

OFFICE OF EDUCATIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY
Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Items
August 15-16, 2013

OFFICE OF ACCREDITATION

- 17.B. Approval to allow Carnegie unit credit in Mississippi Studies and Geography in the eighth (8th) grade beginning in school year 2013-2014
(Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process **with/without** public comment)

On June 6, 2013, the Commission on School Accreditation approved the proposal to allow Carnegie unit credit in Mississippi Studies and Geography in the eighth (8th) grade beginning in school year 2013-2014.

Recommendation: Approval

Back-up material attached



**Commission on School Accreditation
June 6, 2013**

Item 17.B.

Discussion to allow Carnegie unit credit in Mississippi Studies and Geography in the 8th grade beginning school year 2013-2014.

The Office of Career and Technical Education requests the Accreditation Commission to consider a change to allow Mississippi Studies and Geography to be taught at the 8th grade level for ½ Carnegie credit each for high school graduation purposes.

This course has been typically taught at the 9th or 10th grade level; however, there is an increasing demand for it to also be offered to 8th grade students. In addition to the demand for these classes in the 8th grade, typically in Excellence for All pilot schools, Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL) already allows for Mississippi Studies credit earned before high school to be accepted for admission provided content is the same as the high school course. The reference to Mississippi Studies pre-high school is also referenced in House Bill 425 – “Required Course Work for Student Tuition Assistance Grant.”

Allowing students, who choose to do so, to complete Mississippi Studies and/or Geography at the 8th grade will allow students to explore greater opportunities at the high school level in their selected pathways. Allowing high school credit will provide even greater incentive for students to plan their high school pathway.

Addition Backup Materials:

- House Bill 425
- IHL document Higher Education Legislative Plan (HELP) Scholarship