

OFP Highlights



MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

Ensuring a bright future for every child

Quentin Ransburg, Executive Director

July 2020

Mr. Ransburg's Desk...

The 2020-2021 school year has already met us with many new operational changes due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Some may see them as challenges, but we see them as opportunities for innovation and another chance to exude our resilience here in the state of Mississippi. Navigating these uncharted waters will require us to be strategic, innovative, and open to new ideas. As you work to make the best decisions for students, staff and your local school communities, the Office of Federal Programs is committed to supporting your efforts and being a thought partner as you consider the best avenues to accomplish your goals. Throughout the upcoming year, our technical assistance, required trainings, and even monitoring will shift from in-person to virtual. We are poised to host webinars, conduct meetings in Microsoft Teams or Zoom, and facilitate conference call discussions. We appreciate your cooperation as we all make the necessary adjustments to better serve ALL of our students.

I encourage you all to stay safe and have a great year!

New Staff

Welcome Aboard... We are pleased to welcome new staff in the Office of Federal Programs. These individuals bring a wealth of knowledge and expertise to our office.



Jerrika Mabry has served in the field of education for more than 12 years. While in the Jackson Public School District, she served as both a Speech Therapist and Special Education Teacher. As a member of a Multidisciplinary Team, she assisted in assessing children in need of early intervention services. For nearly the past two years, she has served at the Mississippi Department of Education as an Education Program Coordinator in the Office of Special Education and is presently a Monitoring Coordinator in the Office of Federal Programs. Jerrika is currently pursuing a doctoral degree in Educational Leadership at the University of Southern Mississippi.

While passionate about the field of education, she is excited about the opportunity to aid in the process of assisting students of Mississippi to reach their maximum potential and become productive citizens.



Kerry Thomas serves as the Title IV-A/Title V Coordinator at the Mississippi Department of Education, in the Office of Federal Programs. Mr. Thomas has 13 years of experience in grants management. He most recently served as the Director of Sponsored Programs and Research/Title III (OSPR) at Tougaloo College where he worked to manage over \$20 million in grant funding annually. Born in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Kerry chose Tougaloo College to complete his undergraduate degree in Economics and attended Jackson State University where he attained his MBA with an emphasis in General Business.



Dr. Melissa Levy-Jackson currently serves as the Title I and English Learners (EL) Coordinator in the Office of Federal Programs. Dr. Jackson is a career educator who has served in elementary schools and community college settings. Over her 15-year career, she has been a teacher, mentor, Team Leader, Academic Interventionist, English Learners/EL Instructional Interventionist, School Level Teacher Support Team/TST Coordinator, School Level 504 Plan Coordinator, Pearson Scorer, and Adjunct Instructor. Dr. Jackson holds numerous degrees including an Educational Specialist in Educational Administration and Doctorate in Professional Counseling with a focus on school improvement.

Melissa is married to Tracy and they have three children, Stephanie, Jordan, and Jamel. When she is not spending time with her family, she enjoys serving in her church and community, reading, shopping, dancing, and bowling. She is also an active member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated.

FY21 CFPA

ALL FY21 CFPAs are substantially approved. LEAs may continue federally funded activities and programs for the new school year; any new programs or activities for the 2020-2021 school year will need final approval before funds can be obligated. In order to request FY21 funds beginning in August 2020, LEAs must have both components of the application (funding and plan) superintendent approved.

OFP University – New Directors Alert!!

The MDE Office of Federal Programs is committed to providing ongoing support and training throughout the year to LEAs across the State. For recently appointed federal programs directors, we have OFP University. Through this professional development platform, we provide informative sessions designed to aid New Directors in serving more effectively. To be included in this opportunity, submit your request and contact information to Mariea B. Jackson at mbanks@mdek12.org. OFP University will resume via Zoom on July 17, 2020 at 10:00 am.

User Access Administrator forms

Please submit your User Access Administrator form by July 31, 2020. Forms must be submitted annually and are located in 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 Mariea B. Jackson at mbanks@mdek12.org.

McKinney-Vento/Homeless Education

Effective [July 1, 2020](#), all McKinney-Vento/Homeless Education communications, revisions, request for funds, etc. should be completed through our designated email: mckinneyvento@mdek12.org.

Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) Grant Program

The Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) Grant Program supports the creation of community learning centers that provide academic enrichment opportunities during non-school hours for children, particularly students who attend high-poverty and low-performing schools. It is the only federal funding source dedicated exclusively to before-school, afterschool, and summer learning programs.

Nita M. Lowey 21st CCLC Virtual Summer Symposium

The Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) Grant Program Virtual Summer Symposium, will take place on **July 14-16, 2020**. The 21st CCLC Virtual Summer Symposium is an event focused on providing State Education Agencies (SEAs) and their grantees with relevant plenary sessions and workshops that familiarize 21st CCLC grant recipients with successful strategies in implementing and managing all components of the program. Grantees who participate in the Summer Symposium will be provided with virtual networking opportunities to get to know other grantees and SEA representatives from their state and beyond. These interactions help grantees gain valuable perspectives on afterschool issues and on the growth and development of the 21st CCLC program.

Registration for the Summer Symposium is now open. To register, please visit <https://21stcclc.leadmci.com/Default.aspx>. This website provides the draft agenda and details about registration and logistics.

21st CCLC RFP Release & New Methodology

On May 8, 2020, the Office of Federal Programs released the Nita M. Lowey 21st CCLC Request for Proposals. Those proposals were due on June 9, 2020. Applicants awarded during this competition will be the first to utilize the new methodology for awarding grants. New grants for single organizations and consortia will now range from \$50,000 - \$400,000 per year, with a project period up to four (4) years. Recipients will receive funding up to 100% for the first two (2) years of the program. Subsequently, grantees receive 80% of their original funding in year three (3) and 60% in year four (4), **pending congressional appropriations**.

21st CCLC FY21 Continuation Plans

In an effort to streamline our submission and review process, continuation plans will be moving online via MCAPS. Training details and submission dates will be forthcoming.

EL/Immigrant

TransAct Parent Notices

As many of you are aware, the Mississippi Department of Education partners with TransACT Parent Notices to provide district staff with unlimited access to an online library of professionally written and translated forms and notices to help us comply with federal parent and family communication requirements under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and the Office for Civil Rights (OCR), which is specific to each program. The notices, languages, and collections will remain the same.

However, TransACT is updating their interface with a new look and feel, a new mobile interface, and advanced search functions.

Our official launch date on the upgraded interface is July 9, 2020.

Staff Webinar Sign Up: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/rt/74242727757864460>

District Administrator Webinar Sign Up: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/rt/74242727757864460>

If you do not have an account, please sign up for one at: <https://app.parentnotices.com/register>.

Monitoring

As a result of Covid-19, the Office of Federal Programs was unable to monitor districts previously scheduled this past school year. Since we are unable to predict how districts will operate in the next few months, we are in the process of transitioning to a virtual monitoring schedule beginning this fall. We will be reaching out to the districts who were initially scheduled this past Spring, and to those who will be monitored for FY21. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Dr. Diona Thomas at (601-359-3499) or dithomas@mdek12.org.

Migrant Education Program

The **Mississippi Migrant Education Service Center (MMESC)** facilitates the MDE federal program requirement of identification and educational assistance to migrant students throughout Mississippi. The MMESC [website](#) includes a list of [regional recruiters](#) who visit district offices to check for new migrant students. Federal Programs Directors are key contacts for these recruiters.

If you have any questions or require assistance, contact MMESC Director Gabby Davis (662.325.1815), or Mississippi Migrant Education Coordinator Bryan Lieb at MDE Office of Federal Programs (601.359.3499).

Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

Because this is the beginning of another school year, your district may be in need of FERPA training. It is imperative that you know what information can be shared about students. Knowledge of student data privacy laws will help with answering questions that arise regarding personally identifiable student information, records, and data. Understanding and adhering to the requirements outlined in the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) will ensure compliance regarding the sharing of student information.

Access the links below to learn more about FERPA, view webinars, and take an online training course as an introduction to FERPA and its requirements.

[Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act \(FERPA\)](#)

[Webinars on student data privacy](#)

[FERPA 101: for Local Education Agencies](#)

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.

"Small daily improvements over time lead to stunning results" - Robin Sharma