


EDUCATOR AND NON-EDUCATOR LEGAL QUALIFICATIONS FOR SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS


MSBA Legislative Update & School Law Review Conference

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 Law: Superintendent Qualifications


§ 37-9-13. Selection of superintendent of school district; qualifications of superintendent



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Law: Superintendent Qualifications

No person shall be eligible to the office of superintendent of schools unless such person shall hold a valid administrator's license issued by the State Department of Education, **AND**

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Law: Superintendent Qualifications


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**

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Law: Superintendent Qualifications


(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,



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Attorney General Opinion

- And, the principal must be employed at a school that maintained its accountability rating for three years.

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Law: Superintendent Qualifications

(c) **OR**, in a school with comparable accountability rating or improvement in another state which shall be verified by the Mississippi Department of Education.



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Law: Superintendent Qualifications

- The provisions of this section shall be applicable to any superintendent of schools selected on or after July 1, 2017, who has not previously served as a superintendent or assistant superintendent within the last five (5) years.



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Law: Alternative Superintendent Qualifications

As an alternative to the qualifications prescribed in subsection (1) of this section, the State Board of Education is authorized and directed to issue regulations



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Law: Alternative Superintendent Qualifications

that will qualify a person to serve as a superintendent without having the direct experience or certification as an educator specified in subsection (1) of this section.



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MDE Alternative Qualifications for Non-Education Superintendents



Initial Three-Year Alternative Administrator License Criteria for Non-Education District Superintendents



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MDE Alternative Qualifications for Non-Education Superintendents



1. Holds 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



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MDE Alternative Qualifications for Non-Education Superintendents

2. Have a minimum of six (6) years of documented successful leadership experience, as determined and verified by the appointing local school board,



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(examples include, but are not limited to, for profit or not for profit organizations, state agencies, business, industry, higher education or law, senior leadership position such as CEO, Commissioned Officers – Pay Grade 03 or above); **AND**



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3. Obtain a position as district superintendent and submit local board resolution of appointment to that position.



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MDE Alternative Qualifications for Non-Education Superintendents

Note: The Initial Three (3) Year Alternative Administrator License is non-renewable, but may be converted to a Standard Career Level Administrator License if one of the following pre-conditions are met.



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MDE Alternative Qualifications for Non-Education Superintendents

The Initial Three-Year Alternative Administrator License may be converted to the Standard Career Level Administrator License upon completion of one of the following:



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1. 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.



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MDE Alternative Qualifications for Non-Education Superintendents



The professional learning activities must be completed during the three (3) year validity of the license while actively employed as district superintendent.



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This would include the completion of Mississippi Department of Education approved professional growth opportunities such as Superintendent's Academy or Executive Leadership Institute or



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Educational Administration/Leadership degree program or any other professional growth opportunity approved by the Mississippi Department of Education;

OR



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2. 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; **AND**



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MDE Alternative Qualifications for Non-Education Superintendents

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.



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