



STATE OF ALABAMA  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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

April 9, 2020

Alabama  
State Board  
of Education

**MEMORANDUM**

Governor Kay Ivey  
President

**TO:** City and County Superintendents of Education

Jackie Zeigler  
District I  
President Pro Tem

**FROM:** Eric G. Mackey   
State Superintendent of Education

Tracie West  
District II

**SUBJECT:** Educator Certification Flexibilities

Stephanie Bell  
District III

The Alabama State Board of Education and the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) are continuing to evaluate the impact of the 2020 COVID-19 school closure. In reviewing policies and procedures related to Educator Certification, the flexibilities outlined on the attachment have been established.

Yvette M. Richardson, Ed.D.  
District IV

We hope the flexibility offered will give you time to plan and to assist our educators. For additional information or if there are questions, please contact the certification specialist assigned to your local education agency.

Tommie T. Stewart, Ph.D.  
District V

EGM/SHC

Cynthia McCarty, Ph.D.  
District VI

Attachment

Jeff Newman  
District VII  
Vice President

cc: Deans of Colleges of Education  
Dr. Daniel Boyd  
Mrs. Jessica Sanders  
Dr. Jayne A. Meyer  
Dr. Deanise F. Peacock

Wayne Reynolds, Ed.D.  
District VIII

FY20-2062

Eric G. Mackey, Ed.D.  
Secretary and  
Executive Officer

**Alabama State Department of Education  
Educator Certification Section**



**2020 COVID-19 Certification Flexibilities**

<b>Certificate Renewal (Continuation)</b> <i>To maintain a certificate that is valid</i>	
Flexibility	Requirements must be met <b>prior to</b> October 1, 2020, and the application must be postmarked <b>prior to</b> October 1, 2020.
<b>Certificate Renewal (Reinstatement)</b> <i>For Certificates that have lapsed for 12 months or less, that is June 30, 2019.</i>	
Flexibility	Requirements must be met <b>prior to</b> October 1, 2020, and the application must be postmarked <b>prior to</b> October 1, 2020.
<b>Certificate Renewal (Reinstatement)</b> <i>For Certificates that have lapsed for <b>more than</b> 12 months, requirements must be met as outlined on the appropriate renewal application.</i>	
<b>LEA Online Renewal (OLR)</b>	
Flexibility	<p>a. If a renewal is approved by the local education agency (LEA) <b>prior to</b> July 1, 2020, the OLR payment link will remain active for individuals who pay <b>prior to</b> October 1, 2020.</p> <p>b. Since the names for OLR are populated through Ed Dir and LEAs will begin making employment changes for the upcoming year, any renewals not approved through OLR <b>prior to</b> July 1, 2020, must be submitted as paper applications. Requirements must be met <b>prior to</b> October 1, 2020, and the application must be postmarked <b>prior to</b> October 1, 2020.</p>
<b>Professional Education Work Experience</b>	
Flexibility	Individuals employed no later than October 1, 2019, through the 2020 COVID-19 school closure date ordered by Governor Kay Ivey, can use 2019-2020 as a full scholastic year of professional education work experience.
<b>Correspondence Deadlines</b>	
Flexibility	<p>a. Correspondence with 60-day deadlines will be extended an additional 60 days.</p> <p>b. Correspondence with 6-month deadlines will be extended an additional 6 months.</p>
<b>Provisional Certificates in Teaching Fields</b> <i>For individuals who held a 1<sup>st</sup> Provisional Certificate in a Teaching Field (PCTF) during the 2019-2020 scholastic year.</i>	
Flexibility	<p>A passing score on the appropriate Educative Teacher Performance Assessment (edTPA) Handbook <b>will not</b> be required for issuance of the PEC.</p> <p>A passing score on the Alabama Educator Certification Assessment Program Praxis Principles of Learning and Teaching (PLT) test <b>will</b> be required for issuance of the PEC by <b>all individuals</b> who held a 1st PCTF during the 2019-2020 scholastic year. Additional information will be provided on the application.</p> <p>This flexibility option <b>does not</b> apply to individuals who are issued a 1st PCTF during the 2020-2021 scholastic year and beyond. The edTPA <b>will</b> be required for issuance of the PEC.</p>

Alabama State Department of Education  
Educator Certification Section



2020 COVID-19 Certification Flexibilities

**Background Review**

*Although we understand the concern, we are unable to make any accommodations regarding the background check requirements at this time.*

Flexibility

Background Review correspondence with 30-day deadlines will be extended for an additional 30 days from the time local courts reopen. In the event more time is needed to receive information from the local court, the individual may request an additional extension.

**Certificate Reciprocity**

*Individuals who apply to Alabama through certificate reciprocity must meet an Alabama content knowledge assessment option even if their state waived that requirement. Current test options may be found on Supplement HTO at [www.alsde.edu/EdCert](http://www.alsde.edu/EdCert) (click Out of State Certificates ⇨ Forms).*