

OFFICE OF STATE SUPERINTENDENT
Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Items
Consent Agenda
June 14-15, 2012

OFFICE OF COMMUNICATION AND LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

I. Approval of grant awards for special projects appropriated by the Mississippi Legislature, House Bills 1593 (subject to the availability of funds)

Purpose: The Mississippi Legislature appropriated funds for special projects as identified in House Bills 1593. The Mississippi Department of Education is directed to transfer the designated amounts to the appropriate entities, which shall assume full responsibility for the expenditure of these funds in accordance with state laws and accept all responsibility for any improper expenditure. This requirement will be included in the grant agreements for the entities receiving funds under House Bills 1593.

- Funding Source: State General, (House Bill 1593), and Health Care Expendable Fund
- Basis for Awarding the Grant: Legislative Mandate
- Total Amount to be Awarded: \$12,796,553
- Grant Period: July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013

Recommendation: Approval

Back-up material attached

**Special Projects Appropriated by the Mississippi Legislature
Fiscal Year 2013**

Entities appropriated funding in HB 1593:

Detention Centers	\$1,000,000
Dyslexia Program	\$ 300,000
Gulfport School District – Travel and Tourism	\$ 75,000
K12 Company School	\$ 100,000
Learning Through Sports/Kids College	\$ 785,000
Magnolia Speech School	\$ 542,541
Mississippi Autism	\$ 100,000
Mississippi Symphony Orchestra	\$ 50,000
Principal Corp	\$ 300,000
Sight Savers of Alabama, Inc.	\$ 426,472
Teacher Corp	\$ 185,000
University of Southern Mississippi – Preschool Language Program	\$ 542,540
Vision Research Corporation – Vision Screening Program	\$ 300,000
Weight Watchers Program	\$ 300,000
*World Class Teacher Program	\$ 500,000
Teach for America	\$6,000,000
Very Special Arts Program	\$ 40,000
Save the Children Program	\$ 750,000
Webster County School District	<u>\$ 500,000</u>
 Total Grant Awards for Special Projects	 \$12,796,553

*(University allotments are based on number of National Board Candidates served)

**Special Projects Appropriated by the Mississippi Legislature
House Bill 1593 Fiscal Year 2012**

Detention Centers (State Funds)

Detainees of the 17 detention centers in the State are required to receive educational services by a certified teacher in the sponsoring school district selected by youth court judges. The educational services may be contracted with a private provider if approved by the judge and sponsoring school district. Services include computer-based diagnostic assessment and math and reading instruction, character evaluation, and behavioral counseling. The funds will be used to equip each of the 17 detention centers with a full-time teacher and computer lab complete with software, hardware and furniture for rendering the required educational services.

Dyslexia Program (State Funds)

Funds will be provided to the Mississippi Department of Education for disbursement to schools that apply through an RFP process on a yearly basis for funds to implement local dyslexia assessment and remediation programs. An average of 18 schools has been awarded grants per year since the implementation of the program in 1997. The Dyslexia pilot program provides for certain students enrolled or enrolling in public schools to be tested for dyslexia and related disorders based on a request from a parent, student, school nurse, classroom teacher, or other personnel who believes the need for testing exists. School districts provide remediation in an appropriate multi-sensory, systemic language-based dyslexia program or programs as determined by the district, such as the Texas Scottish Rite Hospital Dyslexia Training Program, for children not qualified to be served in special education services.

Gulfport School District – Travel and Tourism (State Funds)

The Gulfport School District's Academy of Travel and Tourism is designed to offer an alternative curriculum for students who do not typically enroll in vocational programs. The program provides training and skills necessary for professional, entry-level positions in the travel and tourism industry. Paid internship positions are provided within travel and tourism businesses. Funds will be used for salaries, travel, teaching resources, professional development, equipment and office expenses.

K12 Company School (State Funds)

K-12 Company is a "virtual" public school company that offers online educational programs for children in kindergarten through 12th grade. In Mississippi, the funds appropriated by the Legislature will enable pilot programs which will use technology-based theory to turn around underperforming schools. The program will be instituted in three schools.

Learning Through Sports/Kids College (State Funds)

Learning Through Sports/Kid College will provide qualifying elementary and middle schools with a data-driven, diagnostic, adaptive and prescriptive teaching tool and will implement programs that address drop-out prevention and character education. Learning through Sports is a leading educational publisher of digital game-based learning programs for K-12. Star sportsmanship will provide every 7th through 12th grade student-athlete, coach, and official participating in MHSAA-sanctioned activities in the State of Mississippi access to a web-based sports related, character-building program.

Magnolia Speech School (State Funds)

Magnolia Speech School, located in Jackson, is a unique auditory oral program for Mississippi's children with hearing loss and language disorders. With small classrooms, specialized staff and a life-changing curriculum, the school helps children reach their potential in the area of spoken language and to mainstream most of these students back into their local school, equipped to understand when spoken to, to speak and be understood, and to read and learn in a regular academic setting. Parents pay minimal tuition on a sliding scale according to income. With 35% of the students enrolled from low-income households, Magnolia Speech School provides over one million dollars annually in financial assistance to families throughout Mississippi. The allocated funds from the State will be used to provide a portion of this financial aid.

Mississippi Autism (State Funds)

The Mississippi Autism Center works with children with autism from early childhood and utilizes proven based programs/curricula in preparing them for successful school experiences. Funding will be used for early identification of children with autism, giving them an opportunity for success in the school environment.

