

OFFICE OF CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER
Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Items
April 19, 2023

OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION

04.A. Action: Award competitive grants for the Special Education Grants to States Special Education New Teacher Mentor Program Coordinator Educator-in-Residence [Goal 4 – MBE Strategic Plan]

Background and Purpose: The Mississippi Department of Education (MDE), Office of Special Education is seeking competitive Request for Applications (RFA) from qualified applicants for an Educator-in-Residence (EIR) to serve as the Special Education Mentor Program (SEMP) Coordinator. This SEMP Coordinator will provide services for the Mississippi Department of Education to implement recruitment and retention strategies in participating Local Education Agencies (LEAs) to address the special education teacher shortage in Mississippi. The Program’s goals and objectives include the following: (a) work with the MDE, Office of Special Education staff to coordinate, prioritize, schedule, and provide technical assistance to teachers and administrators on support strategies for special education teachers, especially new special education teachers; (b) provide appropriate services to districts and schools to ensure that there is cohesive, sustained, intensive, and aligned professional development that is relevant, engaging, and aligned to the High-Leverage Practices for Students with Disabilities; provide mentor training and ongoing support before and throughout the school year to mentors in participating LEAs; provide professional learning to new special education teachers in participating LEAs throughout the school year; and provide professional development to administrators in participating LEAs throughout the school year; (c) develop non-threatening, open, professional, and collaborative work relationships with district-level school personnel, principals, mentors, and teachers; and (d) assist each participating district and school in the development of a sustainable induction and mentoring program to support the needs of new special education teachers.

Grant for years two (2) through three (3) shall be contingent upon the successful completion of services from the preceding fiscal year’s grant and the availability of funds.

Scope of Grant:

- Grant Period: May 1, 2023 – June 30, 2025
(With a liquidation period ending July 12, 2025)

- Award Amount: \$ 16,729.25 – Year 1
 \$100,375.50 – Year 2
 \$100,375.50 – Year 3
- Method of Award: Request for Application

Funding Source: Federal funds (IDEA)

Summary of Selection Process:

A competitive grant selection process was utilized to award the grant.

Scoring Criteria:

- A. Application
- B. Resume
- C. Certification and Licenses
- D. Interview

This item references Goal 4 of the *Mississippi Board of Education Strategic Plan*.

Recommendation: Approval

Back-up material attached

**MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
 Competitive Grant Awards to Districts for
 Educator-in-Residence (EIR) Program
 May 1, 2023 - June 30, 2025**

Special Education New Teacher Mentor Program Coordinator

District	EIR Funded	Annual Salary	Fringe	Total Amount Awarded May 1, 2023 – June 30, 2025
Ocean Springs	1	\$75,000.00	\$25,375.00	\$217,480.25