

Good afternoon,

Please see the important information in relation to Federal Programs listed below.

Have a great evening,

-MEC

# OFP Highlights

...is an update on the Office of Federal Programs' federal grants & RFPs, workshops, trainings, and opportunities relevant to MS school districts, parents, community and other stakeholders.

**June 12, 2014**

## **New Releases & Web Postings**

### ***2014 MAFEPD SUMMER CONFERENCE: "Embracing Currents of Change"***

The 2014 Mississippi Association of Federal Education Program Directors (MAFEPD) Summer Conference is scheduled for **Sunday, June 15<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday, June 18<sup>th</sup>** at the Hilton Hotel in Jackson, MS. Mississippi Federal Education Program Directors and their staffs are invited once again to join the Mississippi Association of Federal Program Directors (MAFEPD), and/or renew your MAFEPD annual membership dues and register to attend the 2014 MAFEPD Annual Conference.

The Office of Federal Programs will present the following sessions:

- Monday, June 16<sup>th</sup>
  - 10:30 Private School Services: New State Guidance
  - 3:00-4:00 General Session III: Update of Federal Programs
- Tuesday, June 17<sup>th</sup>
  - 2:30-3:30 General Session V: SERP (School Effectiveness Review Process) & Flexible Uses of Federal Dollars

For more information, please contact:

Lisa Hull, MAFEPD President

Email: [lhull@lauderdale.k12.ms.us](mailto:lhull@lauderdale.k12.ms.us) Office 601.485.1761

**Save the Date. 2014 MASS/ Alliance Summer Convention**

The Mississippi Association of School Superintendents (MASS) and the Alliance of Educational Leaders of Mississippi is scheduled for **Sunday, July 13<sup>th</sup> – Friday, July 18<sup>th</sup>** at the Beau Rivage in Biloxi, MS.

The Office of Federal Programs will present two sessions Wednesday, July 16<sup>th</sup> at 10:30-12:30 and one session Thursday, July 17<sup>th</sup> at 2:30-4:30. Additional details regarding session topics will be released soon.

For more information, please email: [mass@superintendents.ms](mailto:mass@superintendents.ms)

**Save the Date. Mississippi Early Childhood Conference: Monday, July 21- Wednesday, July 23, 2014**

The Mississippi Head Start Association, in conjunction with sponsoring partners, the Mississippi Department of Education, the Mississippi Department of Human Services, the Center for Enhancing Early Learning Outcomes, the Alliance for Early Success, and the Council of Chief State School Officers is pleased to announce the 2014 Mississippi Early Childhood Conference. The conference is scheduled for **July 21<sup>st</sup> -23<sup>rd</sup>** at the Natchez Convention Center.

This conference is an opportunity for teachers, administrators, childcare providers, parents, community partners, policymakers, and business leaders, to participate in professional development designed to improve learning and outcomes for young children birth through third grade in Mississippi. The conference provides the opportunity for attendees to exchange ideas and information focused on building a comprehensive system for early childhood care and education, providing high quality early childhood programs and services, preparing children to enter school ready to learn, and supporting healthy families and healthy children.

For more information, please send an email to: [msececonference2014@gmail.com](mailto:msececonference2014@gmail.com)

**Save the Date. New Federal Programs Directors Training Monday, August 11, 2014**

The Office of Federal Programs is pleased to announce *The New Federal Programs Directors Training* will be held **Monday, August 11, 2014** at the Rankin County School District Boardroom in Brandon, MS. We are looking forward to a lively discussion on the role of the Federal Programs Director and how federal dollars may be used to support increasing student achievement and ensuring performance-based outcomes are met.

The goal of our training is to provide leadership on the effective use of federal funds so that all students are prepared to compete in the global community. If you have been in your position for two (2) years or less, this training is for you. Please email your name, school district, and

email address to Mariea B. Jackson at [mbanks@mde.k12.ms.us](mailto:mbanks@mde.k12.ms.us) . In an effort to target this training to meet your needs, please let us know of any area(s) where you need specific training.

