

OFF HIGHLIGHTS

Editor, Kelsey Blumenberg, Ed.D.

April 29, 2016

FY17 CFPA SUBMISSION DEADLINES

- April 11, 2016 – Release FY17 CFPA (Title I & II only)
- May 20, 2016 – Submission Deadline I (5 Slots Remaining)
- June 24, 2016 – Submission Deadline II (3 Slots Remaining)
- July 22, 2016 – Submission Deadline III (24 Slots Remaining)

FY17 CFPA-MCAPS

The Office of Federal Programs released the FY17 Consolidated Federal Programs Application (CFPA) through Mississippi Comprehensive Automated Performance-based System (MCAPS) on April 11, 2016. We are inviting school districts to commit to the submission of their completed FY17 CFPA during one of three submission dates.

You may access [GoSignMeUp](#) by visiting the MDE [Home page/MDE Quick Links](#) or [Districts Tab](#). This modified application submission and review process will ensure the commitment of state and district staff to work within a specified time-period designed to expedite the review and approval of each district's CFPA.

Click [HERE](#) to view the **118** school districts, as of 8:30 am on **April 29, 2016**, that have selected their desired submission window. In an effort to ensure that all districts have registered for a submission window, the department **has extended** the registration date by one week through Friday, **May 6, 2016**.

“People working together... to accomplish what they cannot accomplish alone!”

– Dufor and Baker, 1998

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE EDUCATION OF HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE – ORLANDO, FLORIDA

When:

October 29 (Pre Conference Institutes)
October 30 – November 1 (full conference)

Where:

[Hyatt Regency](#) 9801 International Drive, Orlando, FL
[Conference Information](#)
[Hotel Information](#)
[Orlando and Central Florida Information](#)

EDUCATING ALL OUR CHILDREN AND YOUTH



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE EDUCATION OF HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH



*From the Desk of
Marcus E. Cheeks, Executive Director*

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DIRECTOR'S NOTES

We are nearing the end of another school year. It is my hope you have maximized each opportunity presented to educate the children of Mississippi. Thank you for all you do!

As you are aware, the Office of Federal Programs (OFP) is moving into its second year of implementing MCAPS (Mississippi comprehensive automated performance-based system). We are working diligently to continue norming the MCAPS system while creating a central portal for program planning, application processing, monitoring documentation/supports, and a repository of resources. We appreciate your commitment and diligence through this transition.

A critical component of this transition is our focus on data. Data are defined as "factual information used as a basis for reasoning, discussion, calculation." The FY2017 consolidated federal programs application (CFPA) challenges all users to revisit our understanding and usage of data.

This spring, the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) released several key data points that should be considered while developing the FY 2017 CFPA. In addition to your local data, please visit these key areas.

[Mississippi Educator Equity Plan](#)

[Mississippi Kids Count Report](#)

As the OFP continues to refine its services, we are excited about supporting your efforts to improve student achievement by working collaboratively and maintaining a laser-like focus on instructional supports. We are also looking forward to seeing each of you June 12-15 at the Mississippi Association of Federal Education Program Directors (MAFEPD), June 22-24 at the MS Education and Technology Innovation Symposium (METIS) E and July 10-15 at the Mississippi Association of School Superintendents (MASS) summer conference.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION WANT YOUR FEEDBACK REGARDING ESSA GUIDANCE

WAYS TO EXPAND EARLY LEARNING

Separate from our previous request for comments on potential areas for regulation under Title I of the [Every Student Succeeds Act \(ESSA\)](#), the U.S. Department of Education (ED) is seeking your input on areas of the law on which we could provide non-regulatory guidance to assist States, districts and other grantees in understanding and implementing the new law.

As you may know, non-regulatory guidance is not binding and does not impose any new requirements beyond those in the law and regulations; rather, it is intended to help the public understand the law, how ED is interpreting the law, and to provide clarification and examples of best practices. We invite you to share your thoughts, comments, and suggestions on areas or specific new requirements of the ESSA that you think would benefit from such guidance. For example, ED seeks input on: ways to expand [early learning](#); strategies to recruit, develop, and retain teachers and leaders (Title II); clarification of fiscal requirements; student support services (Title IV); and other areas where state and local agencies could benefit from additional guidance.

