

APA-1

TRANSMITTAL SHEET FOR NOTICE OF INTENDED ACTION

Control: 270
Department or Agency: Board of Dental Examiners of Alabama
Rule No.: 270-X-4-.04
Rule Title: Mandatory Continuing Education For Dentists And Dental Hygienists
Intended Action: Repeal and Replace

Would the absence of the proposed rule significantly harm or endanger the public health, welfare, or safety? Yes

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? No

To what degree?: N/A

Is the increase in cost more harmful to the public than the harm that might result from the absence of the proposed rule? NA

Are all facets of the rule-making process designed solely for the purpose of, and so they have, as their primary effect, the protection of the public? Yes

Does the proposed action relate to or affect in any manner any litigation which the agency is a party to concerning the subject matter of the proposed rule? No

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.

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 Services Agency.

Signature of certifying officer

Sharon Thomas
Sharon Thomas

Date

Thursday, April 30, 2026

REC'D & FILED

APR 30, 2026

LEGISLATIVE SVC AGENCY

BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS OF ALABAMA

NOTICE OF INTENDED ACTION

AGENCY NAME: Board of Dental Examiners of Alabama

RULE NO. & TITLE: 270-X-4-.04 Mandatory Continuing Education For
Dentists And Dental Hygienists

INTENDED ACTION: Repeal and Replace

SUBSTANCE OF PROPOSED ACTION:
Modernize the Board's Continuation Education rule.

TIME, PLACE AND MANNER OF PRESENTING VIEWS:
All interested persons may submit data, views, or arguments concerning the proposed new rule(s) and regulation(s) in writing to: Sharon Thomas Board of Dental Examiners 2229 Rocky Ridge Rd Birmingham, AL 35216 or sthomas@dentalboard.org. Comments will be accepted through 5:00 pm on Friday, July 10, 2026.

FINAL DATE FOR COMMENT AND COMPLETION OF NOTICE:
Friday, July 10, 2026

CONTACT PERSON AT AGENCY:
Sharon Thomas
Interim Executive Director
sthomas@dentalboard.org

Sharon Thomas

Sharon Thomas

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

~~1. DEFINITIONS~~

~~a. Live Training The primary presenter or instructor is physically present at the same location as the student and is presenting information in real time.~~

~~b. Online Training The primary presenter or instructor is located at a different physical location than the student and is presenting pre-recorded information by means of an internet-based platform or other media. Self-guided, internet-based courses that may or may not have a presenter would also be considered online training.~~

~~2. NUMBER OF HOURS~~

~~a. Dentists shall complete twenty (20) hours of continuing education every year as a condition of licensure renewal. All continuing education hours earned shall be completed and submitted within the renewal period in which they were earned.~~

~~1. A minimum of ten (10) hours shall be live training.~~

~~2. A dentist shall maintain a current certification in Basic Life Support (BLS) training through the American Heart Association, American Red Cross, or an equivalent program. This program shall be completed through live training and certified for a minimum of two (2) hours and a maximum of four (4) hours.~~

~~3. A dentist shall complete a minimum of one (1) hour of prescribing of controlled substances training annually.~~

~~4. A dentist holding an active sedation or anesthesia related permit (e.g., oral conscious sedation, parenteral sedation, general anesthesia) shall maintain a current certification in Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) training through the American Heart Association, American Red Cross, or an equivalent program. For dentists with a declared pediatric specialty, Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) may be substituted for ACLS. The ACLS or PALS program shall be completed through live training.~~

~~5. A dentist with an active oral conscious sedation permit shall complete a minimum of two (2) hours of training related to sedation and/or anesthesia~~

~~annually.~~

~~6. A dentist shall complete a minimum of one (1) hour of training in infectious disease control annually.~~

~~7. A dentist shall complete a minimum of one (1) hour of ethical considerations in the practice of dentistry training annually.~~

~~8. A dentist may earn up to a maximum of four (4) hours for pro bono charitable work performed within the state of Alabama. One (1) hour of continuing education credit shall be awarded for every two (2) hours of documented service.~~

~~b. Dental hygienists shall complete twelve (12) hours of continuing education every year as a condition of licensure renewal. All continuing education hours earned shall be completed and submitted within the renewal period in which they were earned.~~

