

OFFICE OF EDUCATIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY
Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Item
September 12-13, 2013

OFFICE OF ACCREDITATION

18. Report from the Commission on School Accreditation concerning the Commission's determination that an extreme emergency situation exists in the Claiborne County School District

On September 10, 2013, the Commission on School Accreditation determined by Resolution that there is sufficient cause to believe an extreme emergency situation exists in the Claiborne County School District brought on by serious findings related to serious violations of accreditation standards and state law and a continued pattern of poor student performance which jeopardizes the safety, security, and educational interests of the children enrolled in the schools of this district.

Back-up material attached

BEFORE THE MISSISSIPPI BOARD OF EDUCATION
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

IN THE MATTER OF
CLAIBORNE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

ORDER

This matter came before a quorum of the Mississippi State Board of Education ("Board") present on August 15, 2013, for consideration of the recommendation of the Commission on School Accreditation ("Commission") that the Claiborne County School District ("District") should be assigned an accreditation status of WITHDRAWN NOT ACCREDITED.

The Commission conducted a show cause hearing which concluded on August 1, 2013, after which the Commission determined that the District should be assigned an accreditation status of WITHDRAWN NOT ACCREDITED. Per Miss. Code Ann. Section 37-17-6(11(a), the Commission's recommendation was forwarded to the Board for its approval, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit "One" and incorporated herein by reference. After considering the Commission's recommendation, the Board finds that this matter should be remanded to the Commission with instructions that the Commission determine if an extreme emergency situation exists in the District that jeopardizes the safety, security or educational interests of the children enrolled in the schools per Miss. Code Ann. Section 37-17-6.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that this matter be remanded to the Commission on School Accreditation for further proceedings by that body pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. Section 37-17-6 and other applicable laws and regulations to determine if an extreme emergency situation exists in the Claiborne County School District that jeopardizes the safety, security or educational interests of the children enrolled in the schools.

SO ENTERED, THIS THE 16th DAY OF AUGUST, 2013.

MISSISSIPPI BOARD OF EDUCATION

By: *O. Wayne Gann*
Dr. O. Wayne Gann, Chairman

BOARD SEAL

**BEFORE THE
COMMISSION ON SCHOOL ACCREDITATION**

**RE: CLAIBORNE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
SHOW CAUSE HEARING**

ORDER

Pending before the Commission on School Accreditation is the matter of Accreditation status of the Claiborne County School District (District). On December 11, 2012, the Commission scheduled a show cause hearing for March 6-7, 2013, when the District was required to show cause why the District's accreditation status should not be withdrawn. At the March 2013 hearing, the Commission with agreement of both the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) and the District assigned an accreditation status of Probation. The Commission on School Accreditation (Commission) order further granted additional time in which the District could establish compliance and provide sufficient evidence and documentation to the MDE to verify compliance with the *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards 2012*.

Pursuant to the subsequent order dated June 13, 2013, the Commission reconvened the show cause hearing on July 31, 2013, and August 1, 2013. At that hearing, the Commission heard and considered evidence and testimony by the MDE and the District. Having considered the evidence and arguments of counsel, the Commission hereby finds as follows:

- 1) The District did not provide sufficient evidence and documentation to demonstrate compliance with Standards 1, 2, 3, 9, 21, 23, 24, 27 and 35.
- 2) The District is not in compliance with Standards 8, 31, and 10.5 but the non-compliance is not the basis for the Commission's recommendation herein.

Based on these findings, the Commission hereby recommends to the Mississippi Board of Education that the District be assigned an accreditation status of **WITHDRAWN NOT ACCREDITED**.

SO ORDERED, THIS THE 7th day of August, 2013.

COMMISSION OF SCHOOL ACCREDITATION

(SEAL)

BY:



Dr. Edward Lee Childress
Chairman

EXHIBIT

ONE

CLAIBORNE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT (1100)

History of Performance

Accountability Component	School Year	District Level	A.W. Watson Jr./Elem.	Port Gibson Middle	Port Gibson High
Performance Classification	2009	At-Risk of Failing	Academic Watch	At-Risk of Failing	Failing
	2010	Successful	Successful	Successful	At-Risk of Failing
	2011	Successful	Academic Watch	High Performing	Low Performing
	2012	F – Low Performing	B – High Performing	F – Low Performing	F – Low Performing
	2013*	D	D	F	D
QDI	2009	105	108	109	93
	2010	134	153	134	105
	2011	150	142	173	115
	2012	128	173	101	105
	2013*	135	160	129	117
Growth	2009	Not Met	Met	Not Met	Not Met
	2010	Met	Met	Met	Not Met
	2011	Met	Not Met	Met	Not Met
	2012	Not Met	Met	Not Met	Not Met
	2013*	Not Met	Not Met	Not Met	Not Met
Graduation Rates (5-Year)	2009	96.0			96.0
	2010	88.7			88.7
	2011	87.9			87.9
	2012	86.4			86.4
	2013*	84.9			84.9

