

**OFFICE OF INSTRUCTIONAL ENHANCEMENT AND INTERNAL OPERATIONS**  
**Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Items**  
**February 20-21, 2014**

**OFFICE OF CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION**

12. Approval to renew contract with Connections Education, LLC for the operation of the Mississippi Virtual Public School system

Awarded Vendor: Connections Education, LLC  
Baltimore, Maryland

Scope of Project: The original contract language for Connections Education, LLC indicated an option to renew an additional two years beyond the original ending date of June 30, 2013. This contract renewal includes the second additional year to pay for service to provide online courses for students during Fiscal Year 2015. The contractor is responsible for the total operation, administration, and management of the virtual school including registration, enrollment, course content, and instructional staff.

Personnel associated with this contract are not former Department employees or related to any Department employee.

Basis for Contract: Section 37-161-3 of the Mississippi Code authorizes the State Board of Education to select private providers, overseen by the State Department of Education, to administer, manage or operate the Mississippi Virtual Public School Program.

Scope of Contract:

- Term of Contract Renewal: August 1, 2010 – July 31, 2015
- Cost of Current Contract: \$2,100,000
- Renewal Increase: \$ 500,000
- Total Cost of Contract Renewal: \$2,600,000
- Method of Award: Request for Proposals

Funding Source: State funds

Recommendation: Approval

Back-up material attached

## Mississippi Virtual Public School Executive Summary of Program Evaluation

### General Overview

All Mississippi school districts have the option to use the Mississippi Virtual Public School (MVPS), which is currently the only online environment available for students to earn credit towards a Mississippi High School Diploma. The cost per half-credit course is \$265 and the cost per one-credit course is \$530 based on the current contractual agreement. During school year 2013-2014, approximately 60 online course offerings are available through the MVPS.

The awarded vendor is in compliance with all specifications of the contract.

### Course Overview

	2010-2011		2011-2012		2012-2013		2013-2014
	Total Course Enrollment	Pass Rate	Total Course Enrollment	Pass Rate	Total Course Enrollment	Pass Rate	Total Course Enrollment
State-funded	3,106	93%	3,382	92%	3,121	90%	3,402
District-funded	93	95%	8	100%	134	93%	0
Private-funded	31	93%	41	90%	18	67%	0

### Funding Spent Overview

FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014
\$573,770	\$500,000	\$490,655	*\$90,965

\*Final payment for the first half allotment period will be invoiced after all students complete the first semester courses.