For more information, please contact:

Mariea B. Jackson, State Title II and Title VI Director, Office of Federal Programs

Email: [mbanks@mde.k12.ms.us](mailto:mbanks@mde.k12.ms.us) Office 601.359.3499

### ***U.S. Dept. of Education Decision on Transitional Timeline***

### **U.S. Department of Education Grants Mississippi One-year Waiver on Accountability Letter Grades**

JACKSON, Miss. – The U.S. Department of Education (ED) approved a one-year waiver from school letter grades for the 2013-14 school year as Mississippi transitions to college- and career-ready standards and aligned assessments.

The ED notified the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) late Tuesday of its approval of MDE's request for a one-year transitional timeline, which will apply to accountability letter grades released this fall for the 2013-14 school year. The waiver will allow a school to retain the letter grade it received in the 2012-13 school year if the 2013-14 grade is lower as a result of assessment results.

However, the ED's approval is based upon Mississippi's commitment to report all assessment data from the 2013-14 assessments, including school letter grades based upon 2013-14 assessment results, and to require interventions in all Title I schools that miss annual goals for two consecutive years.

"We are confident that these measures will help to ensure that all schools are held accountable for student achievement, while also acknowledging that this is a time of transition," stated Dr. Monique Chism, director of student achievement and school accountability programs at the ED, in the notification.

The MDE, at the request of the Mississippi Board of Education, made the appeal to ED because current state tests are not aligned to Common Core State Standards, meaning tests are not measuring what students are currently learning. In 2010, the Board adopted Common Core State Standards, and school districts began implementation of the standards. New state tests aligned to the new standards will be implemented in spring 2015.

Dr. Carey Wright, state superintendent of education, said she was pleased that the ED recognized the hard work of teachers, students, and school and district leaders in implementing Common Core State Standards and understood the challenge of transitioning to new standards and assessments.

“I appreciate the ED’s approval of our request, and we will continue to work toward providing our students every opportunity for a high-quality education. The MDE looks forward to working with schools and districts in helping them to meet these more rigorous standards,” she said.

For more information, please contact:

Staci Curry, Director, Accountability Services

Email: [scurry@mde.k12.ms.us](mailto:scurry@mde.k12.ms.us) Office 601.359.1878 | Fax 601.359.5527

### ***School District Handbook Language***

Please remember that the following statement should be included in your district handbook.

“Beginning in the 2014-2015 school year, a student scoring at the lowest achievement level in reading on the established state assessment for 3rd grade will not be promoted to 4th grade unless the student meets the good cause exemptions for promotion.”

For more information, please contact:

Nathan Oakley, Director, Office of Curriculum and Instruction

Email: [noakley@mde.k12.ms.us](mailto:noakley@mde.k12.ms.us) Office 601.359.2586 | Fax 601.359.2040

### ***FY 2015 CFPA Training Material***

The presentations and video recordings of all major sessions from the FY 2015 CFPA training are posted to [Share Point](#) and [OFP CFPA](#) website. If you were not able to attend this year’s training or need to be reminded of key elements to developing your CFPA, please visit one or both of the above-mentioned sites.

### ***FY 2015 CFPA***

The FY 2015 Consolidated Federal Programs Application is posted on the Office of Federal Programs’ website at [www.mde.k12.ms.us/federal-programs/federal-programs--cfpa](http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/federal-programs/federal-programs--cfpa).

### ***FY 2015 CFPA Submission***

Thank you to the forty-one (41) LEAs who have submitted and receive “preliminary approval” of their FY 2015 Consolidated Federal Programs Application (CFPA). Your hard work and the proactive actions of your district contact has provided a great start to

the CFPA approval season. As a reminder for LEAs who have not submitted their application, the FY 2015 CFPA must be received in the Office of Federal Programs **on or before June 30, 2014**. *Failure to submit the completed application in its entirety by the established deadline may delay the approval of your application and the disbursement of funds to your district.* The CFPA documents should be saved in an **Adobe PDF** format and uploaded to SharePoint. Using your assigned username and password, log into [SharePoint](#) and upload your application into the “FY15” folder by selecting Federal Programs > CFPA > FY15.

Mail all pages requiring original signatures (i.e. Cover Page, Private School Participation Forms, General Assurances...) to the Office of Federal Programs:

**Mississippi Department of Education  
Office of Federal Programs  
Attention: Marcus E. Cheeks  
359 North West Street  
P.O. Box 771  
Jackson, MS 39205-0771**

### *Text to E-mail Questions*

Responding to your questions is critical to the success of your program. In an effort to enhance the efficiency and timely responses you are welcome to send questions, comments, or ideas to enhance our services by texting or emailing questions to [federalprograms2@mde.k12.ms.us](mailto:federalprograms2@mde.k12.ms.us). This tool was used during the FY 2015 CFPA training to capture questions, which have been posted to the OFP website under [FAQ](#).

### *2014-2015 Testing Calendar*

The 2014-2015 testing calendar, approved by the State Board of Education, is posted to the Office of Student Assessment’s SharePoint site at [2014-2014 Testing Calendar](#). Please note that this calendar does account for the recent legislative change that removed the mandated early start date in August. Since this calendar introduces some new assessments and acronyms, a list of new terms is located on the last page for your convenience.

For more information, please contact:

James H. Mason, Director, Office of Student Assessment

Email: [jmason@mde.k12.ms.us](mailto:jmason@mde.k12.ms.us) Office 601.359.3052 | Fax 601.359.2471

## *National Title I Conference: Call for Presenters*

The National Title I Conference committee invites all education experts, researchers, authors, and successful practitioners with information of interest to the Title I audience to submit a presentation proposal, NOW THROUGH JUNE 16. Visit the newly updated [Conference website](#) and [Download the Proposal Submission Guidelines](#) for complete details. The 2015 National Title I Conference, Leading with Wonder, will celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Title I and sessions will be selected to highlight current, successful, Title I programs that ensure every child achieves at high levels.

## **Monitoring Information**

**Save the Date.** The **District Preparations for Federal Programs Monitoring Visits** workshop will be held **August 12 (Oxford)** and **August 14 (Hattiesburg)** for districts being monitored in SY2015-2016 (see chart below). This workshop will focus on an exhaustive look at the SY2015-2016 Monitoring Instrument relative to the documentation for FY2014-2015.

Aberdeen	George	Monroe	Senatobia
Bay St. Louis	Greenwood	Natchez-Adams	Shaw
Benton	Gulfport	Nettleton	South Delta
Biloxi	Harrison	Newton Mun	South Pike
Calhoun	Hinds County AHS	North Tippah	Tishomingo
Carroll	Houston	Ocean Springs	Vicksburg-Warren
Choctaw	Itawamba	Oktibbeha	Water Valley
Coahoma AHS	Lafayette	Pascagoula	Webster
Columbus	Lauderdale	Pearl Public	West Jasper
Covington	Lee	Petal	Wilkinson
East Jasper	Leland	Picayune	Winona
East Tallahatchie	Lincoln	Pontotoc	Yazoo County
Forest Municipal	Louisville	Poplarville	
Forrest AHS	Madison	Prentiss	
Forrest County	Meridian	Quitman SD	

For more information, please contact:

Michael Gibbons, Staff Officer III, Compliance and Monitoring

Email: [mgibbons@mde.k12.ms.us](mailto:mgibbons@mde.k12.ms.us) Office 601.359.3499

*Special Populations Monitoring*

Monitoring federal programs helps ensure that all children have a fair, equal, and significant opportunity to obtain a high-quality education. Compliance monitoring is intended to be a collaborative partnership between the State and LEAs to ensure compliance with the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. The following Title programs have begun the monitoring process from now until July 31, 2014:

- Title I, Part D: Neglected & Delinquent
- Title III, Part A: English Language Learners
- Title IV, Part B: 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Centers
- Title X, Part C: Homeless Education

For more information, please contact:

Title I, Part D: Neglected & Delinquent—Jerry McClendon, [jmccleendon@mde.k12.ms.us](mailto:jmccleendon@mde.k12.ms.us)

Title III, Part A: English Language Learners—Tarro Funches, [tfunches@mde.k12.ms.us](mailto:tfunches@mde.k12.ms.us)

Title IV, Part B: 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Century—Karen Austin, [kaustin@mde.k12.ms.us](mailto:kaustin@mde.k12.ms.us)

Title X, Part C: Homeless Education—Barbara Greene, [bgreene@mde.k12.ms.us](mailto:bgreene@mde.k12.ms.us)

## Guidance Notifications

### *Federal Programs' Organization Affiliates*

The Office of Federal Programs has added a new link <http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/federal-programs/federal-programs-organization-affiliates> on its webpage. The **Organization Affiliates** page is intended to provide educators and all stakeholders' access to professional organizations specifically dedicated to improving and implementing the Elementary & Secondary Education Act (ESEA). The OFP encourages membership and participation in these professional organizations that provide professional development, resources, and training support for those interested in supporting the academic success of children and youth.