Mississippi Symphony Orchestra (State Funds)

House Bill 706, which created the Mississippi School of the Arts (MSA), authorized the State Board of Education to enter into agreements with the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra and other professional organizations for instruction and educational services at Mississippi School of the Arts (MSA) and other public schools. The program provides instruction on music appreciation and theory, music history, and music performance in school districts that are unable to provide music education through local resources. The funds will be used for musicians, salaries, travel and materials.

Principal Corps (State Funds)

The Principal Corps in the School of Education at the University of Mississippi, modeled after the Mississippi Teacher Corps, will be a scholarship program designed to recruit the brightest and most talented candidates to complete specialized principal training. The program will include instruction for two full summers and one academic year of graduate work and will pay the tuition, accommodations and per diem for first-year principals accepted into the program. The program will utilize leading authorities in the country and the Barksdale Reading Institute to design the principal-training curriculum with an emphasis on literacy instruction, and will serve as a model for other universities.

Sight Savers of Alabama, Inc. (State Funds)

Sight Savers of Alabama, Inc. performs the service of following up with children after the initial vision-screening to coordinate both the scheduling and transportation for eye exams, eyeglasses, medication, vision training, surgery, and vision aids. Sight Savers also recruits a network of eye care professionals to treat children, including a volunteer network of doctors and opticians. Treatment is provided free of charge to children who cannot afford the services. Essentially, Sight Savers works to ensure that children get the treatment they need to correct vision problems that are found after mandatory visitors screening.

Teacher Corps (State Funds)

The Teacher Corps is a two-year program, similar to the Peace Corps that recruits college graduates to teach in Mississippi schools, primarily in the Mississippi Delta and in Jackson. The program is designed for non-education majors and provides them with teacher training and certification, a full scholarship for a master's degree in education from the University of Mississippi and job placement. The program provides dedicated, talented teachers for critical-needs school districts in Mississippi, affords a structured entry into the teaching profession for outstanding liberal arts graduates who have not taught before and identifies and nurtures educational leaders.

University of Southern Mississippi – Preschool Language Program (State Funds)

The Children's Center for Communication and Development, located at the University of Southern Mississippi, assists school districts in providing special education services to children with communication and developmental delays from birth through five years of age. The Center is comprised of an interdisciplinary team, which develops curriculum modules and training materials for statewide use, establishes on-site observation and provides intervention services.

The funds will be used for salaries, travel, consultants and office expenses related to the training, modeling and replication of the program in the public schools.

Vision Research Corporation – Vision Screening Program (State and Tobacco Funds)

The 1996 Legislature appropriated \$50,000 to establish a pilot student vision-screening program to make eye-screening services available to students in the public schools. The purpose of this program was to detect vision problems, which can lead to academic problems. The Vision Research Corporation of Birmingham, Alabama conducted the Mississippi Eye Screening Program during FY 1997, using an advanced screening system originally developed by NASA. Over 8,330 students were screened during the 1996-1997 school year. Since its inception, the pilot program has grown to a statewide effort with approximately 40,000 students screened this past year.

Weight Watchers Program (State Funds)

Weight Watchers will offer grants for a Weight Watchers Program to Mississippi school Districts for its teachers and employees. The appropriation required that the local district absorb 60% of the cost and the grant will cover 40% of the cost.

World Class Teacher Program (State and Education Enhancement Funds)

The World Class Teacher Program is a program designed to assist teachers in gaining National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) certification. The program was originally operated by Mississippi State University, and the 1998 Legislature increased the sites by adding programs at the University of Southern Mississippi and The University of Mississippi. The 1999 Legislature expanded the program to include sites at Delta State University and at Jackson State University. The funds will be used for salaries, travel, office expenses and consultants to support the World Class Teacher Program at these universities.

Teach For America (State Funds)

Teach for America recruits and places bright college graduates in teaching positions for two years in Mississippi's critical teacher shortage areas. Corp members must have a bachelor's degree, pass the PRAXIS I & II, and have U. S. Citizenship. In addition, Corp members must pass background checks and attend summer training prior to entering the classroom. Ongoing meetings and discussions among the Teach for America teachers, district administrators, district teachers, and Teach for America personnel builds a comprehensive support network for teach Corp members.

Very Special Arts (VSA) of Mississippi (State Funds)

VSA of Mississippi is a statewide volunteer-based non-profit organization dedicated to the development, promotion, coordination and implementation of quality accessible arts programs in dance, music, drama, creative writing, visual and media arts for people of all ages and disabilities. VSA, in partnership with Northwest Mississippi Community College, has offered Start with the Arts, Mosaic Design and Paper Making for teachers

in north Mississippi. VSA also worked in partnership with JPS to offer professional development for teachers in Mosaic Design and Paper Making for children with disabilities.

Save the Children Program (State Funds)

Save the Children is an independent organization geared toward creating opportunities for children to lead safe, healthy and fulfilling lives. Founded by a group of business people in 1932, the organization began with a hot lunch program for undernourished students in Harlan County, KY. In the 1940s, during World War II, Save the Children expanded operation overseas. In Mississippi, the group has recently been instrumental in helping to restore child care services in areas that were impacted by Hurricane Katrina. A grant the organization received in 2007 allowed for two new child care facilities in Hancock and Harrison counties.

Webster County School District (State Funds)

Assistance is provided to Webster County School District for rebuilding projects necessary as result of tornados that hit Webster County during FY12.