

TRANSMITTAL SHEET FOR  
NOTICE OF INTENDED ACTION

Control No. 290 Department or Agency Alabama State Department of Education  
Rule No. 290-3-3-.44 in the Teacher Education Chapter of the Alabama Administrative Code  
Rule Title: Alternative Class A Programs for Teaching Fields  
         New     X     Amend          Repeal          Adopt by Reference

Would the absence of the proposed rule significantly harm or endanger the public health, welfare, or safety?          No         

Is there a reasonable relationship between the state's police power and the protection of the public health, safety, or welfare?          Yes         

Is there another, less restrictive method of regulation available that could adequately protect the public?          No         

Does the proposed rule have the effect of directly or indirectly increasing the costs of any goods or services involved and, if so, to what degree?          No         

Is the increase in cost, if any, more harmful to the public than the harm that might result from the absence of the proposed rule?          No         

Are all facets of the rulemaking process designed solely for the purpose of, and so they have, as their primary effect, the protection of the public?          No         

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Does the proposed rule have an economic impact?          No         

If the proposed rule has an economic impact, the proposed rule is required to be accompanied by a fiscal note prepared in accordance with subsection (f) of Section 41-22-23, Code of Alabama 1975.

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Certification of Authorized Official

I certify that the attached proposed rule has been proposed in full compliance with the requirements of Chapter 22, Title 41, Code of Alabama 1975, and that it conforms to all applicable filing requirements of the Administrative Procedure Division of the Legislative Reference Service.

Signature of certifying officer                   

Date          3/29/12         

(DATE FILED)  
(STAMP)

APA-2  
07/04

**Alabama State Department of Education  
Office of Teaching and Leading**

**NOTICE OF INTENDED ACTION**

AGENCY NAME: State Department of Education

RULE NO. & TITLE:

290-3-3 is the Teacher Education Chapter of the Alabama Administrative Code.

290-3-3-.01	Definitions
290-3-3-.02	College and University Requirements
290-3-3-.04	Class B (Bachelor's Degree Level) Programs for Teaching Fields
290-3-3-.42	Class A (Master's Degree Level) Programs for Teaching Fields
290-3-3-.44	Alternative Class A Programs for Teaching Fields
290-3-3-.45	English for Speakers of Others Languages (ESOL) (Grades P-12)
290-3-3-.45.01	Reading Specialist (Grades P-12)
290-3-3-.46	Speech and Language Impaired (Grades P-12)
290-3-3-.47	Class A (Master's Degree Level) Programs for Areas of Instructional Support Personnel
290-3-3-.48	Instructional Leadership
290-3-3-.49	Library Media
290-3-3-.50	School Counseling
290-3-3-.51	School Psychometry
290-3-3-.51.01	Sport Management
290-3-3-.52	Class AA (Sixth-Year Level) Programs for Teaching Fields
290-3-3-.52.01	Teacher Leader
290-3-3-.53	Class AA (Sixth-Year Level) Programs for Areas of Instructional Support
290-3-3-.53.01	Instructional Leadership
290-3-3-.54	School Psychology

INTENDED ACTION: Amend

SUBSTANCE OF PROPOSED ACTION: Amend

Amend Rule 290-3-3-.01 to add definitions for instructional support area, levels of Alabama Professional Certificates, and program overlap; revise definitions on levels of educator preparation programs, professional studies, and teaching field; and delete language about converting a "pass" grade.

Amend Rule 290-3-3-.02 to allow for program overlap in accordance with written institutional policies and provide language to allow an individual who completed an educator preparation program at an Alabama institution and wishes to return to complete a program on the same degree level to use coursework from the first program without violating the rule limiting the number of courses that may be taken prior to unconditional admission.

Amend Rule 290-3-3-.04 to use consistent language about State requirements for unconditional admission.

Amend Rule 290-3-3-.42 to require unconditional admission before a person has taken more than five courses in an approved program; to stipulate courses from a prior-level of certification may not be used to meet requirements of a higher-level program; and to clarify prerequisite certificates must be valid.

Amend Rule 290-3-3-.44 to clarify language about State requirements for unconditional admission to an Alternative Class A program.

Amend Rule 290-3-3-.45 to require unconditional admission before a person has taken more than five courses in the approved program and to clarify prerequisite certificates must be valid.