~~1. A minimum of six (6) hours shall be live training.~~

~~2. A dental hygienist shall maintain a current certification in Basic Life Support (BLS) training through the American Heart Association, American Red Cross, or an equivalent program. This program shall be completed through live training and certified for a minimum of two (2) hours and a maximum of four (4) hours.~~

~~3. A dental hygienist shall complete a minimum of one (1) hour of training in infectious disease control annually.~~

~~4. A dental hygienist shall complete a minimum of one (1) hour of ethical considerations in the practice of dental hygiene training annually.~~

~~5. A dental hygienist may earn up to a maximum of four (4) hours for pro bono charitable work performed within the state of Alabama. One (1) hour of continuing education credit shall be awarded for every two (2) hours of documented service. Any such service must be completed under the direct supervision of a dentist actively licensed in the state of Alabama.~~

~~3. LICENSEES EXCUSED FROM CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS~~

~~a. A dentist enrolled full-time in a post graduate specialty training or residency program at a dental college accredited by the American Dental Association's Commission on Dental Accreditation is excused from the requirements in 2(a). The dentist shall provide~~

~~documentation of their enrollment during the annual renewal as described in 4(d).~~

~~b. A licensee may submit a written request to the Board requesting a waiver or extension of the continuing education requirements for a specific annual cycle. The written request and supporting documentation must be received by the Board no later than September 1st of the annual continuing education cycle in which the waiver or extension is to apply. Upon review, the Board shall notify the licensee in writing of their approval or denial of the request.~~

~~c. A dentist or dental hygienist licensed in the State of Alabama but practicing outside the State of Alabama is excused from the requirements of 2(a) or 2(b). If the dentist or dental hygienist returns to the State of Alabama to practice, they shall submit proof of continuing education for the number of years they practiced outside the State of Alabama up to a maximum of five (5) years.~~

~~4. RECORD KEEPING, REPORTING, AND MONITORING~~

~~a. Licensees shall document continuing education by uploading proof of completion to their online continuing education account maintained within the board approved online platform (i.e., CE Broker).~~

~~b. Proof of completion documents shall include, at a minimum, the name of the licensee, the date the training occurred, the number of approved continuing education hours, the entity or instructor providing the training, and the location where the training occurred.~~

~~c. Documentation regarding pro bono charitable work shall include, at a minimum, the name of the licensee, the date the service was provided, the beginning and ending time the service was provided, the entity the service was provided on behalf of, and the name and phone number of a contact person that can verify the service was provided.~~

~~d. A dentist enrolled full-time in a post graduate specialty training or residency program at a dental college accredited by the American Dental Association's Commission on Dental Accreditation, shall upload a letter from their specialty training or residency program indicating the start date and anticipated graduation date~~

~~of their training. This document is required to renew their dental license with the Board.~~

~~e. An applicant applying for a dental or dental hygiene license shall, at a minimum, provide documentation of completion of BLS and Infectious Disease Control training.~~

~~f. It is the responsibility of the licensee to maintain continuing education records for a period of two (2) years in a manner prescribed by the Board.~~

~~g. A dentist or dental hygienist requesting to reinstate their license after having requested their license be placed inactive or having allowed their license to expire shall show continuing education equal to 2(a) or 2(b) up to a maximum of five (5) years. If the license has been inactive or expired for more than five (5) years, the dentist or dental hygienist shall be required to show continuing education equal to 2(a) or 2(b) and additional continuing education as determined by the Board. The additional continuing education shall include but not limited to live training in hand/instrument skills.~~

~~5. AUDIT PROCEDURES~~

~~a. The Board shall conduct random audits of the continuing education documents uploaded by licensees into their online continuing education account. The scope of the random audit will be determined by the Board and the Executive Director will be responsible for completing the audit and reporting the results to the Board.~~

~~b. Any documented continuing education training that does not appear to be related to the practice of dentistry or fall within the established scope of practice for a licensee shall be reviewed by a designee of the Board prior to being accepted or denied as part of an audit.~~

~~e. A licensee chosen for audit shall receive notification of the results of the audit.~~