* The 2013 Accountability Results are embargoed until approval by the State Board of Education



Mississippi Department of Education

Lynn J. House, Ph.D., Interim State Superintendent of Education

Educational Accountability

Michael D. Kent • Interim Director


Office of Accreditation

Paula A. Vanderford, Ph.D. • Education Bureau Manager • 601-359-3764 • FAX: 601-359-1979

Susan M. Andrews • Bureau Director

MEMORANDUM

To: Lynn J. House, Ph.D., Interim State Superintendent
Mississippi Department of Education

From: Paula Vanderford, Ph.D., Executive Secretary
Commission on School Accreditation 

Date: September 10, 2013

Subject: Commission on School Accreditation Resolution

Enclosed is documentation of the action taken by the Commission on School Accreditation during a meeting today, Tuesday, September 10, 2013, at 10:00 a.m. in the 4th Floor Board Room of the Central High School Building in Jackson, Mississippi. In accordance with Section 37-17-6(12)(b) of the *Mississippi Code of 1972*, as amended, the Commission on School Accreditation has determined that an extreme emergency exists in the Claiborne County School District which jeopardizes the safety, security, and educational interests of the children enrolled in the schools of this District and is related to serious violations of accreditation standards and state law and a continued pattern of poor student performance.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 37-17-6 (12) (b) of the Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended, the Commission on School Accreditation met in a regularly scheduled meeting on September 10, 2013 to determine whether there was sufficient cause to believe that an extreme emergency situation exists in the Claiborne County School District which jeopardizes the safety, security, and educational interests of the children enrolled in the schools of this District; and,

WHEREAS, the Office of Accreditation, Mississippi Department of Education, presented certain information to the Commission regarding the Claiborne County School District's impairments related to serious violations of accreditation standards and state law and a continued pattern of poor student performance, a copy of which is attached as Exhibit "A" and incorporated by reference as though a part of this Resolution;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Commission on School Accreditation finds the following:

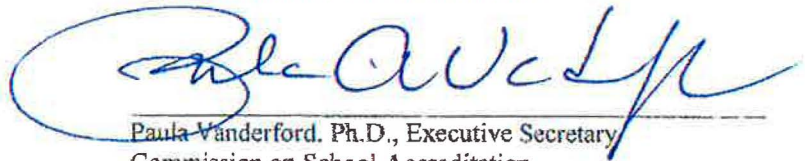
The Commission finds that there is sufficient cause to believe that an extreme emergency situation exists in the Claiborne County School District brought on by serious findings related to serious violations of accreditation standards and state law and a continued pattern of poor student performance which jeopardize the safety, security, and educational interests of the children enrolled in the schools of this District, and which, without intervention by the Commission on School Accreditation and the Mississippi Board of Education, could result in the continuation of an inadequate and unstable educational environment thereby denying the students of this District the opportunity to learn, to excel, and to obtain a free and appropriate public education.

BE IT KNOWN THAT the Executive Secretary of the Commission on School Accreditation is directed to immediately distribute a copy of this Resolution to the Interim State Superintendent of Education and the Mississippi Board of Education.

WITNESS MY SIGNATURE on this, the 10th day of September A.D., 2013.



Lee Childress, Ed.D., Chairman
Commission on School Accreditation



Paula Vanderford, Ph.D., Executive Secretary
Commission on School Accreditation

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
COUNTY OF Madison

This day personally appeared before me, the undersigned authority of law in and for the above named county and state, the within named Dr. Lee Childress, who acknowledged that he signed the above and foregoing instrument of writing on the day and year therein mentioned for the purposes therein shown as his voluntary act and deed.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND OFFICIAL SEAL on this, the 10th day of September, A.D. 2013.

Kimberly D. Ware
NOTARY PUBLIC

MY COMMISSION EXPIRES:



STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
COUNTY OF Madison

This day personally appeared before me, the undersigned authority of law in and for the above named county and state, the within named Dr. Paula Vanderford, who acknowledged that she signed the above and foregoing instrument of writing on the day and year therein mentioned for the purposes therein shown as her voluntary act and deed.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND OFFICIAL SEAL on this, the 10th day of September, A.D. 2013.

Kimberly D. Ware
NOTARY PUBLIC

MY COMMISSION EXPIRES:

