

OFFICE OF CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER
Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Items
March 7, 2024

OFFICE OF SECONDARY EDUCATION

01. Action: Approval and renewal of Districts and Schools of Innovation for 2024-2025 [Goal 2 – MBE Strategic Plan]

Background Information: In accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 37-179-1 et seq., and Miss. Admin. Code 7-3: 28.7, State Board Policy Chapter 28, Rule 28.7 - Districts of Innovation and Schools of Innovation, the purpose of a District of Innovations is to better prepare students for success in life and work. Innovative programs shall focus on reducing achievement gaps by expanding learning experiences for students; increasing participation of subgroups of students in innovative instructional components to enhance student achievement; increasing the number of students who are college- and career- ready; reducing the number of students that exit high school in need of remediation; and motivating students by expanding curriculum choices and learning opportunities for students.

Mississippi Code Ann. § 37-179-1 et seq., and Miss. Admin. Code 7-3: 28.7, State Board Policy Chapter 28, Rule 28.7 - Districts of Innovation and Schools of Innovation, provides for exemptions from certain administrative regulations and statutory provisions as approved by the MDE to allow flexibility for Districts of Innovation and Schools of Innovation. Districts or schools may request additional waivers if the waiver is needed to support innovative practices and does not violate state or federal regulations. Districts or schools are not allowed to request a waiver from state assessment requirements required by state or federal regulation. Absent any waivers, districts shall meet the requirements of the current Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards.

This item references Goal 2 of the *Mississippi Board of Education Strategic Plan*.

- 01.A. Action: Approval by the SBE to award Western Line School District (O'Bannon and Riverside High Schools) a Schools of Innovation beginning in 2024-2025 school year in accordance with Mississippi Code Ann. § 37-179-1 et seq., and Miss. Admin. Code 7-3: 28.7 State Board Policy Chapter 28, Rule 28.7 - Districts of Innovation and Schools of Innovation.
- 01.B. Action: Approval by the SBE to award New Albany Middle School a School of Innovation beginning in 2024-2025 school year in accordance with Mississippi Code Ann. § 37-179-1 et seq., and Miss. Admin. Code 7-3: 28.7 State Board Policy Chapter 28, Rule 28.7 - Districts of Innovation and Schools of Innovation.

01.C. Action: Approval by the SBE to revise Hattiesburg a renewal of their School of Innovation beginning in 2024-2025 school year in accordance with Mississippi Code Ann. § 37-179-1 et seq., and Miss. Admin. Code 7-3: 28.7 State Board Policy Chapter 28, Rule 28.7 - Districts of Innovation and Schools of Innovation.

01.D. Action: Approval by the SBE to revise Oxford School District District of Innovation beginning in 2024-2025 school year in accordance with Mississippi Code Ann. § 37-179-1 et seq., and Miss. Admin. Code 7-3: 28.7 State Board Policy Chapter 28, Rule 28.7 - Districts of Innovation and Schools of Innovation.

Recommended: Approval

Back-up material attached

Mississippi Department of Education
March 7, 2024
Back-up Materials for Districts and Schools of Innovation

01.A. **Western Line School District**

School of Innovation Plan Synopsis

Western Line School District is applying for a **school of innovation** to establish a Middle College Program (MCP), the Western Line Collegiate Academy. The Collegiate Academy will follow the Middle College Program with 11th and 12th grade students from O'Bannan and Riverside High Schools participating in order to gain an associate degree or advance national certification along with their high school diploma.

Performance Measures

Progress for the MCP will be analyzed by following the students' collegiate academy trackers. Students in the MCP should maintain an overall 2.0 GPA. If students should need to retake any course, they can do so in the inter-session (December) or summer session. Our goal is for at least 85% of students to complete the MCP and earn their degree.

Besides GPA, ACT scores will be continually monitored to assure that students are eligible for College Algebra and English Composition. In the future, students will be given the opportunity to take the ACT at least twice a year beginning in 9th grade. The Accuplacer will be given once a month for those already enrolled and for future students who may not reach the benchmark ACT score needed by the 11th grade.

