March 8, 2016

MEMORANDUM

TO: City and County Superintendents of Education

FROM: Thomas R. Bice State Superintendent of Education

RE: Updates in Science Certifications

On September 10, 2015, the Alabama Course of Study: Science was adopted by the Alabama State Board of Education. As a result, changes were made to the course offerings. So much has changed since the last science course of study was adopted in 2005, including teacher certifications. Therefore, the teacher certifications for science were reviewed and the following revisions were made and will be effective beginning with the 2016-2017 school year:

Physical Science (220051); Physical Science, Honors (220052); Physical Science, Advanced Level (220053); Physical Science Elective, Grades 9–12 (220054); ALSDE Approved Physical Science Electives, Grades 9–12 (220089)

1. Elementary Education/Grades K-9 certificates currently allowable for Grade 9 will no longer be allowable.
2. Biology certification is being expanded to also be allowable for Grades 10-12 (currently allowable in Grade 9 only).

Biology (220011); Biology, Honors (220012); Biology, Advanced Level (220013); AP Biology (220014); Biology, SL, IB (220015); Biology, HL, IB (220016); Research and Design in Biology (220043); ALSDE Approved Life Science Electives, Grades 9–12 (220088)

1. Elementary Education/Grades K-9 certificates currently allowable for Grade 9 will no longer be allowable.
2. Certifications in earth and space science, environmental education, and geology currently allowable for Grade 9 will no longer be allowable. (Note: We have a very small number of teachers certified in geology and environmental education.)
3. Currently allowable certifications for Grade 9 in chemistry, physics, and physical science are retained.
Environmental Science (220029); Environmental Science, Honors (220030); Environmental Science, Advanced Level (220031); AP Environmental Science (220032); Environmental Systems & Societies, SL, IB (220033)
1. Elementary Education/Grades K-9 certificates currently allowable for Grade 9 will no longer be allowable.
2. Certifications in chemistry, physics, physical science, earth and space science, geology, and environmental education are being expanded to also be allowable for Grades 10-12 (currently allowable in Grade 9 only).

Earth and Space Science (220081); Earth and Space Science, Honors (220082); Earth and Space Science, Advanced Level (220083); Other ALSDE Approved Earth and Space Science Elective (220087)
1. Elementary Education/Grades K-9 certificates currently allowable for Grade 9 will no longer be allowable.
2. Certifications in biology and environmental education are being expanded to also be allowable for Grades 10-12 (currently allowable in Grade 9 only).

Human Anatomy and Physiology (220026); Human Anatomy and Physiology, Honors (220027); Human Anatomy and Physiology, Advanced Level (220028)
1. Elementary Education/Grades K-9 certificates currently allowable for Grade 9 will no longer be allowable.
2. Certifications in earth and space science, environmental education, and geology currently allowable for Grade 9 will no longer be allowable. (Note: We have a very small number of teachers certified in geology and environmental education.)
3. Certifications in chemistry and physical science are being expanded to also be allowable for Grades 10-12 (currently allowable in Grade 9 only).

The Career and Technical Education courses listed below are science-credit eligible. The following teacher certifications for science were added and will be effective beginning with the 2016-2017 school year:

Chemistry of Food (510013)
Certifications in general science, biology, chemistry, and physical science are allowable.

Forensic and Criminal Investigations (410025)
Certifications in general science, biology, chemistry, physics, and physical science are allowable.

Plant Biotechnology (420053)
Certifications in general science, biology, and environmental education are allowable.

Aquaculture Science (420037)
Certifications in general science, biology, chemistry, and environmental education are allowable.
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Environmental Management (420026)
Certifications in general science, biology, chemistry, physical science, earth and space science, geology, and environmental education are allowable.

Introduction to Biotechnology (490041)
Certifications in general science, biology, and chemistry are allowable.

Human Body Structures and Functions (490015)
Certifications in general science, biology, and chemistry are allowable.

PLTW Human Body Systems (490043)
Certifications in general science, biology, and chemistry are allowable.

PLTW Principles of Engineering (560016)
Certifications in general science, biology, chemistry, physics, physical science, geology, and earth and space science are allowable.

If you have questions, please contact Dr. Michal Robinson, Instructional Services, by e-mail at mrobinson@alsde.edu or by telephone at (334) 353-1191; Ms. Martha White, Educator Certification, by e-mail at marthaw@alsde.edu or by telephone at (334) 353-8567; or Ms. Rhonda Baker, Educator Certification, by e-mail at rbaker@alsde.edu or by telephone at (334) 353-8567.

TRB/MGR/LM

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