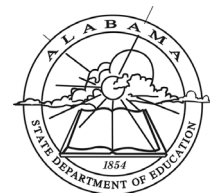




STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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

July 8, 2026

MEMORANDUM

TO: City and County Superintendents of Education

FROM: Eric G. Mackey 
State Superintendent of Education

SUBJECT: Educator Certification Updates

This memorandum provides an overview of the Educator Certification updates and new certificate provisions that will take effect for the 2026–2027 school year.

During the 2026 legislative session, the Alabama Legislature passed Act 2026-166 and Act 2026-605, which include provisions affecting Educator Certification. The following is a summary of the changes implemented as a result of these acts.

Act 2026-166, Military Veteran Temporary Teaching Certificate

The Act authorizes the issuance of a temporary teaching certificate to eligible military veterans, at the request of an employing Alabama superintendent. To qualify, the veteran must have completed at least 48 months of active-duty military service and received an honorable or medical discharge. Additional requirements include passing the appropriate Praxis subject area assessment and completion of at least 60 semester hours with at least a 2.5 GPA and the participation in the Alabama Teacher Mentor Program.

Expedited Career and Technical Education (CTE) Certification Pathway

The Act creates an expedited certification pathway for eligible out-of-state CTE teachers seeking certification in Alabama. An individual may be eligible for Alabama certification if the CTE certificate issued by another state is in a certification area, grade level, and degree level for which Alabama offers comparable certification and the applicant meets outlined requirements.

A superintendent who wishes to employ an individual holding a valid CTE certificate issued by another state may submit an application requesting the issuance of an Alabama certificate.

Additionally, during its June 11, 2026, meeting, the Alabama State Board of Education adopted a new Educator Certification Chapter of the *Alabama Administrative Code*. The following provides a few items to bring to your attention.

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Lifetime Certificate

Alabama educators who have retired with 25 or more years of service in Alabama are eligible to apply for the Lifetime Certificate. To qualify, applicants must submit a completed application (available August 17, 2026), a nonrefundable \$200 application fee, verification of at least 25 years of service from The Retirement Systems of Alabama, and, if the certificate has expired, documentation of current background clearance.

Applications may be submitted only after the individual has retired and during the year in which the educator's certificate expires.

Educational Ethics

To support the evolving educator workforce and reinforce ethical standards of the profession, a new certificate renewal requirement has been established. Educators must now complete 10 clock hours of professional learning in educator ethics as part of the certificate renewal process.

Please ensure that educators within your local education agencies (LEAs) receive high-quality professional learning in educator ethics. The goal is to strengthen ethical decision-making and reinforce the professional standards expected of Alabama educators. As you plan professional learning opportunities, I encourage you to utilize the *Alabama Educator Code of Ethics* as a starting point.

[Alabama Educator Code of Ethics](#)

Additional guidance regarding all renewal requirements, including implementation procedures, will be released to LEAs in the near future.

Educator Certification Office Hours

Educator Certification will resume its weekly virtual office hours on Thursday, August 6, 2026, from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. These sessions provide an opportunity for LEAs to receive specific support based on LEA needs.

Beginning in August, the first Thursday of each month will be dedicated exclusively to CTE certification support. Office hours held on the remaining Thursdays of each month will address all other educator certification topics.

You may email the Certification Specialist assigned to your LEA to obtain the meeting link and passcode.

EGM:SYH

cc: Mrs. Angela Martin
Mr. Jason Swann

FY26-2066