~~d. A licensee that does not successfully pass an audit shall be subject to the provisions of Alabama Administrative Code, r. 270-X-5-.09 "Non-disciplinary Administrative Penalties."~~

~~6. GENERAL CRITERIA FOR APPROVED CONTINUING EDUCATION~~

~~a. Continuing education credit shall be awarded at the rate of one (1) hour for every fifty (50) minutes of instruction.~~

~~b. Continuing education for licensees should be related to the practice of dentistry and fall within their established scope of practice.~~

~~c. Training provided by national, state, district, or local dental or dental hygiene associations shall be recognized as approved training.~~

~~d. Training provided by accredited dental or dental hygiene colleges or schools shall be recognized as approved training.~~

~~e. A licensee that is the primary presenter or instructor of continuing education training may submit the training for continuing education credit that is eligible to be applied to their individual professional license or permit. The rate of two (2) hours of credit for each one (1) hour of instruction presented shall be awarded. Documentation of this instruction must show the licensee's name as the primary presenter or instructor, the topic, the length of the training, the location, and the date/time of the presentation.~~

~~7. CRITERIA FOR SUBMITTING TRAINING FOR BOARD APPROVAL~~

~~a. Courses that do not meet the criteria noted in 6(a, b) above may be submitted to the Board, or designee, for pre-approval. Once approved, the course shall be accepted by the Board when submitted by licensees towards their annual continuing education requirements. Courses should be submitted at least thirty (30) days in advance to ensure approval prior to presentation. The Board reserves the right to approve or deny course submissions. A designee of the Board may attend or audit any approved courses to ensure compliance with this rule.~~

~~b. Courses submitted for approval shall have documentation of, at a minimum:~~

- ~~1. Didactic/clinical subject matter;~~
- ~~2. Type of presenter/student participation;~~
- ~~3. Outlined course objectives;~~
- ~~4. Number of requested continuing education credit hours;~~
- ~~5. Primary presenter/instructor's qualifications.~~

~~e. Courses submitted for approval as meeting the ethical considerations requirement in Section 2 above should demonstrate the course includes substantial content addressing any combination of one or more of the following topics:~~

- ~~1. The American Dental Association (ADA) Principles of Ethics and Code of Professional Conduct (dentists and/or dental hygienists);~~
- ~~2. The American Dental Hygienists Association (ADHA) Code of Ethics for Dental Hygienists (dental hygienists only);~~
- ~~3. Abuse, neglect, or human trafficking;~~
- ~~4. Sexual abuse, misconduct, and/or boundary violations;~~
- ~~5. Informed consent;~~
- ~~6. Billing and coding;~~
- ~~7. Mandatory reporting obligations applicable to dentists and/or dental hygienists.~~

~~d. Courses presented by the American Society for Dental Ethics or the American College of Dentistry, and any course that satisfies an ethics continuing education requirement of the licensee's professional liability insurance carrier, will also generally be accepted as satisfying the ethics requirement.~~

~~**Author:** Board of Dental Examiners~~

~~**Statutory Authority:** Code of Ala. 1975, §§34-9-2, 34-9-15, 34-9-18, 34-9-43.~~

~~**History:** Filed January 10, 1991; effective October 1, 1991.—~~

~~**Amended:** Filed April 3, 1997; effective May 8, 1997. **Amended:**~~

~~Filed September 4, 1998; effective October 11, 1998. **Amended:**~~

~~Filed July 11, 2003; effective August 15, 2003. **Amended:** Filed~~

~~August 11, 2004; effective September 15, 2004. **Amended:** Filed~~

~~February 14, 2005; effective March 21, 2005. **Amended:** Filed~~

~~March 15, 2006; effective April 19, 2006. **Amended:** Filed July~~

~~29, 2008; effective September 2, 2008. **Amended:** Filed February~~

~~22, 2012; effective March 28, 2012. **Amended:** Filed May 5, 2016;~~

~~effective July 1, 2016; operative October 1, 2016. **Repealed and**~~

~~**New Rule:** Filed January 16, 2019; effective March 2, 2019.—~~

~~**Amended:** Published February 28, 2020; effective April 13, 2020.—~~

~~**Amended:** Published April 28, 2023; effective: June 12, 2023;~~

~~operative October 1, 2023. **Amended:** Published September 29,~~

~~2023; effective November 13, 2023. **Amended:** Published December~~

~~31, 2024; effective February 14, 2025.~~

Mandatory Continuing Education For Dentists And
Dental Hygienists.

