimum of one performance classification during the three (3) year period in which the license holder was employed as district superintendent if placed in a local school district that was rated a "C" or lower at the time of appointment as district superintendent or maintained the "A" or "B" rating in a local school district rated as such at the time of appointment; AND

6. The district superintendent shall earn a successful evaluation rating consistent with the assessment components defined in Miss. Code Ann. § 37-7-301 and as outlined in the current edition of the Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards.

No person shall be eligible to the office of the superintendent of schools if the person has pled guilty to or been convicted of any state or federal offense in which he or she unlawfully took, obtained or misappropriated funds received by or entrusted to the person by virtue of his or her public office or employment

Legal Reference: Mississippi Code 1972, § 37-9-13, § 37-9-14