

OFP Highlights



MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

Ensuring a bright future for every child



Judy Nelson, Executive Director

February 2021

From the desk of Mrs. Nelson...

Albert Einstein once said, "In the middle of every difficulty lies opportunity," and Mississippi has undoubtedly created opportunities during these challenging times. It is an honor to serve as your executive director for the Office of Federal Programs. I am incredibly grateful to all of you for your support; I would not be where I am today without standing on the shoulders of some great federal programs directors and especially my predecessor, Mr. Quentin Ransburg. I am so proud that we have accomplished so much during these challenging times. I know we all have bared both personal and professional losses, and on many occasions, we felt an overwhelming urge to give up; but WE DID NOT! We always persevere. As we continue on this road ahead, let us continue our commitment to teaching and learning and transforming the lives of individuals, our communities, and our state. TOGETHER, we are in this; TOGETHER, we can do this!

-Judy Nelson

NEW FACES

We are pleased to welcome **Chad Daniels** and **Canteau' Gray** to the Office of Federal Programs.



Chad Daniels serves as the Bureau Director for School and District Support in the at the Mississippi Department of Education in the Office of Federal Programs. Mr. Daniels holds Master's degrees in History and Political Science from the University of Southern Mississippi, is a veteran of the Mississippi Air National Guard, and has worked for the State of Mississippi and the State of Vermont for the past 23 years.

Mr. Daniels served as the Director of Federal Programs and later Director of Administration for the Vermont Agency of Education prior to joining the Mississippi Department of Education in 2019 as Director of Performance Management with the Office of Technology and Strategic Services. Mr. Daniels joined the Office of Federal Programs in his current position beginning in January 2021.



Canteau' Gray serves as the Special Project Officer III at the Mississippi Department of Education in the Office of Federal Programs. Ms. Gray is a Business Administration professional with a background in Healthcare. She brings a passion for efficiency and relationship-building to any work she does. She is thrilled for the opportunity to provide impactful support to the Department of Education.

Ms. Gray is a native of Jackson, MS, and enjoys volunteering at her church and spending time with her family. A life-long learner, Ms. Gray is currently enrolled in a master's in healthcare administration program and is expected to graduate in July 2021.

UPCOMING EVENTS



February

- LEA School Plan Reviewer Due-February 1, 2021
- MSIS 2.0 Survey Due-February 5, 2021
- ESSER Indirect Cost Survey Due-February 5, 2021
- Consolidated State Performance Report (CSPR) Due-February 10, 2021
- EdFacts Report Due-February 10, 2021
- OFP University-February 11, 2021
- Annual Fiscal Conference-February 22-24, 2021



March

- All FY20 CFPA Revisions Due (March 12, 2021)

Annual Fiscal Conference

The Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) will host our Annual Fiscal Conference, **February 22-24, 2021**. The fiscal conference will be virtual, and presenters from the law firm of Brustein & Manasevit, PLLC will provide information on Grants Management, the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act, the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, and The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. This professional development opportunity is geared toward federal program directors, special education directors, CTE directors, business managers, school improvement facilitators, and organizations that receive special funding such as 21st CCLC and Title I, Part D Funds.

Registered LEAs and organizations will receive the 5th Edition of Administrator's Handbook on EDGAR, including the updated UGG and new guidance via mail. Please ensure the mailing address is correct during the registration process.

Please click [here](#) to register by **COB February 5, 2021**. The conference will offer 1.3 CEUs, 1 OSL, 10 SEMIs, or 13.5 CEUs for business managers. There is a limit of 1,000 participants, and the RESA cannot accept registrations after the deadline due to shipping constraints.

OFP University

OFP University will resume on February 11, 2021 at 10:00 am. All new Federal Program Directors with experience ranging from 1-3 years are strongly encouraged to attend. Please contact Jerrika Mabry at jmabry@mdek12.org to reserve your spot. Once we have an accurate roster of attendees, more details will be shared.

Monitoring

The Office of Federal Programs will begin our virtual monitoring process for FY21 in March. We will notify all LEAs that will be monitored within the next few weeks. While we usually monitor districts in person, this spring will be different, as the pandemic has altered how we will conduct visits the remainder of this school year. The virtual review will consist of examining the administration and implementation of the Title programs selected by our office to ensure district policies and/or procedures are following statutory and regulatory requirements.

Using the FY21 Monitoring Instrument, LEAs will upload requested documents for each of the compliance indicators in MCAPS. This includes documentary evidence of implementation as stated in the LEAs policy and/or procedures. LEAs will receive a virtual monitoring notice before the visit. All documentation must be uploaded at least two weeks prior to the scheduled monitoring visit. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to email Dr. Diona Stevenson at distevenson@mdek12.org.

