

**OFFICE OF STATE SUPERINTENDENT**  
**Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Items**  
**June 20-21, 2013**

**OFFICE OF STATE SUPERINTENDENT**

38. Approval to establish State Board Policy 5151 – Consolidation of School Districts  
(Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process with one public comment)

Recommendation: Approval

Back-up material attached

## 5151 Consolidation of School Districts

Pursuant to Section 37-7-104, *et seq.* of the Mississippi Code, the Mississippi Legislature has required that certain school districts (consolidate/be consolidated) and that the Mississippi Board of Education promulgate rules and regulations to facilitate the consolidation of these school districts. This policy shall apply to all consolidations currently required by law and for any future consolidations that the Mississippi Legislature shall require. These procedures shall be implemented by the Office of School Improvement, Oversight and Recovery and other assigned Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) staff.

The Board prescribes the following rules and regulations for consolidation of school districts:

1. Transition Team
  - a. The State Superintendent shall appoint a Transition Team that includes MDE staff members and individuals not employed by MDE to facilitate transition to a new school board and consolidated school district.
  - b. The school boards, superintendents, administrative and instructional staff of the school districts required to consolidate shall work cooperatively with the MDE and the Transition Team to facilitate the transition to the new consolidated district.
  - c. Unless otherwise provided by state law, this may include timelines and procedures for:
    - i. Abolition of affected school districts and formation of consolidated school district.
    - ii. Selection of administrators, establishment of contracts for licensed personnel and hiring of un-licensed personnel for the consolidated district
    - iii. Community meetings
    - iv. Adoption of a set of school district policies for the consolidated district
    - v. Consolidation of programs including but not limited to:
      1. Athletic programs and student organizations
      2. Bus routes
      3. Curriculum consistent with Common Core State Standards
      4. Districts' business offices and financial accounting software
      5. Federal programs
      6. Food service
      7. Safety crisis plan
      8. Special education programs
    - vi. Transfer of assets from affected school districts to consolidated school district
    - vii. Transition to a new school board for the consolidated school district
  - d. This Transition Team shall establish procedures and a timeline for administrative consolidation of the affected school districts and shall serve notice and instructions on the affected school districts of the procedures and timeline.
2. The Transition Team shall report periodically to the State Superintendent of Education. The State Superintendent of Education will notify the Mississippi Board of Education of the progress of the Transition Team.

Source code: *Miss. Code Ann. §37-7-104, et seq.*

*(Adopted 6/2013)*



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Dexter Green, Superintendent of Education  
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Lynn J. House, Ph. D  
Interim State Superintendent of Education  
359 North West Street  
P.O. Box 771  
Jackson, MS 39205-0771

Date: June 11, 2013

Subject: Consolidation of School Districts- Board Policy 5151

Dr. Lynn House:

The Okolona Municipal Separate School Board, the Superintendent of Education, and the Okolona community are requesting that the Mississippi Department of Education does not consider the Okolona School District for school consolidation. The Okolona School District was under state control for three years. During those years, the Okolona School District has witnessed minimum academic growth in student achievement from 2010-2013 while under the control of conservators assigned by the Mississippi Department of Education.

We are confident that our newly appointed School Board (who are former educators and businessmen), and our newly appointed Superintendent of Education (who has a proven track record for increasing student achievement) will successfully move the Okolona School District to newer and greater educational heights. The School Board and the Superintendent of Education are dedicated and committed to providing quality educational services to all students who attend schools within the Okolona School District. Students will be afforded with an education that will meet and exceed state learning academic standards. Furthermore, if given the opportunity, we assure you and the Mississippi School Board Association that the Okolona School District will earn state recognition for significantly closing the student achievement gap by July 1, 2014.

We are thanking you in advance for your cooperation and attention to this pertinent educational matter. With great appreciation and kindest regards, I am,

Educationally yours,



Dexter Green

Superintendent of Education

Okolona Municipal Separate School District

CC: Okolona School Board Members