

OFFICE OF STATE SUPERINTENDENT
Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Items
July 18-19, 2013

OFFICE OF STATE SUPERINTENDENT

30. Approval of the State Board of Education's 2014 Legislative Priorities

Recommendation: Approval

Back-up material attached

MISSISSIPPI BOARD OF EDUCATION

2014

Legislative Priorities

Full Funding of MAEP (\$2,347,016,486) (Preliminary Estimate)

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

Teacher Supply Funds (\$16,170,817)

- A portion of the sales tax diversion into the Education Enhancement Fund has been redirected to fund MAEP
- 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)

- Public School Building Funds, which are set aside through MS Code §37-47-33, have also been redirected to fund MAEP
- Districts have not received resources necessary to make much-needed repairs and renovations to their schools

Superintendent's Academy (\$500,000)

- The Mississippi Board of Education supports the need for a Superintendent's Academy
- The Superintendent's Academy would:
 - Provide professional development and training for new and aspiring superintendents
 - Foster relationships with local school boards
 - Gain overall knowledge of school district finances
 - Develop effective working relationships with local government leaders (i.e., Mayor, Alderman, Bd of Supervisors)

Literacy (Third Grade Gate) (\$15,000,000)

- The legislature passed the Literacy-Based Promotion Act of 2013 (SB 2347) to ensure students exiting third grade are reading on grade level
- Continued training of teachers and funding of literacy coaches for year two is essential
- Additional training and professional development opportunities are needed for educators in our colleges and universities

Expansion of Early Childhood Education Pilot Programs (\$6,000,000)

- 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
- The MBE is committed to continued collaboration with the appropriate stakeholders to further expand “The Early Learning Collaborative Act of 2013” (SB 2395)

College and Career Ready Standards (CCSS) (\$1,000,000)

- The Mississippi Board of Education (MBE) supports the need to provide teachers with expanded professional development opportunities for the full implementation of more rigorous college and career ready standards (CCSS) and assessments
- These more rigorous standards are supported by the National Governors Association (NGA) and the Council of Chief States School Officers (CCSSO) and will support economic development of Mississippi

High School Innovations (\$2,500,000)

- The MBE is dedicated to ensuring that the high school model is redefined to provide more flexibility and pathway options for high school completion
- High School Innovations would support:
 - The *Excellence for All* Program
 - Multiple pathways to exit high school
 - Dual enrollment and dual credit programs
 - Career academies for students
 - Dropout prevention initiatives
 - Increased graduation rates

State Special Schools (\$4,000,000 - \$1,000,000 for each school)

- Mississippi has four special schools as determined by law.
 - The Mississippi School for the Arts
 - The Mississippi School for the Blind
 - The Mississippi School for the Deaf
 - The Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science.
- These schools need funds to:
 - Cover the cost of PERS increases they have not received in recent years.
 - Provide flexibility to redefine and reclassify professional PINS for comparability and competitiveness, and
 - Provide for increasing operational costs.

Increased Technology for Schools

- Broadband expansion is vital to teachers and students who are increasing the use of technology to teach and learn in real time.
- Schools need capacity to build a more robust technology infrastructure.
- Hardware/Device/Software enhancements and security controls must be addressed locally and statewide.
- Connectivity interruptions and system crashes need to be reduced because of simultaneous users.

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.

**Chickasaw Sessions will need an additional \$4,200,000 per court order.*