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## Miss. Code Ann. § 37-9-13

### Copy Citation

Current through 2021 Regular Session legislation signed by the Governor and effective upon passage through January 11, 2021, not including changes and corrections made by the Joint Legislative Committee on Compilation, Revision and Publication of Legislation. The final official version of the statutes affected by 2021 legislation will appear on Lexis Advance in the fall of 2021.

[Mississippi Code 1972 Annotated](#) > [Title 37. Education \(Chs. 1 – 187\)](#) > [Chapter 9. District Superintendents, Principals, Teachers, and Other Employees \(§§ 37-9-1 – 37-9-251\)](#) > [In General \(§§ 37-9-1 – 37-9-81\)](#)

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

#### (1)

(a) Each school district shall have a superintendent of schools, selected in the manner provided by law. 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 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 (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, or (c) in a school with comparable accountability rating or improvement in another state which shall be verified by the Mississippi Department of Education.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (4) of this section, no person shall be eligible to the office of superintendent of schools if the person has pled guilty to or been convicted of any state or federal offense in which he or she unlawfully took, obtained or misappropriated funds received by or entrusted to the person by virtue of his or her public office or employment.

(2) From and after January 1, 2019, in all public school districts, the local school board shall appoint the superintendent of schools of such district. At the expiration of the term of any county superintendent of education elected at the November 2015 general election, the county superintendent of education of said county shall not be elected but shall thereafter be appointed by the local school board in the manner provided in Section 37-9-25. However, in the event that a person in the office of the superintendent of schools elected at the





school board shall appoint the superintendent of the school district. The superintendent of

schools shall have the general powers and duties to administer the schools within his district as prescribed in Section 37-9-14 et seq., Mississippi Code of 1972.

**(3)** As an alternative to the qualifications prescribed in subsection (1)(a) of this section, the State Board of Education is authorized and directed to issue regulations by January 1, 2018, which include minimum credentials, educational prerequisites, and relevant best practice experience requirements that will qualify a person to serve as a superintendent without having the direct experience or certification as an educator specified in subsection (1)(a) of this section.

**(4)** 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.

## History

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Codes, 1942, § 6282-04; Laws, 1953, Ex Sess, ch. 20, § 4; Laws, 1960, ch. 300; Laws, 1981, ch. 499, § 3; Laws, 1986, ch. 492, § 60; Laws, 1987, ch. 307, § 7; Laws, 1988, ch. 342, § 1; Laws, 1997, ch. 545, § 7; Laws, 2016, ch. 311, § 1; Laws, 2017, ch. 301, § 1; Laws, 2017, ch. 442, § 1, eff from and after July 1, 2017; Laws, 2019, ch. 362, § 3, eff from and after July 1, 2019.

Mississippi Code 1972 Annotated

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**MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
ALTERNATIVE QUALIFICATION FOR  
PROSPECTIVE DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION**

**Initial Three-Year District Superintendents License Criteria:**

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**

2. Have a minimum of six (6) years of documented successful leadership experience, as determined and verified by the appointing local school board (examples include, but are not limited to, for profit or not for profit organizations, state agencies, business, industry, K-12 education – district level senior/executive leadership direct report to local superintendent of education, higher education or law, senior leadership position such as CEO, Commissioned Officers – Pay Grade 03 or above);

**AND**

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

**Note:** The Initial Three (3) Year District Superintendent License is non-renewable but, may be converted to a Standard Five-Year District Superintendent License if the following pre-conditions are met.

**The Initial Three-Year District Superintendent License may be converted to the Standard Five-Year District Superintendent License upon completion of the following:**

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. The professional learning activities must be completed during the three (3) year validity of the license while actively employed as district superintendent. This would include the completion of Mississippi Department of Education approved professional growth opportunities such as Superintendent's Academy or Executive Leadership Institute or Educational Administration/Leadership degree program or any other professional growth opportunity approved by the Mississippi Department of Education. If one or more of the specific aforementioned professional growth opportunities were completed prior to obtaining the initial District Superintendent License, the district superintendent shall not be required to complete again;

**AND**

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 or maintain the "A" or "B" rating in a local school district rated as such at the time of appointment;

**AND**

3. 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*.

**Note:** The Standard Five (5) Year District Superintendent License is renewable. Five-Year District Superintendent License holders must meet current State Board approved license renewal requirements prescribed for Standard Career Level Administrator License. Current license renewal requirements may be found in the Guidelines for Mississippi Educator Licensure K-12.