Amend Rule 290-3-3-.45.01 to require unconditional admission before a person has taken more than five courses in the approved program and to clarify prerequisite certificates must be valid.

Amend Rule 290-3-3-.46 to require unconditional admission before a person has taken more than five courses in the approved program.

Amend Rule 290-3-3-.47 to require unconditional admission before a person has taken more than five courses in an approved program and to clarify prerequisite certificates must be valid.

Amend Rule 290-3-3-.48 to emphasize a person must be unconditionally admitted before enrolling in courses in the approved program and to clarify prerequisite certificates must be valid.

Amend Rule 290-3-3-.49 to require unconditional admission before a person has taken more than five courses in the approved program and to clarify prerequisite certificates must be valid.

Amend Rule 290-3-3-.50 to require unconditional admission before a person has taken more than five courses in the approved program and to clarify prerequisite certificates must be valid.

Amend Rule 290-3-3-.51 to require unconditional admission before a person has taken more than five courses in the approved program and to clarify prerequisite certificates must be valid.

Amend Rule 290-3-3-.51.01 to require unconditional admission before a person has taken more than five courses in the approved program and to clarify prerequisite certificates must be valid.

Amend Rule 290-3-3-.52 to require unconditional admission before a person has taken more than five courses in the approved program and to clarify prerequisite certificates must be valid.

Amend Rule 290-3-3-.52.01 to require unconditional admission before a person has taken more than five courses in the approved program and to clarify prerequisite certificates must be valid.

Amend Rule 290-3-3-.53 to require unconditional admission before a person has taken more than five courses in the approved program and to clarify prerequisite certificates must be valid.

Amend Rule 290-3-3-.53.01 to emphasize a person must be unconditionally admitted before enrolling in courses in the program and to clarify prerequisite certificates must be valid.

Amend Rule 290-3-3-.54 to require unconditional admission before a person has taken more than five courses in the approved program and to clarify prerequisite certificates must be valid.

TIME, PLACE, MANNER OF PRESENTING VIEWS: A public hearing will be held at 9:30 a.m., April 12, 2012, Auditorium Plaza Level, Gordon Persons Building, 50 North Ripley Street, Montgomery, Alabama. All persons wishing to express their views should contact the State Superintendent of Education at (334) 242-9700 no later than April 2, 2012, in order to ensure being scheduled on the agenda. All persons wishing to express their views in writing to the State Superintendent of Education should address all written comments to the State Superintendent of Education, Gordon Persons Building, P.O. Box 302101, Montgomery, Alabama 36130-2101.

FINAL DATE FOR COMMENT AND COMPLETION OF NOTICE: June 5, 2012

CONTACT PERSON AT AGENCY:

Dr. Jayne Meyer  
Alabama State Department of Education  
P.O. Box 302101  
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-2101  
(334) 242-9560



(Signature of officer authorized to promulgate and adopt rules or his or her deputy)

**290-3-3-.44 Alternative Class A Programs for Teaching Fields.**

(1) **Purposes of Alternative Class A Programs.** The purposes of an Alternative Class A program shall be identical to the purposes for preparing teachers at the Class B level in the same teaching field, except that persons who complete the Alternative Class A program shall have acquired knowledge and skill above the level required for completion of a Class B program, including content knowledge, teaching and learning, literacy, diversity, and professionalism. Additional information is provided in Rule 290-3-3-.03.

(2) **Institutional and Program Requirements.**

(a) The provision of Class A programs shall be limited to institutions that meet the standards for accreditation at the master's degree or higher level by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

(b) Post-bachelor's degree coursework shall comply with the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools' *Principles of Accreditation*, section on Educational Programs.

(c) Institutions must have and enforce policies that preclude a candidate who took a course for undergraduate credit from taking the same course for graduate credit.

(d) Completion of a Class A program for a teaching field requires at least 30 semester hours of graduate credit not used for prior-level certification in any teaching field or area of instructional support. ~~prior certification in the same any field.~~

(3) **Unconditional Admission to Alternative Class A Programs.**

(a) **Unconditional admission criteria.**

1. Each institution shall establish and enforce a policy that specifies when the candidate must meet ~~admission~~ criteria for unconditional admission before she or he is admitted to the program. Admission to the graduate school is not equivalent to unconditional admission to an approved program.

