

**OFFICE OF INSTRUCTIONAL ENHANCEMENT AND INTERNAL OPERATIONS**  
**Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Items**  
**July 18-19, 2013**

**OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT**

13. Approval to award a discretionary grant to the Research and Curriculum Unit (RCU) at Mississippi State University to enhance the statewide system of support and coordinated services to local districts

Purpose: The Research and Curriculum Unit (RCU) at Mississippi State University currently provides the following services for the Mississippi Department of Education through the Office of Career and Technical Education:

- Data collections and management
- Technical support for the learning management system
- Assessment and curriculum development
- Program development and evaluation
- Educator and administrator evaluation

Funding for this discretionary grant will allow the RCU to provide the following comparable services across multiple offices at MDE:

- Consistent technical support for the data management systems and technology including the MDE learning management system
- Reduce duplication of services across MDE offices
- Engage in legislative requirements that involve the RCU
- Provide assessment services as an extension of the Mississippi Assessment Center

Scope of Grant:

- Grant Period: July 19, 2013 – June 30, 2014
- Award Amount: Maximum of \$400,400
- Method of Award: Discretionary

Funding Source: State and Federal Funds

Recommendation: Approval

Back-up material attached