




Mississippi Department of Education
Carey M. Wright, Ed.D • State Superintendent of Education

Kim S. Benton, Ed.D. • Chief Deputy State Superintendent
Office of Instructional Enhancement and Internal Operations

Marcus E. Cheeks • Bureau Director
Office of Federal Programs • Tele: 601-359-3499 • Fax: 601-359-2587

To: Federal Program Directors

From: Marcus E. Cheeks, Bureau Director 

Date: April 14, 2014

Subject: Funding Teacher Units with Federal Funds

I am writing to offer clarification on how LEAs may ensure compliance with federal regulation when considering using federal funds (e.g., Title I, Title II) to pay salaries and benefits for classroom teachers. An LEA must first ensure all state requirements have been met, as outlined in state statute and policy, such as the *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards*. The standards require the following student-teacher ratios, as outlined in MS Code §37-151-77, which must be met before federal funds can be used to supplement state and local funds:

- 22 to 1 in kindergarten (27 to 1 if full-time assistant teacher is employed in classroom)
- 27 to 1 in classrooms serving grades 1 through 4
- 30 to 1 in self-contained classes serving grades 5-8
- 33 to 1 in departmentalized academic core classes serving grades 5-12
- 150 to 1 at any time during the school year by an individual teacher in academic core subjects

The school district should review net membership by school, grade, and classroom using the Month 1 MSIS attendance (ADA) report in order to determine the teacher-student ratios meet the state standards before placing federally funded teachers. The Office of Federal Programs will review this report when monitoring the district's federal programs. However, if a situation occurs during the school year that could cause ratios to exceed the state requirement, then the district should review data more often to ensure state and local funds are not supplanted with federal funds.

C: Kim Benton, Deputy Superintendent