MDCC has agreed to provide bi-weekly progress reports that will be shared with school counselors. This will help base schools keep a close watch on the progression of students, so that interventions can be made if necessary.

Student data including GPAs and ACT scores, as well as MAAP scores will be collected and shared as necessary with all parties involved, following FERPA guidelines. We will also share demographic information to ensure that all subgroups are receiving equity in the MCP.

Waiver Requests: None

01.B. **New Albany School District**

School of Innovation Plan Synopsis

New Albany School District is applying for a **school of innovation** for New Albany Middle School. In light of evolving demographics and the persistent decline in academic growth data, particularly among the bottom 25% of students, New Albany Middle School proposes modifications to the instructional time and master schedule.

The proposed master schedule will enable the school to provide both remediation and enrichment opportunities for ALL students, tailored to their specific learning needs. This comprehensive approach will ensure that every student receives the support and challenges necessary to reach their full potential.

Performance Measures

New Albany Middle School assessed their current academic standing and compared data to neighboring, high-performing districts with similar demographics. Based on these comparisons, coupled with the school’s intention to transition to a 5x5 schedule and intentional professional development, New Albany Middle School has set annual goals of increasing proficiency 0.5% overall, 1.5% in growth for all, and 2% growth in our bottom 25%. These goals are set with the intention of meeting or exceeding them over the course of five years.

Waiver Requests

Requested Waiver(s) from State or Local Policies, Requirements, or Restrictions	District Rational for Request	Approval	MDE Rational for Waiver Approval or Disapproval
13.2 The school district must ensure that during the academic year a minimum of 140 hours of instruction is provided for each Carnegie unit of credit offered and 70 hours for each one-half (1/2) unit offered, except for remedial	NAMS would like to modify the master schedule for 6th-8th grade by blocking ELA and math for the school year. This would give students more instructional hours versus what they are currently receiving. The other classes will be modified by having less instructional hours for the school year, but allowing more offers 10 full Carnegie Unit credit and 2 half credit classes currently	Yes	The MDE will allow the instructional time waiver not less than a minimum of 112.5 hours per Carnegie unit and 56.25 per ½ Carnegie unit that provides for flexible scheduling.

01.C. **Hattiesburg School District**

School of Innovation Plan Synopsis

The Hattiesburg Public School District **School of Innovation** plan centers around equipping all students from 9th through 12th grade for college, career, and life. The plan includes innovation to ensure students meet educational opportunities that can lead to career pathways that enhance their lives beyond high school.

- Student voice and choice to determine academic and/or career endorsements and pathways.
- A five-period academic day at the high school level that opens up opportunities for internships (work-based learning), externships, and the opportunity to graduate and walk directly into the workforce with highly skilled training in areas such as energy, mechanics, medical, automotive, manufacturing, and human services.
- CTE courses that provide the opportunity to earn national certifications.
- Experiential learning opportunities that include industry visits, job shadowing, internships (WBL), and apprenticeships.

Performance Measures

All goals set forth will be measured by baseline data from the 2022-2023 school year and updated for review annually. All projections are for 5 years, culminating in the 2027-2028 school year.

1. Increase the number of dual credit opportunities taken by Hattiesburg High School students 5% annually.
2. Improve average junior composite ACT scores from 15.7 to 17.
3. Sustain the district’s graduation rate of 94.8%.
4. Increase the number of graduation endorsements obtained from 49.5% to 60%.
5. Increase the number of students scoring Silver, Gold, and Platinum on the National Career Readiness Certificate from 38% to 53%.
6. Increase the advanced course participation from 47.5% to 55%.
7. Improve the rate of FAFSA completion for all seniors from 63% to 75%.
8. Broaden the number of nontraditional students by 3% each year enrolled in Middle College to include females, males, and minority students.

