### .52.01 Teacher Leader

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#### (2) Unconditional Admission to a Teacher Leader Program

Initial certification for a teacher leader shall be at the Class AA level.

(a) Criteria for unconditional admission to teacher leader programs shall include:

1. A valid master’s level professional educator certificate in any teaching field or area of instructional support.

2. A minimum of three full years of full-time teaching experience in a P-12 setting.

3. A portfolio containing:
   (i) Three letters of recommendation.
   (ii) Evidence of ability to positively affect student achievement.
   (iii) Evidence of collaborative leadership potential.

(b) If an individual is unconditionally admitted to an Alabama Class AA teacher leader program based on a valid master’s level professional educator certificate in a teaching field or area of instructional support from another state, completes the Class AA teacher leader program, and subsequently applies for Class AA teacher leader certification, then the individual must hold at least a valid Class A Professional Educator Certificate in a teaching field or area of instructional support before applying for Class AA certification.

#### (3) Program Requirements

Each State-approved program must:

(a) Include at least 30 semester hours of course work at the education specialist level or above and not used for prior-level certification or degree in any teaching field or area of instructional support.
(b) Include periodic focus sessions for candidates to share problem-based concerns and successes and to collaborate on issues and solutions.

(c) Include meaningful P-12 school-based field experiences in any teacher leader course used to meet a teacher leader standard.

(d) Include a minimum of six semester hours reserved for a problem-based research project in a school or school system.

(4) **Collaboration.** The program should continue aspects of the EPP/LEA partnerships created for the Class A Instructional Leadership program to include:

(a) Joint curriculum design.

(b) Joint mentoring decisions.

(c) Joint planning for field experiences.

(d) Joint planning for the problem-based research project.

(6) **Requirements for Class AA Certification in Teacher Leader.**

Readiness to serve as a teacher leader shall include:

(a) At least a valid Class A Professional Educator Certificate or a valid Class A Professional Leadership Certificate. See Rule 290-3-3-.52.01(2)(b).

(b) An official transcript from a regionally accredited institution documenting an earned education specialist degree.

(c) A survey of special education course is required unless that course was taken for prior level certification. [See Rule 290-3-3-.01(51)].

An individual who completed a survey of special education course prior to meeting requirements for unconditional admission to a Class AA program July 1, 2017, or thereafter, must take a course focused
primarily on one of the following categories: methods of accommodating instruction to meet the needs of students with exceptionalities in inclusive settings, multicultural education, teaching English language learners, rural education, or urban education.

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<th>A course used to meet this requirement for Class A certification may not be used to meet the requirement for Class AA certification.</th>
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<td>(d) Satisfactory completion of a State-approved program with a minimum GPA of 3.25 for all courses in the Alabama State Board of Education approved teacher leader program as verified on an official transcript.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Effective for candidates unconditionally admitted to a Class AA teacher leader program July 1, 2017, and thereafter, satisfactory completion of a State-approved program with a minimum GPA of 3.50 on all courses in the Alabama State Board of Education approved teacher leader program.</td>
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<td>(e) Satisfactory completion of a problem-based research project.</td>
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<td>(7) <strong>Testing for Certification in Teacher Leader.</strong> Applicants for initial certification in teacher leader through the completion of a Class AA program must meet the Praxis requirements of the Alabama Educator Certification Assessment Program (AECAP) as a precondition of certification.</td>
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<td>(8) <strong>Faculty.</strong> An institution shall meet the criteria listed below.</td>
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<td>(a) The program shall include at least two faculty members who hold earned doctorates and are full-time to the EPP. One faculty member shall hold an earned doctorate in educational administration or instructional leadership and shall be</td>
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active involvement in the preparation of instructional leaders at the Class AA level.

One faculty member shall hold an earned doctorate and be actively involved in the preparation of teachers at the Class AA level for grades P-3, K-6, 6-12, or P-12.

(b) Faculty members shall teach courses required in the teacher leader preparation program, advise candidates seeking certification through program completion, and demonstrate a thorough understanding of current State initiatives.

Comments: