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December 2, 2019

District Superintendents, High School Principals and Counselors:

The Mississippi State Board of Education (State Board) is excited to enter the second year of the *Student Representatives of the Mississippi State Board of Education* program. Following an extensive application process in 2019, two students were chosen and are currently serving on the State Board. These students have provided an important perspective and their participation in the program has added tremendous value to board discussions and deliberations.

The State Board is currently accepting applications for a Student Representative who will be a junior in high school during school year 2020-2021. The application packet is attached for electronic distribution to students or it can be downloaded from the Mississippi Department of Education website (<http://www.mdek12.org/MBE/Student-Representatives>).

State Board Policy Part 2, Chapter 2, Rule 2.3 – Student Representatives of the Mississippi State Board of Education have been created to implement a program to ensure that student viewpoints are heard. Board appointed Student Representatives will serve as spokesmen for Mississippi students in policy decisions that directly influence them. Student Representatives will develop a thorough understanding of current educational issues, State laws, policies, and regulations, and will communicate with high school students statewide. Although Student Representatives will be non-voting participants in board meetings, they will have a voice through actively engaging in the discussions of the State Board by listening, observing and providing meaningful input.

Eligible public high school students will be recruited statewide through a competitive application process. Students must fulfill all application requirements and submit the complete application packet including a video to the Mississippi Department of Education, Office of Educational Accountability, by 5:00 p.m. on January 31, 2020, to be considered for the program. Following a rigorous interview and selection process, a Student Representative (a rising junior) will be appointed by the State Board for a term of service that begins on July 1, 2020.

Please encourage qualified students who are committed to making a lasting impact on education in Mississippi to apply.

Sincerely,

Jason S. Dean, Ph.D.
Chair