Waiver Request

Requested Waiver(s) from State or Local Policies, Requirements, or Restrictions	District Rational for Request	Approval	MDE Rational for Waiver Approval or Disapproval
13.2 The school district must ensure that during the academic year a minimum of 140 hours of instruction is provided for each Carnegie unit of credit offered and 70 hours for each one-half (1/2)	Hattiesburg High School request that students be relieved of seat time requirements to accommodate learning on the 5x5	Yes	In order to accommodate the 5x5 bell schedule, the HPSD needs relief from the current 140-hour Carnegie unit requirement. A Carnegie unit should not equate to less than

<p>unit offered, except for remedial</p>	<p>bell schedule. This will allow students to earn more Carnegie units earlier in high school which creates room in their schedule for a more personalized learning experience such as, Middle College, dual credit, AP courses, other innovative instructional pathways and will also provide opportunities for CTE students to complete multiple programs. This schedule further supports our efforts to grow the workforce in the greater Hattiesburg community and prepare students for post-secondary college and career goals.</p>		<p>112.5 hours of instructional time per Carnegie unit and 56.25 per ½ Carnegie unit.</p>
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01.D. Oxford School District

District of Innovation Plan Synopsis

The Oxford School District's original **district of innovation** plan has been used to implement a continuous improvement model for addressing needs and implementing new initiatives to the district. The district has either implemented, tested, or is investigating the following:

- Middle College - Started 2019 and continues to impact student learning outcomes.
- Educational Pathways - Opened CTE center in 2020 and continue to grow CTE pathways and options for students.
- Career Academies - Investigating best practices and model for our district.
- Modified School Calendar - Minor shifts to school calendar currently with a view towards more changes in the future.
- Continuous Improvement: Multiple ongoing projects to introduce change agents and scaling of effective concepts.
- Flexible scheduling - Introduced 5x5 schedule at Oxford High School to maximize learning opportunities for all students.

Section B: Changes to Plan

We are requesting the following change to our plan to ensure continued growth and improvement:

- Creating more flexible schedules at Oxford Middle School (7 & 8) and Oxford Intermediate School (6).
 - Oxford School District would like to implement the same 5x5 instructional model at these two schools that we currently have at Oxford High. The rationale for this change would be:
 - the flexibility to extend learning to all year for content deemed appropriate
 - the opportunity to introduce more elective options for students in the 6-8 grade band
 - to reduce the academic load on students during any given semester
 - to allow students greater continuity of experience from school to school

Performance Measures

The Oxford School District long term student performance goals are outlined in our "95 in 5" plan. The goals are as follows: 95% graduation rate 95% proficiency on state assessments 95th percentile in growth on NWEA student benchmark assessments 95% of seniors enrolled in advanced placement, dual credit, or career technical courses 95% of students enrolled in college are eligible to take credit-bearing courses as freshmen. Annual school level goals are determined by taking current student achievement data (state assessment scores, graduation rate, growth percentiles, etc.) and dividing the growth needed to achieve "95 in 5" status in five years. For example, ELA proficiency at Oxford High School according to state assessments is currently 68%. In order for Oxford High School to reach "95 in 5" status, the proficiency rate on ELA state assessments must increase by 5.4% each year. All goals at all Oxford School District schools are calculated using the above-described methodology.

Waiver Requests

Requested Waiver(s) from State or Local Policies, Requirements, or Restrictions	District Rational for Request	Approval	MDE Rational for Waiver Approval or Disapproval
<p>27.1 In any configuration of grades K-5, the curriculum must include 150 minutes of activity-based instruction per week and 45 minutes of instruction per week and 45 minutes of instruction in health education per week.</p>	<p>Over an academic year students will exceed the minimum number of activity-based instructional minutes while providing flexible schedule like a 5X5. The intent of our model would be to ensure students receive more activity-based instruction than they currently receive but without the limitation of the standard which requires 150 minutes per week.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Students will still acquire the required activity-based instruction annually.</p>