

OFFICE OF EDUCATIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY
Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Items
March 15-16, 2012

OFFICE OF ACCREDITATION

15. Approval of an Accredited-Temporary Status for CARES School – Gulfport

Based on nonpublic school accreditation policy 2.3, an Accredited-Temporary status may be assigned to a satellite school established by the governing body of an accredited nonpublic school currently on record with the State Board of education.

CARES School, Inc., in Jackson has opened the CARES School in Gulfport as an individualized educational, behavioral, and treatment program for students ages 6-18 who often display either emotional and/or behavioral difficulties in school and/or at home. Students at CARES of Gulfport School are placed by local public school districts that do not have appropriate services for these students and may be placed by the Department of Human Services. Students receive specialized programming addressing their academic needs, which is coordinated with the Mississippi Frameworks to prepare students to successfully return to their local schools.

CARES of Gulfport School is staffed with a full-time principal, 4 full-time special education teachers, 2 behavioral management specialists, 4 behavior interventionists, 1 behavior consultant, and 1 licensed therapist. Currently, 14 students are enrolled. The school has collaborative agreements with Gulfport, Harrison County, Pass Christian, Hancock County, Pearl River County, Biloxi, Pascagoula, and Bay/Waveland School Districts.

Recommendation: Approval