

OFFICE OF CHIEF ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICER
Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Items
March 26, 2020

OFFICE OF TEACHING AND LEADING
DIVISION OF EDUCATOR PREPARATION

04. Action: Approval by the SBE to suspend specific policies outlined in Miss. Admin. Code 7-107: *Administrative Process and Performance Review* for spring 2020 prospective program completers following Governor Tate Reeves' Proclamation of a State of Emergency as a result of the impact of COVID-19 (coronavirus) on school districts during spring 2020 in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. §§ 33-15-31, 33-15-11(b)(9) and 33-15-11(c)(1) [Goal 4 – MBE Strategic Plan]

President Donald Trump declared a national emergency on March 13, 2020, in response to the COVID-19 (coronavirus) outbreak. On March 14, 2020, Governor Tate Reeves issued a Declaration of a State of Emergency for the state of Mississippi. Included in his Proclamation, Governor Reeves directed that pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. § 33-15-11(c), the provisions of state statutes, rules, regulations or orders may be temporarily suspended or modified if compliance with such provisions would prevent, hinder, or delay action to cope with the outbreak. Furthermore, on March 19, 2020, Governor Reeves issued Executive Order 1460, which in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. §§ 33-15-31, 33-15-11(b)(9) and 33-15-11(c)(1), authorizes and empowers the State Board of Education to suspend the provisions of any regulatory statutes, and to make, amend, rescind such orders, rules and regulations that it deems necessary to assist Mississippi public schools to cope with the COVID-19 emergency.

Due to the unprecedented and unique circumstances arising as a result of COVID-19, such as statewide school closures that have occurred during the later portion of the 2019 – 2020 school year, it is unreasonable for prospective program completers to meet all requirements or specific policies and process standards in the *Administrative Process and Performance Review* guidelines.

The SBE met in its regularly scheduled meeting on March 19, 2020 and affirmed the order by the Governor to close Mississippi public schools as a result of the impact of COVID-19 (coronavirus) on school districts during spring 2020. Additionally, the SBE granted approval to allow school districts to operate for less than 180 days, to suspend the administration of all statewide assessments required by state and federal law for the 2019 – 2020 school year, to suspend the Mississippi Statewide Accountability System for the 2019 – 2020 school year, and to submit a waiver request to the United States Department of Education (ED) as provided for in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). At that time, the SBE scheduled a special-called meeting of the SBE for March 26, 2020 to address the specific state laws, SBE policies, and process standards that shall be suspended for the 2019 – 2020 school year due to the impact of COVID-19.

It is the recommendation of the MDE that the SBE suspend specific requirements within federal and state laws, State Board Policies, and any other policies and process standards that govern candidate program completion.

This item references Goal 4 of the *Mississippi Board of Education 2018 – 2022* Strategic Plan.

Recommendation: Approval

Back-up Material: Attached

Mississippi Administrative Code 7-107: *Administrative Process and Performance Standards, 2006*

**Rule Suspension Pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. §§ 33-15-31, 33-15-11(b)(9) and 33-15-11(c)(1)
Executive Order 1460**

2019 – 2020 School Closures Related to COVID-19 (Coronavirus)

Regulation(s)	Rule	Proposed Suspension of Rules
<p>Administrative Process and Performance Standards, 2006</p>	<p>Teacher Education Process and Performance Standards, Standard 4</p> <p>Prior to completing a teacher education program, students shall have successfully completed a minimum of 12 weeks (60 working days), full day student teacher experience.</p>	<p>The MDE will issue a one-year suspension of the requirement that students shall successfully complete a minimum of 12 weeks of full day student teaching for program completion for spring 2020 prospective program completers, by allowing candidates' virtual experiences to be acceptable for a portion of the minimum 12 weeks of the required student teaching. The MDE will continue to work collaboratively with Education Preparation Provider (EPPs) to determine the acceptable experiences necessary for student teaching and demonstration of teaching competency prior to licensure.</p>