2. The policy must include all unconditional admission requirements specified in Rules 290-3-3-.44(3)(a)3. through .44(3)(d).

3. Candidates admitted or after October 1, 2009, may complete no more than five approved program courses prior to unconditional admission.

4. Teaching field course requirements specified in Rule 290-3-3-.44(3)(d) must be met prior to unconditional admission unless a graduate course will be used to meet the requirement of a course in each of the areas listed in a comprehensive middle level or secondary teaching field (English language arts, general science, general social studies).

5. Courses that were taken as part of the degree used to meet the admission requirement in Rule 290-3-3-.44(3)(b) for a bachelor's or higher degree with a minimum grade point average of 2.5 cannot be used again to meet Alternative Class A program requirements.

**(b) Degree requirements.** A person who is eligible for admission to an Alternative Class A program shall have earned a bachelor's or higher degree with a minimum grade point average (GPA) overall of 2.50. This GPA must be documented on the official transcript of the degree granting institution and must be the GPA that was used as the basis for granting the degree. In addition, the person must meet one of the following options:

1. Earned a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited college or university.

2. Earned a bachelor's degree from a non-regionally accredited institution and an earned master's or higher degree from a regionally accredited institution, and has attained a passing score on the prescribed Praxis II subject assessment of the Alabama Prospective Teacher Testing Program (APTTP). This option is permitted only when both of the following conditions are met:

(i) At the discretion of the administrative head of the unit and in accordance with institutional policy.

(ii) If there is a prescribed Praxis II subject assessment of the APTTP.

3. Earned a bachelor's degree from a non-regionally accredited institution, holds a valid professional educator certificate in the state where the institution is geographically located, and has attained a passing score on the prescribed Praxis II subject assessment of the APTTP. This option is permitted only when both of the following conditions are met:

(i) At the discretion of the administrative head of the unit and in accordance with institutional policy.

(ii) If there is a prescribed Praxis II subject assessment of the APTTP.

**(c) General studies.** Individuals applying for admission to:

1. Alternative Class A programs in early childhood education, elementary education, early childhood special education, or collaborative special education teacher (K-6) shall have earned at least 12 semester hours of acceptable credit, as verified on official transcripts, in each of the following areas: English language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies or, effective May 4, 2009, earned the current passing score on the prescribed Praxis II subject assessment of the Alabama Prospective Teacher Testing Program.

2. Alternative Class A programs in collaborative special education teacher (6-12) shall have earned at least 12 semester hours of acceptable credit, as verified on official transcripts, in each of the following areas: English language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies.

3. Alternative Class A programs in teaching fields other than early childhood education, elementary education, early childhood special education, collaborative special education (K-6 or 6-12):

(i) Candidates admitted before October 1, 2009, must meet general studies requirements for courses including humanities, social science, science, and mathematics.

(ii) Candidates admitted on or after October 1, 2009, are not required to meet general studies requirements for courses including humanities, social science, science, and mathematics.

(d) **Teaching field.** Prior to unconditional admission, a person who wishes to earn certification in a teaching field listed below shall have completed one of the options in Rule 290-3-3-.44(3)(d)1.- 5. below:

1. For any teaching field, effective May 4, 2009, in lieu of Rule 290-2-3-3-.44(3)(d)2. through 5., verification of a current passing score on the prescribed Praxis II subject assessment of the Alabama Prospective Teacher Testing Program.

2. Early Childhood Education, Elementary Education, Early Childhood Special Education, Collaborative Special Education Teacher K-6, Collaborative Teacher 6-12: At least 32 semester hours with at least 19 semester hours at the upper-division level courses appropriate to the curriculum indicated in *Alabama Courses of Study* and/or related pedagogy or, at a minimum, the institution must require 12 semester hours in each of the four areas of general studies as prescribed in Rule ~~29009-3-3-.44(3)(c)1.~~ and 2. The institution may have additional requirements as it deems appropriate.

3. Single Teaching Field for Middle Level or Secondary: An academic major in the teaching field, or if an academic major is not on the official transcript, 32 semester hours appropriate to the teaching field including at least 19 semester hours of upper-division credit.

