The Pascagoula-Gautier School District (PGSD) is committed to educating tomorrow’s college and career ready students in our inclusive innovation nation. We want to revitalize this mission through our Districtof Innovation application as we aim to provide our students, approximately 6,900, with support on all levels with our Pre-K to Workforce vision, inclusive of all subgroups, ensuring rigor and career focus each step of the way.Our innovative plan has goals that will result in several student and district outcomes. By providing students with various opportunities to aspire towards, such as taking the ACT WorkKeys, having the option of earning the Seal of Biliteracy, graduating with an Associate’s degree, and earning national certifications, they will have an increased chance of being successful in their chosen career field. Some examples include a student who completes a two-year program in welding and then gets the chance to intern at Ingalls Shipbuilding with job offers at completion or a health science student earning his/her LPN license before graduation. Students can also work at McDonald’s while being trained for a management position when they graduate. Our Teacher Academy completers can get a job withthe district as a paid teacher’s assistant. Students who complete the Unmanned Aerial Systems program (flying drones) can earn an FAA certification and gain employment after graduation. Students with IEPs,who traditionally would not enroll in a Career & Technical Education (CTE) course, can now get real-world, hands-on experience in different programs that will lead to employment. Due to all of the district’s opportunities, we are certain that the district deserves to earn the District of Innovation status.

**Department Recommendation: Approve with NO Waivers**

**Waivers**

Waiver 1 is requested for any student who has completed Health Science 1 to work for the local hospital system towards earning his/her LPN and be considered a CTE second-year completer once the LPN program is completed. Currently, these students working towards their LPN would not be considered completers because they would not have taken the Health Science II class. We will also work with the local community college to have them consider these students as completers.

Waiver 2 is for the Seal of Biliteracy to count in the acceleration piece of the accountability model for students who earn the Seal. In our local area and economy, we have a high percentage of non-English speakers. We want to encourage and motivate students to become proficient in English and become proficient in their first language. Because proficiency in two world languages is so prestigious and rigorous, we believe it should count towards a point in the acceleration piece of the accountability model.

Waiver 3 is for students in CTEP who complete the program to count towards the graduation rate in the accountability model. The goal is to graduate students, increase the graduation rate, and prepare students for beyond graduation. Through our CTEP program, students with special needs have an opportunity to learn and engage in work-based learning opportunities that will enhance their skills and prepare them for potential jobs. We want ALL students to be contributing members of society, and the CTEP program will help students do just that. For these reasons, we believe students who earn credentials and complete the CTEP program have earned as much as a diploma when preparing for a job and independent living.