

**Southern State Licensure Qualifications for School Principals and Assistant Principals****Executive Summary**

Like trends in the teaching profession, states are battling turnover in school leadership and working to increase the number of highly trained, quality principals in schools. Amid a changing education landscape, state policymakers continue to explore ways to ensure school leaders are equipped to guide today's students and teachers. Research from the Wallace Foundation has shown that effective school leadership is one of the most significant factors affecting student learning.¹ To strengthen and increase the number of high-quality school leaders, state policymakers have developed policies on principal preparation and licensure grounded in school leadership standards. This CSG South Research Memo examines Southern state certification requirements for principals to ensure high-quality leadership.

Research Methods

Review of state statutes and legislation using Quorum.

Findings and Analysis

State	Qualification(s) for In-State Candidates	Additional Requirement(s) for Out-of-State Candidates	Citation(s)
Alabama	- Advanced Degree - Assessment - Coursework - Ed Prep Completion - Field Experience - Teaching Certificate/Endorsement - Work Experience	-	<i>Ala. Admin. Code 290-3-2-.03</i>
Arkansas	- Advanced Degree - Assessment - Ed Prep Completion - Teaching Certificate/Endorsement - Work Experience	A master's degree must be recognized by the issuing state	<i>Ark. Admin. Rules 005.28.20-003</i>
Florida	- Advanced Degree - Assessment - Ed Prep Completion - Work Experience	-	<i>Fla. Admin. Rules 6A-4.0083</i>
Georgia	Option 1: - Assessment - Coursework - Ed Prep Completion - Teacher Certificate/Endorsement	Complete an educational leadership certification program at Ed.D. or higher degree; <i>OR</i>	<i>Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. 505-2-.153</i>

¹ [*"How Principals Affect Students and Schools: A systemic Synthesis of Two Decades of Research," Wallace Foundation, February 2021.*](#)



State	Qualification(s) for In-State Candidates	Additional Requirement(s) for Out-of-State Candidates	Citation(s)
	Option 2: - Advanced Degree - Assessment - Coursework - Ed Prep Complement - Work Experience	Complete an educational leadership certification program at the master's level with at least three years of leadership work experience	
Kentucky	- Assessment - Ed Prep Completion - Field Experience - Teaching Certificate - Work Experience	-	16 Ky. Admin. Regs. 3:090
Louisiana	- Advanced Degree - Assessment - Teaching Certificate/Endorsement	-	28 La. Admin. Code Pt CXXXI § 1503; § 1505; § 1527; and §1529
Mississippi	- Assessment - Ed Prep Completion	-	Miss. Code. Ann. § 37-3-2
Missouri	- Advanced Degree - Assessment - Coursework - Ed Prep Completion - Field Experience - Teaching Certificate/Endorsement - Work Experience	-	Mo. Code Regs. Ann. Title 5, § 20-400.610
North Carolina	Option 1: - Advanced Degree - Assessment - Teaching Certificate/Endorsement - Work Experience Option 2: - Assessment - Teaching Certificate/Endorsement - Work Experience	-	N.C. Gen. Stat. Ann. § 115C-270, et seq.
Oklahoma	- Advanced Degree - Assessment - Ed Prep Completion - Work Experience	-	70 Okla. Stat. § 6-189
South Carolina	- Advanced Degree - Assessment - Ed Prep Completion - Teaching Certificate/Endorsement - Work Experience	-	S.C. Code Ann. Regs. § 43-64
Tennessee	- Advanced Degree - Assessment - Ed Prep Completion	-	Tenn. State Board Policy 5.502



State	Qualification(s) for In-State Candidates	Additional Requirement(s) for Out-of-State Candidates	Citation(s)
	Work Experience		
Texas	- Advanced Degree - Assessment - Ed Prep Completion - Teaching Certificate/Endorsement - Work Experience	-	19 Tex. Admin. Code § 241.1 ; and § 241.20
Virginia	- Advanced Degree - Assessment - Ed Prep Completion - Field Experience - Work Experience	A master's degree recognized by the issuing state and three years of instructional work experience	8 Va. Admin. Code § 20-23-620
West Virginia	- Ed Prep Completion - Work Experience	Complete the state's Evaluation Leadership Institute program	W. Va. Code R. § 126-136-10

State	Assistant Principal Certification(s)	Citation(s)
Alabama	-	-
Arkansas	Same as principal requirements	Ark. Admin. Rules 005.28.20-003
Florida	Same as principal requirements	Fla. Admin. Rules 6A-5.081
Georgia	Tier I Certification allows candidates to work in below-principal leadership positions	Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. 505-3-.77
Kentucky	Same as principal requirements	16 Ky. Admin. Regs. 3:090
Louisiana	Same as principal requirements	28 La. Admin. Code Pt CXXXI § 1527 ; and §1529
Mississippi	Same as principal requirements	Miss. Code. Ann. § 37-3-2
Missouri	-	-
North Carolina	Same as principal requirements	N.C. Gen. Stat. Ann. § 115C-270, et seq.
Oklahoma	Same as principal requirements	70 Okla. Stat. § 6-189
South Carolina	Same as principal requirements	S.C. Code Ann. Regs. § 43-64
Tennessee	Instructional Leader License - Aspiring (ILL-A) allows candidates enrolled in an instructional leader preparation program to serve as assistant principals.	Tenn. Dept. of Education Policy
Texas	Same as principal requirements	19 Tex. Admin. Code § 241.1 ; and § 241.20
Virginia	Same as principal requirements	8 Va. Admin. Code 20-23-620
West Virginia	Same as principal requirements	W. Va. Code R. § 126-136-10