4. Comprehensive Middle Level or Secondary Teaching Fields:

(i) English Language Arts: An academic major in an area included in English language arts—e.g., English, speech, drama/theatre, and journalism—and at least one course in each of the other listed areas of English language arts. If an academic major is not on the official transcript, then the admission requirement shall be 32 semester hours of credit appropriate to English language arts, including at least 19 semester hours of upper-division credit. At a minimum, coursework must include courses in literature, grammar, reading skills, writing, speech, theatre, and print or broadcast journalism. If an applicant does not have a course in each of the areas indicated, but meets all other admission requirements, then credit for that course(s) must be earned prior to program completion.

(ii) General Science: An academic major in an area included in the sciences—e.g., biology, chemistry, Earth or space science, and physics—and at least one course in each of the other listed areas of general science. If an academic major is not on the official transcript, then the admission requirement shall be 32 semester hours of credit appropriate to general science including at least 19 semester hours of upper-division credit and at least one course in each of following areas: biology, chemistry, Earth or space science, and physics. If an applicant does not have a course in each of the areas indicated, but meets all other admission requirements, then credit for that course(s) must be earned prior to program completion.

(iii) **General Social Studies:** An academic major in an area included in the social studies—e.g., economics, geography, history, and political science—and at least one course in each of the other areas listed in the social studies. If an academic major is not on the official transcript, then the admission requirement shall be 32 semester hours of credit appropriate to the social studies with at least 19 semester hours of upper-division credit and at least one course in each of the following areas: economics, geography, history, and political science. If an applicant does not have a course in each of the areas indicated, but meets all other admission requirements, then credit for that course(s) must be earned prior to program completion.

(iv) **Career and Technical Education:** At least 32 semester hours appropriate to the teaching field including at least 19 semester hours of upper-division credit.

5. **P-12 Programs:** An academic major in the teaching field or, if an academic major is not on the official transcript, 32 semester hours of credit appropriate to the teaching field including at least 19 semester hours of upper-division credit.

**(4) Curriculum of Alternative Class A Programs.** A program in a given teaching field shall be designed to develop appropriate Class B teaching competencies. In addition, a program shall include:

**(a) Teaching field** of at least one-third of the total number of graduate hours in the program. English language arts, general science, and general social studies programs shall require at least one course in two areas within the broader field.

**(b) Alabama Quality Teaching Standards** in Rule 290-3-3-.03 and require study in the following areas: content knowledge; curriculum; methods of teaching; meeting the needs of diverse populations, including, but not limited to, students with special needs; literacy, including mathematics and technology; professionalism; and using assessment data to improve student learning.

**(c) Methods course.** Each Class B and Alternative Class A teaching field shall be supported by at least one methods course specific to the teaching field or to the general area of the teaching field (e.g., science methods or social studies methods). Methods courses for specific teaching fields or for the general area of the teaching field shall not be combined with methods courses of other teaching fields or general areas (e.g., mathematics and biology). If the faculty members who teach methods courses have not had recent P-12 teaching experience that has provided knowledge of the trends and issues in the P-12 setting, then each methods course shall be team taught with a P-12 teacher who holds at least a valid master's-level certificate in an appropriate teaching field or shall be taught by that P-12 teacher. Additional information is provided in Rule 290-3-3-.02(4)(b). The requirement for Alternative Class A programs is effective for candidates admitted on or after August 1, 2011.

**(d) Five Core Propositions of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.** Additional information is provided in Rule 290-3-3-.42(4)(c).

**(e) Technology proficiencies** specified in Rule 290-3-3-.42(4)(b).

**(f) Field experiences** in a wide variety of school settings. The field experiences must comply with Rule 290-3-3-.02(6)(a) and (b).



**(g) Internship.**

1. The internship in Alternative Class A programs shall be full-time in the schools for a full semester in the teaching field for which certification is sought and may include more than one classroom or grade level, with experiences of the intern progressing to the full responsibilities of the teacher for at least 20 full days including at least 10 consecutive days.

2. The internship must comply with Rule 290-3-3-.02(6)(c) regarding dividing the internship.

3. Entry and exit criteria shall be clearly identified for the internship.

**(h) Survey of special education course** if not previously completed.

**(5) Requirements for Alternative Class A Certification.** Readiness to serve as a teacher shall include:

(a) An official transcript from a regionally accredited institution documenting an earned master's degree.

