

OFFICE OF EDUCATIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY
Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Items
March 14-15, 2013

OFFICE OF ACCREDITATION

10. Approval of an Accredited Status for CARES School – Gulfport

The Nonpublic School Accreditation Process is authorized by MS Code 37-17-7 which states that any nonpublic school may, through its governing body, request that the State Board of Education approve such institution. Accreditation shall be based upon a process promulgated by the State Board of Education; provided, however, that in no event shall the State Board of Education adopt more stringent standards for approval of nonpublic schools than the accreditation standards applied to public schools.

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 technicians, 4 behavior interventionists, 1 behavior consultant, and 2 licensed therapists. Currently, 22 students are enrolled. The school has collaborative agreements with Gulfport, Harrison County, Pass Christian, Hancock County, Pearl River County, Biloxi, Pascagoula, Bay/Waveland, and Long Beach School Districts.

Recommendation: Approval