

OFFICE OF STATE SUPERINTENDENT Summary of
State Board of Education Agenda Items February 14-
15, 2013

OFFICE OF STATE SUPERINTENDENT

20. Approval to add two additional components to the Legislative Priorities of the State Board of Education

Recommendation: Approval

Back-up material attached

MISSISSIPPI BOARD OF EDUCATION

2013

Legislative Priorities

REQUESTS REQUIRED BY LAW

Full Funding of MAEP (\$2,355,931,306)(Preliminary Estimate)

The Mississippi Adequate Education Program (MAEP) was designed to provide the necessary resources to all school districts in an equitable manner. The required full funding level for MAEP is prescribed by MS Code §37-151-7.

RESTORATION OF DIVERTED FUNDS

Teacher Supply Funds (\$20,175,668)

A portion of the sales tax diversion into the Education Enhancement Fund has been redirected to fund MAEP for the past several years. Because of this, districts have not had the resources needed for instructional supplies, as prescribed by MS Code §37-61-33.

Public School Building Funds (\$20,000,000)

For the past several years, Public School Building Funds, which are set aside through MS Code §37-47-33, have also been redirected to fund MAEP, leaving districts without the resources necessary to make much-needed repairs and renovations to their schools.

REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL NEEDS

Early Childhood Education Pilot Programs (\$2,500,000)

The development of children from birth to age five is critical for success in school. About one-third of students begin kindergarten without the necessary skills. Children who start school behind their peers have a very difficult time meeting grade-level expectations and continue to struggle throughout elementary, middle, and high school. A quality early childhood education program is vital in order for students to develop the foundational skills that lead to success in school and in life. The MBE is committed to continue collaboration with the appropriate stakeholders on the development and implementation of a coordinated initiative for early childhood education.

Superintendent Academy (\$500,000)

The Mississippi Board of Education supports the need for a Superintendent Academy. The Superintendent Academy would provide professional development and training for superintendents to better: foster relationships with local school boards; gain overall knowledge of school district finances; and foster relationships with local government leaders (i.e., Mayor, Alderman, Board of Supervisors).

Common Core State Standards (\$1,000,000)

The Mississippi Board of Education supports the need to provide professional development for the full implementation of Common Core State Standards and assessments. Common Core State Standards is a national initiative sponsored by the National Governors Association.

Excellence for All (High School Innovation) (\$1,000,000)

This program is designed to ensure that there are multiple pathways for every student to exit high school college and career ready. It brings the well proven idea used by high performing countries of aligned instructional systems to U.S. high schools. The program is designed in a manner that will change the dynamics of high school, as students who succeed in these programs will have the option to attend open admissions colleges as early as the beginning of their junior year and do so without remediation. The program is in alignment with the Common Core State Standards (CCSS).

Dropout Prevention (\$1,500,000)

A primary goal of the Mississippi Board of Education is to reduce the number of students who drop out of school prior to graduation. These funds will be used to increase efforts at the local and state levels in order to redefine and intensify the focus on saving students who are at risk of dropping out of school.

Appointed Superintendents

The Mississippi Board of Education supports appointment of all school district superintendents. Only 147 of the nation's approximately 14,500 school districts have elected superintendents. Alabama, Florida and Mississippi are the only three states that elect superintendents. The Board supports legislation to phase in the transition from elected to appointed superintendents.

PRIORITIES TO SUPPORT BOARD GOALS

Improving Literacy

Implement a training system for K-3 teachers, principals and university faculty that will be focused on research and best practices in literacy instruction. The system should include assessments and interventions that will ensure students will be able to read on grade level by 3rd grade.

Increase Teacher Standards

Increase standards for entry into teaching and to recruit the best and brightest students. The standards should include minimum entry requirements for teacher education programs and incentives for top-performing students to enter education. Teachers with a track record of raising student achievement should be compensated for their efforts.