Title I, Part A-School Plan

Any school receiving a Title I, Part A school allocation is required to have an “LEA School Plan Reviewer Approved” status in MCAPS by the close of business on Monday, February 1, 2021. The MDE requires that all served schools revise the following sections: School Planning Team (entire section); School Plan Needs Assessment: School Plan-Prioritized List of Needs; and School Plan Overview. **However, if the school makes any adjustments in the practices/strategies for FY21 (based on the needs assessment) that varies from those implemented in the FY19 or FY20 School Plans, the School must edit the section where adjustments occurred.**

Title III-English Learners and Immigrant Children and Youth

On January 19th, the U.S. Department of Education (Department) released an addendum to the May 2020 COVID-19 fact sheet on English learners (ELs). It answers several questions regarding the annual English language proficiency (ELP) assessments and flexibilities that exist for statewide standardized entrance and exit procedures for the 2020-2021 school year.

Please click the links below to learn more about the newly-released addendum and the NCELA Biennial Report:

English Learner Fact Sheet Addendum: [English-Learner-Fact-Sheet-Addendum-01-18-2021.pdf](#)

NCELA Biennial Report: [NCELABiennialReport SY14-16 FINAL 20201215_508 \(1\).pdf](#)

Please email Dr. Melissa Levy-Jackson, Title III State Coordinator at mlevy@mdek12.org if you need any assistance.

Title IV-A

The Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) was granted approval for the FY21 Title IV-A funding waiver requested due to the extraordinary circumstances created by the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result of this health crisis, schools and communities are facing unprecedented obstacles during the 2020-2021 school year. Providing additional flexibilities in the use of Title IV, Part A funds will advance student academic achievement by helping schools address their critical needs.

This waiver will provide flexibility to the following:

- Section 4106(d) of Title IV, Part A of the ESEA, related to LEA needs assessments for the 2020-2021 school year.
- Section 4106(e)(2)(C), (D), and (E) of Title IV, Part A of the ESEA, with respect to content-area spending requirements for Federal fiscal year (FY) 2020 Title IV, Part A funds.
- Section 4109(b) of Title IV, Part A of the ESEA, with respect to the fifteen percent spending limitation for technology infrastructure for FY 2020 Title IV, Part A funds.

ESSER II

The USDE announced the awards for ESSER II funding, and USDE awarded Mississippi \$724,532,847.00, with a minimum of \$652,079,562.00 awarded to LEAs. USDE also advised that ESSER II funding is 4x as large as ESSER I, and LEAs can expect to receive 4x as much of ESSER II funds than the previous ESSER allocation. We are awaiting additional guidance from USDE regarding ESSER II allocation formula; however, we wanted to give LEAs time to prepare and plan for the use of ESSER II funds. Here is a brief overview:

ESSER II funds are available for obligation through September 30, 2023

- LEAs are not required to provide equitable service with ESSER II (a separate program will be available for non-publics)
- ESSER II funds must be tracked separately from ESSER I
- Allowable activities with ESSER II funds are the same as ESSER I with the addition of the following:
 1. addressing learning loss
 2. preparing schools for reopening
 3. and testing, repairing, and upgrading projects to improve air quality in school buildings.

We anticipate releasing the ESSER II application in MCAPS, with no significant changes to the application or format. We will continue to update LEAs when we receive additional information or guidance from USDE.

ESSER II resources are available below from USDE.

Website: <https://oese.ed.gov/offices/education-stabilization-fund/elementary-secondary-school-emergency-relief-fund/>

ESSER II Allocation Table: https://oese.ed.gov/files/2021/01/Final_ESSERII_Methodology_Table_1.5.21.pdf

ESSER II Fact Sheet: https://oese.ed.gov/files/2021/01/Final_ESSERII_Factsheet_1.5.21.pdf

Equitable Services for Private Schools

The annual Equitable Services Overview webinar was delivered on January 22, 2021, explaining the equitable services process for the upcoming 2021-22 school year. The process begins in January with school districts distributing the *Initial Contact Letter/Intent to Participate* form to each private school in the district's attendance area.

The webinar recording and slides may be accessed in the MDE Document Library in MCAPS in the Equitable Services section, along with all updated forms designed to streamline the process. Several new techniques and changes are introduced.

Contact MDE's Equitable Services Ombudsman, Bryan P. Lieb, Esq. (BLieb@mdek12.org), at the Office of Federal Programs with any questions about fulfilling your district's equitable services obligations.

McKinney-Vento/Homeless Education

McKinney-Vento/Homeless Education Annual Training

We'd like to thank each of you who attended our Annual McKinney-Vento/Homeless Education Training on October 29-30, 2020 via Zoom. Although we had a few technical difficulties during our first virtual training, we hope that it was informative and interactive.

All training materials/videos are available in MCAPS→Homeless Education→2020 McKinney-Vento Homeless Training.

We look forward to your presence and participation on next year!

User Access Administrator Forms

Please ensure that your User Access Administrator form is correct and submitted. Annually, these forms are uploaded to the MDE Document Library under "User Access Administrator". Each district assigns a User Access Administrator. This person is responsible for managing the users in their district by creating new users, assigning user roles, modifying existing users and deleting users who are no longer with the district.

Email completed forms to Greg Smith at gsmith@mdek12.org.

Federal Programs Listserv

Please make sure that you have been added to the **Federal Programs Listserv**. Contact Arthur Goss at agoss@mdek12.org for more information.

"Technology will not replace great teachers but technology in the hands of great teachers can be transformational." – George Couros