In addition, ED plans on developing guidance regarding students in foster care, homeless children and youth, and English Learners (Title III).

Please provide your input by sending an email message to ESSA.guidance@ed.gov, noting the topic area(s) in the subject line. Also, please include within the body of your email message, your name and, if applicable, the organization on behalf of which you are submitting comments. In order for your feedback to have the most impact, we encourage you to submit your comments by **May 25, 2016**.

REGIONAL TRAININGS

The Office of Federal Programs is pleased to announce Regional Trainings for the **FY2017 Consolidated Federal Programs Application (CFPA)**. This year's CFPA as noted within an e-mail sent on March 24, 2016, was released for usage on April 11, 2016 through the Mississippi Comprehensive Automated Performance-based System (MCAPS). Unlike in previous years, we will provide training through a regional model. Nine, one-day, small group sessions are scheduled in various locations across the state beginning April 13 in Jackson and ending May 9 in Meridian/Cleveland. In an effort to accommodate scheduling conflicts and participant numbers, we will offer training sessions simultaneously.

* ~~April 13~~ — Jackson * ~~April 15~~ — Oxford/Summit * ~~April 21~~ — Jackson/Greenville

* ~~April 22~~ — Hattiesburg/Vicksburg * **May 9** - Meridian/Cleveland

Each attendee will only need to register for and attend one of the one-day sessions. A listing of each location and registration information can be found by clicking here: [North Mississippi Education Consortium](#) (click on **Workshops/MDE Sponsored/Federal Programs**). We are requesting **three-person teams**, which may include the federal programs director, federal programs bookkeeper and/or business manager. We will provide an in-depth review of the CFPA (Title I, Part A; parental involvement; private school services; priority/focus schools, neglected/delinquent services, Title II, Part A and budgetary practices). Our primary goal is to provide instructional support designed to guide program development focused on a direct alignment of student needs, intervention and expected outcomes. Registration will begin for each session **at 8:00 a.m.** and the training will follow from **8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

FEDERAL PROGRAMS STAFF NEWS

Congratulations to **Dr. Kelsey Blumenberg**, in the Office of Federal Programs! He earned an Ed.D. in Early Childhood Education from Jackson State University. Dr. Blumenberg oversees programs for Title X—Homeless Education, Title I Distinguished Schools & Title I Pre-K Services.

Congratulations to **Mrs. Carol Spann**, in the Office of Federal Programs' fiscal division! She will officially retire June 1, 2016 with 29 years of state service.

TEXT TO E-MAIL

Regional Contacts work extremely hard to respond to your calls and e-mails efficiently and timely because they know it is critical to the success of your program. If your contacts are out of the office, we welcome you to send questions, comments, or ideas to enhance our services by texting or emailing them to federalprograms2@mdek12.org.

ALLOCATIONS AND INDIRECT COST RATES FOR FY17 (SY2016-2017)

The FY17 (SY2016-2017) allocations for Title I, Part A and Title II, Part A are posted to MCAPS. The Office of Federal Programs is awarding funds based on preliminary data for school year 2016-2017 provided by the US Department of Education. In addition to this preliminary allocation, we have included a supplemental grant award for both Titles I and II from school year 2015-2016. **The allocations will be adjusted upon receipt of the FINAL FY17 (SY2016-2017) award in October 2016.**

We are requesting districts to budget the provided allocation with the expectation that allocations **will change** (+ / -) depending on USDE's final award information. Please note, the funding application will not open for editing until the Planning Tool has a status that reads "Draft Completed." Upon MDE's approval of the Consolidated Application, districts will have access to draw only 50% of each awarded allocation. This limitation will remain in place until USDE releases the Final FY17 award. If there are questions, please contact Melanie Diggs at mdiggs@mdek12.org or (601) 359-3499.

Indirect cost rates are calculated by the Office of School Financial Services and have **not** been released for FY17 (SY2016-2017). Preliminary rates have been uploaded in MCAPS that equal to the rate assigned in SY2015-2016. The rates may be viewed by clicking here (<http://www.mdek12.org/OSFS/IC>). If there are questions concerning the rate for your district, please contact Stanley Gipson at sgipson@mdek12.org or (601) 359-3294.

