

OFFICE OF INSTRUCTIONAL ENHANCEMENT AND INTERNAL OPERATIONS
Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Items
April 17-18, 2014

OFFICE OF INSTRUCTIONAL ENHANCEMENT AND INTERNAL OPERATIONS

10. Approval to contract with North Mississippi Education Consortium for Fiscal Year 2015

Awarded Vendor: North Mississippi Education Consortium
Oxford, Mississippi

Scope of Project: Mississippi Code Section 37-7-345 gives the State Board of Education the authority to contract with and provide funds to Regional Education Service Agencies (RESA) for any education-related service.

One of the three goals of the State Board of Education is to mobilize resources and supports to assist districts and schools. One of the ways this goal will be accomplished is through a contract with the North Mississippi Education Consortium (NMEC). NMEC will, in turn, sub-contract with the five other RESAs in the state and the University of Mississippi to perform the specified services. Services will include but are not limited to: (1) coordinating and facilitating training sessions; (2) procuring related services such as speakers/trainers; (3) developing training materials; and (4) offering focused on-site and virtual professional development and technical assistance to schools and districts through a Regional Service Delivery Model.

Under the Professional Development component of the contract, approximately 525 sessions are planned to train over 50,000 participants during the 2014-2015 school year. The MDE offices involved in the planning of the trainings include Child Nutrition, Curriculum and Instruction, Federal Programs, Special Education, and Student Assessment. The number of days for each training session will vary based on the focus and design of the professional development.

Under the Regional Service Delivery Model, content specialists will develop engaging training modules and instructional resources that will be delivered through online and face-to-face professional development. Content areas will include mathematics, literacy, English Language Arts, special education, and early childhood. The specialists will work directly with classroom teachers and district personnel to improve instructional practices and educational outcomes for students.

NMEC will serve as the fiscal agent under this contract. This is the fourth year to contract with NMEC for professional development services.

MDE has evaluated the services provided by the Contractor during FY 14 and has found the contractor to be in compliance with the contract requirements. Participant evaluations indicate the RESAs are effectively handling the event registration process, communication with event participants, and event logistics.

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

Scope of Contract:

- Term of Contract: July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015
- Total Amount to be Awarded: \$9,695,078
- Method of Award: Exempt from competitive selection process

Funding Source: State and Federal funds

Recommendation: Approval

Back-up material attached

§ 37-7-345. Authorization to establish regional educational service agency; agency to be organized as nonprofit tax exempt corporation; operation and management by public advisory board; board of directors; Executive Director; powers and responsibilities of educational service agency.

(1) A regional educational service agency (ESA) may be established in a region of the state when twelve (12) or more school districts determine there are benefits and services that can be derived from the collective and collaborative formation of an agency for the purpose of pooling and leveraging resources for the common benefit of students, teachers, administrators and taxpayers. An educational service agency shall be incorporated in the State of Mississippi and organized under the laws of the State of Mississippi as a nonprofit corporation. The educational service agency shall obtain 501(c)(3) status with the Internal Revenue Service.

(2) The operation and management of the educational service agency shall be the responsibility of a public advisory board composed of the superintendents of schools or their designees from each participating school district.

(3) A board of directors shall be elected on an annual basis from the advisory board to oversee the day-to-day operations of the agency.

(4) The executive board shall hire an executive director to serve as the executive agent of the board of the regional educational service agency.

(5) The board of directors of a regional educational service agency shall have the authority to establish policies for the regional educational service to determine the programs and services to be provided, to employ staff, to prepare and expend the budget, to provide for financing programs and projects of the regional educational service agency, and to annually evaluate the performance of the agency. The board may purchase, hold, encumber and dispose of real property, in the name of the agency, for use as its office or for any educational service provided by the agency.

(6) The educational service agency is authorized and empowered to: develop, manage and provide support services and/or programs as determined by the needs of the local school district Educational service agencies (ESAs) shall:

(a) Act primarily as service agencies in providing services and/or programs as identified and requested by member school districts (services may include, but are not limited to, professional development, instructional materials, educational technology, curriculum development and alternative educational programs);

(b) Provide for economy, efficiency and cost effectiveness in the cooperative delivery and purchase or lease of educational services, materials and products (services may include, but are not limited to, purchasing cooperatives, insurance cooperatives, business manager services, auditing and accounting services, school safety/risk prevention, and data processing and student records);

(c) Provide administrative services (services may include, but are not limited to, communications/public information, employee background checks, grants management, printing/publications and internships);

(d) Provide educational services through leadership, research and development in elementary and secondary education;

(e) Act in a cooperative and supportive role, including contracting, with the Mississippi Department of Education, Mississippi Institutes of Higher Learning, Mississippi Community Colleges and other state educational organizations in the development and implementation of long-range plans, strategies and goals for the enhancement of educational opportunities in elementary and secondary education; and

(f) Serve, when appropriate and as funds become available, as a repository, clearinghouse and administrator of federal, state, local and private funds on behalf of school districts which choose to participate in special programs, projects or grants in order to enhance the quality of education in Mississippi schools.

(7) The State Board of Education shall have the authority to contract with and provide funds to regional educational service agencies for any education-related service.

Sources: Laws, 2004, ch. 408, § 1; Laws, 2009, ch. 344, § 1, eff from and after July 1, 2009.