1. General. This rule sets forth the continuing education (CE) requirements for dentists and dental hygienists (licensees) in accordance with Ala. Code § 34-9-15(e). As prescribed in Ala. Code § 34-9-15, successful completion of continuing education program requirements shall be a requisite for renewal of licenses and permits. This rule shall apply to the renewal cycle beginning October 1, 2026, and each renewal cycle thereafter.

2. Definitions. As used in this Rule:

a. Continuing Education Unit (CEU): One (1) hour of documented and approved CE earned related to a licensee's practice of dentistry.

b. Renewal Cycle: The fixed period of time during which a license or permit remains valid upon issuance of a registration certificate, beginning on the effective date of that registration certificate and ending on its expiration date established by statute or Board rule.

c. Approved Continuing Education: Training provided by national, state, district, or local dental or dental hygiene associations. Training provided by accredited dental or dental hygiene colleges or schools. Training submitted and approved by the Board. Training provided in an entirely self-study format must include a post-course assessment or competency evaluation.

3. General Rules of the Administration of Continuing Education

a. All CEUs earned shall be completed and documented within the applicable renewal cycle.

b. All licensees shall have an account through the Board-approved online CE platform.

c. All licensees shall report CEUs by uploading proof of completion to their Board-approved online CE platform. Documentation must include the name of the licensee, date of completion, course title, location, number of CEUs,

instructor(s) providing the education, and CE organization.

d. All licensees shall comply with their corresponding CE requirements as set forth in Sections 4 or 5 as a condition of license renewal.

4. Continuing Education for Dentists

a. Dentists shall complete CE at a rate of twenty (20) CEUs per each twelve (12) month period of the renewal cycle. This requirement shall be calculated proportionally based on the length of the renewal cycle.

1. All dentists shall complete a minimum of one (1) CEU in each of the following subjects each renewal cycle:

- i. Prescribing controlled substances
- ii. Ethics (human trafficking, proper billing, abuse reporting, etc.)
- iii. Infectious disease control

2. A dentist shall maintain a current certification in Basic Life Support (BLS) through the American Heart Association, American Red Cross, or an equivalent program with a hands-on portion. A dentist may report two (2) CEUs for completing a BLS certification every two (2) years.

3. A dentist with any active sedation permit shall maintain a current certification in Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) training through the programs in 4(a)(2). Such dentists with a declared pediatric specialty may substitute Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) for ACLS. A dentist may report up to four (4) CEUs for each approved advanced cardiopulmonary, resuscitative, or emergency airway management CE course completed every two (2) years.

4. A dentist with any active sedation permit shall complete a minimum of one (1) CEU in the subject of sedation or anesthesia each renewal cycle.

5. A dentist may report one (1) CEU per two (2) hours of documented pro bono charitable dental service, up to a maximum of four (4) CEUs each renewal cycle. Documentation must include the date, location, entity, and verifiable contact person of service

provided and is subject to Board verification upon request.

6. A dentist may report one (1) CEU per (1) hour teaching approved CE, up to a maximum of six (6) CEUs each renewal cycle. Documentation must include this instructor's name as the primary presenter or instructor, the topic, the length of the training, the location, and the date/time of the presentation.
7. A dentist may report up to two (2) CEUs for documented in person attendance of at least two (2) hours of a Board of Dental Examiners of Alabama meeting per renewal cycle. Board members are not eligible to report these CEUs.
8. A dentist may report a maximum of three (3) CEUs for training in the areas of insurance, governmental regulations, risk management, tort liability and/or practice management each renewal cycle.
9. A dentist may earn a maximum of eight (8) CEUs per calendar day.

5. Continuing Education for Hygienists

a. Dental Hygienists shall complete CE at a rate of twelve (12) CEUs per each twelve (12) month period of the renewal cycle. This requirement shall be calculated proportionally based on the length of the renewal cycle.

