

Tennessee

SUPPLY/DEMAND CONSIDERATIONS

Officials say they do not believe the state is experiencing a major shortage of principals and superintendents.

Tennessee does not require that superintendents hold a license. Superintendents in the state were formerly elected. However, officials say most superintendents still hold a license.

REGULAR PATH

PRINCIPAL

Beginning Administrator License

Prerequisites

A candidate must:

- Have a teaching certificate;
- Have teaching experience.

Program Standards

The candidate must:

- Complete an approved graduate program in school administration, including a practicum; and
- Be recommended by the college or university for the Beginning Administrator License; or
- Complete a 1-semester internship, working through a Tennessee school district under a mentor principal; and
- Be recommended by the college or university and the school district superintendent for the Beginning Administrator License; and
- Successfully complete the SLAA examination (On this performance-based, test, candidates must respond to scenarios. It replaced an old test that was multiple choice.).

Exit Standards

Upon completion of the requirements, the candidate is issued a Beginning Administrator License. This enables him or her to obtain employment as a beginning principal in a Tennessee public or state-accredited private school. Once this occurs, an evaluation process begins, leading to the Professional Administrator License.

During this process, the individual must:

- Complete a customized professional development program (jointly developed by the principal, superintendent, college or university, and mentor);
- Complete 2 years of successful experience as a principal;
- Be evaluated by the superintendent or a designee;
- Be recommended by the superintendent and the college or university for the Professional Administrator License.

ALTERNATE PATH

The state has an alternate route which could be used for school administrators. However, officials are not certain whether it ever has been.

PRINCIPAL

Interim E License for School Administrator

Valid for 1 school year; renewable twice for a total of 3 years.

A person who already holds a full Tennessee license is not eligible for the Interim E License. It is designed to assist with initial licensure, not with additional endorsements.

Prerequisites

A candidate must:

- Have a master's degree.

Program Standards

The candidate must:

- Demonstrate that he or she has the knowledge and skills to

qualify for an Interim E License, by:

- € Completing an appropriate degree with an academic major in the desired area of endorsement;
- € Obtaining written verification from the certification officer at a college or university with an approved program in the desired area of endorsement, stating that admission requirements to the program have been satisfied and that the applicant does not lack content courses in the desired area of endorsement; or
- € Successfully completing the required Praxis Exams Specialty Tests.

The candidate is issued an Interim E License and is eligible for employment as a principal. During the period of employment under the license (up to 3 years), he or she must:

- Complete 24 semester hours of professional education coursework.

Exit Standards

Upon completion of the requirements, the individual may be issued a Professional Administrator License.

WAIVERS

Tennessee issues a 1-year, non-renewable Permit (comparable to a “waiver” in other states). This allows a school district to hire an individual who is not qualified for certification, but by the end of the school year, he or she must be enrolled in an alternate route to certification.

PENDING DEVELOPMENTS

Not known.