REALLOCATION OF SY2014-2015 TITLE I, PART A FUNDS

The Office of Federal Programs, due to prior year district violations of ESEA Section 1127(a) carryover limitation, has reallocated FY15 (SY2014-2015) Title I, Part A funds to eligible school districts. Those districts were mailed a notification letter on March 16, 2016 requesting submission of amended projects. Please be mindful that the period of availability for the FY15 funds ends September 30, 2016. Funds must be properly encumbered by September 30, 2016 by purchase order or contract and liquidated by December 30, 2016. Amendments should be submitted as soon as possible to allow for timely implementation of amended plans and budgets. For questions, contact your assigned Regional Contact person at (601) 359-3499.

TITLE I CARRYOVER LIMITATION

The Office of Federal Programs has notified districts that failed to meet the ESEA Section 1127(a) Title I Carryover Limitation for SY2014-2015. Please respond by submitting the requested information via MCAPS using the following path: LEA Document Library / 2015 / SY2014-2015 Title I Carryover and SY2015-2016 MOE / Carryover and MOE Clearance Letters / Document History. For questions, contact Melanie Diggs at mdiggs@mdek12.org.



MS EDUCATION AND TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION SYMPOSIUM (METIS)

Jackson Convention Complex
105 E Pascagoula Street
Jackson, MS 39201

June 22-24, 2016

MDE Summer Data Conference has expanded its scope. With the change of scope, the name has changed to Mississippi Education and Technology Innovation Symposium (METIS). The main goal is to provide a wide range of technical sessions, access to each MDE Program Office, other State Agencies as well as representatives from USDOE Privacy Technical Assistance Center.

The symposium will focus on current technical issues such as Ransomware, Data Security, Data Privacy and Best practices for web sites. The technical sessions will address system issues, updates and performance issues. The symposium will also offer hints and tips which enhances technical personnel's ability to take advantage of the latest technology.

The program office presentations will provide the district and school personnel with the MDE policies, state laws, and federal laws as they pertain to the information required to collect and report to the MDE. The goal is to improve quality of data.

The symposium will be held for all districts on June 22-24, 2016, at the Jackson Convention Center, in Jackson, Mississippi. Attendees are the individual(s) responsible for technology as well as personnel responsible for all aspects of data as it pertains to student, personnel, federal programs (such as CTE, Title I, Special Education, etc.) and finance.

Onsite check-in opens on Tuesday, June 21, 2016, from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The symposium will kick off Wednesday, June 22 at 8:30 a.m. with check-in opening at 7:30 a.m.

More information concerning the symposium and registration is listed on our web page: <http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/OTSS/metis>.

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PRIORITY & FOCUS SCHOOLS

On December 18, 2015, the U.S. Department of Education(ED) issued a letter providing guidance on how states operating under an Elementary Education and Secondary Education Act flexibility waiver would transition to the newly passed Every Student Succeeds Act. Within the guidance, ED presented states with two options for its list of focus and priority schools:

1. States could maintain the current list of priority and focus schools. These schools would be required to continue implementing their approved interventions/plans until the end of the 2016-2017 school year. No schools would be eligible to exit.
2. States could exit schools and reset their lists of priority and focus schools based on more recent data. States selecting this option had to provide the U.S. Department of Education the new list of priority and focus schools by **Monday, March 1, 2016**. ED emphasized this was a firm deadline.

While we strongly desired to reset the list of priority and focus schools for Mississippi, it was not possible to have the updated list to the ED by March 1, 2016, as required. ED was aware that a delay in student achievement data from one of the assessment vendors caused Mississippi's delay in running accountability results for the 2014-2015 school year. No exceptions were made to the March 1 deadline. Consequently, Mississippi's only option was to maintain the current list of priority and focus schools. We have been in constant communication with ED in hopes of an opportunity to reset our list on more recent data. At this time, however, the list must remain as it is.

Once accountability results from 2014-2015 are finalized, we will once again contact ED for further consideration in allowing Mississippi's list to be reset based on more recent data. Please continue implementing your approved interventions/plans for your priority and focus schools. We will promptly notify you if ED's position changes.

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Office of School Improvement

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