

LIFETIME TEACHING LICENSES ARE NOW AVAILABLE FOR ALL LICENSED ATRS RETIREES REGARDLESS OF AGE AND INCLUDING DISABILITY RETIREES.

Thanks to the hard work of Representative Ron McNair, the 91st General Assembly passed Act 588 of 2017 to greatly expand the availability of lifetime teaching licenses to any retiree of the Arkansas Teacher Retirement System (ATRS). Prior to Act 588 of 2017, a retiree had to be age 62 and retired under age and service retirement to obtain a lifetime license. On and after August 1, 2017, any member receiving a monthly benefit from ATRS that has a **current or expired** teaching license may apply for the Lifetime Teaching License. Importantly, there is **no fee** for a Lifetime Teaching License.

The Lifetime Teaching License is administered by the Arkansas Department of Education. Retirees will need a letter from ATRS that certifies the member is an ATRS retiree. Importantly, even disability retirees are eligible for the lifetime license under Act 588. Educators who have an expired teaching license and meet all the requirements may also apply for a Lifetime Teaching License.

ATRS was not involved in the passage of this legislation, but has agreed to inform members of the expanded opportunity for lifetime teaching licenses. The Lifetime Teaching License is a benefit to members and can improve the availability of teachers and administrators throughout the state.

For ATRS retirees under age 62, a paper application with the Department of Education is required at this time. For those aged 62 and over, an online application is available at the Department of Education. Licensed educators who are 62 years of age or older can [log into their account](#) to complete and submit the application for a Lifetime Teaching License online just as before.

Licensed educators that are not yet 62 but have retired and want to apply for the lifetime teaching license will have to complete and submit [the application](#) by hand. Applications for those under age 62 will also be available online as soon as the application has been updated. All applicants must have passed a criminal and child maltreatment background check within the past twelve months.

Licensed educators may apply for the Lifetime Teaching License at any time they meet the requirements stated in the law. Therefore, retired licensed educators that hold a valid or expired teaching license may apply now or choose to wait until their license is near expiration to apply for the Lifetime Teaching License.

In addition to having no fee for a Lifetime Teaching License, there is also no professional development requirement that must be maintained during retirement. However, if a licensed educator returns to an active licensed position, state and district requirements must be met regarding professional development.

Attached is the Arkansas Department of Education's recently released [Commissioner's Memo LIC-018-003](#) and attachments that provide guidance to qualifying licensed educators wishing to apply for a Lifetime Teaching License. I have also attached a copy of Act 588 of 2017.