(b) Satisfactory completion of a State-approved program with a minimum GPA of 3.0 on all courses in the Alabama State Board of Education approved teacher education program.

(c) Competence to teach students as demonstrated in an internship as described in Rule 290-3-3-.02(6)(a) and (c).

(d) A passing score on a comprehensive assessment documenting mastery of the curriculum of the Alternative Class A program, which may include, but may not be limited to, an oral examination.

**(6) Testing for Alternative Class A Certification.** Applicants for initial certification through the completion of an Alternative Class A program must meet the requirements of the Alabama Prospective Teacher Testing Program (APTTP). Additional information is provided in Rule 290-3-3-.42(6).

**(7) Special Alternative Certificate.**

(a) A Special Alternative Certificate (SAC) allows a superintendent or administrator to employ an applicant who is completing requirements for Class A certification in a teaching field through a State-approved Alternative Class A program at an Alabama institution. Additional information, including requirements and restrictions, is provided in Rule 290-3-2-.06.

(b) Special provisions for holders of Special Alternative Certificates.

1. A teacher who is employed based on holding a valid Special Alternative Certificate for early childhood education (or early childhood special education) and is teaching above the kindergarten level may, at the discretion of the unit, complete a three semester hour practicum at the preschool and/or kindergarten level to meet the internship requirements applicable to the early childhood education program (or early childhood special education program). Similarly, a teacher who is employed based on holding a valid Special Alternative Certificate for early childhood education (or early childhood special education) and is teaching at the kindergarten level or below may, at the

discretion of the unit, complete a three semester hour practicum in Grades 1, 2, and/or 3 to meet the internship requirements applicable to early childhood education (or early childhood special education) programs.

2. A teacher who is employed based on holding a valid Special Alternative Certificate for elementary education (or collaborative special education K-6) and is teaching at the lower elementary level (grades K, 1, 2, and/or 3) may, at the discretion of the unit, complete a three semester hour practicum at the upper elementary level (grades 4, 5, and/or 6) to meet the internship requirements applicable to the elementary education (or collaborative special education K-6) program. Similarly, a teacher who is employed based on holding a valid Special Alternative Certificate for elementary education (or collaborative special education K-6) and is teaching at the upper elementary level may, at the discretion of the unit, complete a three semester hour practicum at the lower elementary level to meet the internship requirements applicable to the elementary education (or collaborative special education K-6) program.

3. A teacher who is employed based on holding a valid Special Alternative Certificate for a teaching field that spans Grades P-12 and is teaching at the elementary level (K-6) may, at the discretion of the unit, complete a three semester hour practicum at the secondary level (6-12) to meet the internship requirements applicable to the P-12 program. Similarly, a teacher who is employed based on holding a valid Special Alternative Certificate for a teaching field that spans Grades P-12 and is teaching at the secondary level (6-12) may, at the discretion of the unit, complete a three semester hour practicum at the elementary level to meet the internship requirements applicable to the P-12 program.

4. A teacher who is employed based on holding a valid Special Alternative Certificate for collaborative special education teacher (K-6) or (6-12) and who is enrolled in a collaborative special education program for both K-6 and 6-12 but whose employment is limited to the grade span for which certification is held may, at the discretion of the unit, complete a three semester hour practicum at the level for which certification is not held to meet the internship requirements applicable to both programs.

**Author:** Dr. Joseph B. Morton, Dr. Thomas R. Bice.

**Statutory Authority:** Ala. Code §§16-3-16; 16-23-1; 16-23-2 (1975).

**History:** New 02-13-86; amended 12-13-90, effective 02-01-91; repealed and adopted new 01-09-97, effective 07-01-97; amended 06-14-99, effective 07-19-99; amended 03-14-02, effective 04-18-02; repealed and adopted new 09-11-03, effective 10-16-03; repealed and adopted new 07-13-04, effective 08-17-04; repealed and adopted new 04-14-05, effective 05-19-05; repealed and adopted new 08-06-07, effective 09-10-07; amended 04-09-09, effective 5-14-09; repealed and adopted new 08-03-09; effective 10-01-09, amended \_\_\_\_\_; effective \_\_\_\_\_.