### *MDE Guidance Letters to LEAs*

Policy letters have been added for the Title III, ELL & Immigrant Education and Title X, McKinney-Vento/Fostering Connections Act programs. For more information, please visit the OFP website at: [OFP Guidance Letters](#).

### *Title II, Part A: Supplies for Class-size Reduction Teachers*

Recently, there have been conversations regarding the purchase of supplies with Title II, Part A funds for CSR teachers so to help districts with this topic, the Office of Federal Programs enlisted additional guidance from the USDE.

*OFP question:* We understand it is not an allowable expense to purchase supplies with Title II funds. However, in Mississippi, teachers paid from federal funds do not receive state funding for classroom supplies as teachers who are paid through state dollars. Is it be considered an allowable expense to purchase supplies for the class-size reduction teachers paid by Title II funds?

*USDE's response:* Unfortunately, supplies can only be purchased with Title II, Part A funds for educators' professional development (see statement below). Student and/or classroom supplies are not allowable even if it is a CSR teacher.

**E-10. May LEAs use Title II, Part A funds to purchase supplies or instructional materials that are used as part of professional development activities?**

Yes, but only if the expenditures, like any costs paid for by Federal program funds, are reasonable and necessary to carry out these activities. *Title II, Part A* funds may be used to purchase materials and supplies used in professional development activities, including the materials (such as graphing calculators) that a teacher will need in order to apply the professional development in a classroom setting. **However, Title II, Part A does not permit the use of program funds to purchase materials and supplies (e.g., graphing calculators) that, although they may benefit students, are not directly connected to the teachers' professional development.**

## **News You Can Use & Friendly Reminders**

### ***New Authority for Uses of Title I, Part A for Homeless Students***

The U.S. Department of Education (ED) has been asked whether Title I funds may be used to meet two requirements of McKinney-Vento: (1) to provide a local homeless liaison and (2) to pay the cost to transport homeless children and youth to and from their school of origin. New authority in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014 expands the allowable use of Title I funds to support these activities. The appropriations language applies to FY2015 (SY2014-2015) Title I funds and, under the authority in section 425(b) of the General Education Provisions Act (GEPA), to FYs 2013 and 2014 Title I carryover funds as well. Accordingly, an LEA may spend funds from its FY 2015 Title I allocation and unobligated Title I carryover funds to pay for the homeless liaison or to transport homeless children and youth to their school of

origin. For your reference, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014 guidance is available at: <http://center.serve.org/nche/legis/2014-omnibus.php>

For more information, please contact:

Barbara Greene, Office of Federal Programs @ 601-359-3499

Email: [bgreene@mde.k12.ms.us](mailto:bgreene@mde.k12.ms.us)

### *Community Eligibility Provision*

The Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) is being phased in over several years by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and will be available in all States starting in the 2014-2015 school year. CEP permits eligible schools to provide meal service to all students at no charge, regardless of economic status, while reducing burden at the household and local levels by eliminating the need to obtain eligibility data from families through a separate collection.

In addition to promoting nutrition for at-risk students, these changes to the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) are important to the implementation of Title I, Part A because SEAs and LEAs often use NSLP data to carry out certain Title I requirements. The Office of Child Nutrition and Office of Federal Programs are working collaboratively to support LEAs and schools desiring to exercise this CEP options. Specific guidance and support material may be located at the following link: <http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/cep>

For more information, please contact:

Stephanie Robinson, Office of Child Nutrition @ 601-359-1737

Email: [SNRobinson@mde.k12.ms.us](mailto:SNRobinson@mde.k12.ms.us) or

Delicia Bennett, Office of Federal Programs @ 601-359-3499

Email: [dbennett@mde.k12.ms.us](mailto:dbennett@mde.k12.ms.us)

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