1. A dental hygienist shall complete a minimum of one (1) CEU in each of the following subjects each renewal cycle:
 - i. Ethics (human trafficking, proper billing, abuse reporting, etc.)
 - ii. Infectious disease control
2. A dental hygienist shall maintain a current certification in Basic Life Support (BLS) through the American Heart Association, American Red Cross, or an equivalent program with a hands-on portion. A dental hygienist may report two (2) CEUs for completing a BLS certification every two (2) years.
3. A dental hygienist may report one (1) CEU per two (2) hours of documented pro bono charitable dental service, up to a maximum of four (4) CEUs each renewal cycle. Documentation must include the

supervising dentist, date, location, entity, and verifiable contact person of service provided and is subject to Board verification upon request.

4. A dental hygienist may report one (1) CEU per (1) hour teaching approved CE, up to a maximum of four (4) CEUs each renewal cycle. Documentation must include this instructor's name as the primary presenter or instructor, the topic, the length of the training, the location, and the date/time of the presentation.
5. A dental hygienist may report up to two (2) CEUs for documented in person attendance of at least two (2) hours of a Board of Dental Examiners of Alabama meeting per renewal cycle. Board members are not eligible to report these CEUs.
6. A dental hygienist may report a maximum of three (3) CEUs for training in the areas of insurance, governmental regulations, risk management, tort liability and/or practice management each renewal cycle.
7. A dental hygienist may earn a maximum of eight (8) CEUs per calendar day.

6. Licensees Excused from Continuing Education Requirements

a. The following are exempt from the CE requirements of this rule:

1. A dentist enrolled in a full-time post-graduate specialty training or residency program at a dental college or program accredited by the American Dental Association's Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) for at least six (6) months of that renewal cycle. To qualify, documentation of such enrollment, start date, and anticipated graduation date must be uploaded into the Board-approved online CE platform.
2. A hygienist enrolled in a full-time academic program directly related to dentistry/dental hygiene for at least six (6) months of that renewal cycle. To qualify, documentation of such enrollment, start

date, and anticipated graduation date must be uploaded into the Board-approved online CE platform.

3. A licensee with a Board approved written waiver or extension of the continuing education requirements for a renewal cycle. A written request and supporting documentation for such waiver or extension must be received by the Board before the end of that renewal cycle. After review, the Board will notify the licensee in writing of approval or denial of the request.

7. Documentation and Audit Procedure: Consequences for Non-Compliance

- a. All licensees shall keep and maintain CE records for their current and previous five (5) years. All licensees are required to produce any documentation of CE requested by the Board and/or its designee within fourteen (14) days of written request or audit.
- b. The Board may randomly audit licensees each renewal cycle for their compliance with this rule in the immediately preceding renewal cycle. These licensees will be provided with written notification of their results within thirty (30) days of completion of their audit.
- c. Any licensee who fails to comply with any provision of this rule may be subject to disciplinary action, and/or, if applicable, a non-disciplinary administrative penalty under Rule 270-X-5-.09.

8. Criteria for Board Approved Continuing Education

- a. Courses that do not meet the criteria noted in 2(c) above may be submitted to the Board for consideration of approval. Courses should be submitted at least sixty (60) days in advance. The Board or designated staff may attend or audit any approved continuing education to ensure compliance with this rule. The Board reserves the right to approve or disapprove of any course submitted.
- b. Courses submitted will be approved or disapproved based on the following criteria:
 1. Didactic/clinical subject matter;
 2. Type of presenter/student participation;
 3. Outlined course objectives;
 4. Number of requested CEUs; and

5. Primary presenter/instructor's qualifications.

9. License Application or License Reinstatement

- a. An applicant applying for a dental or dental hygiene license shall provide documentation of a current BLS certification.
- b. A licensee requesting reinstatement that has been placed in an expired or suspended status shall show continuing education up to five (5) years as described in 4(a) or 5(a). If their license is expired or suspended for more than five (5) years, the licensee shall be required to show continuing education as determined by the Board.

Author: Board of Dental Examiners

Statutory Authority: Code of Ala. 1975, §§34-9-2, 34-9-15, 34-9-18, 34-9-43.

History: Filed January 10, 1991; effective October 1, 1991.

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