

OFFICE OF EDUCATIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY
Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Items
May 15-16, 2014

OFFICE OF ACCREDITATION

15. Approval of an Accredited Status for Youthful Offenders Unit School (YOU)

In accordance with Accreditation Policy 1.3 of the *Mississippi Nonpublic Accreditation Standards*, initial accreditation requires any newly applying school to be fully operational and to substantiate compliance with all accreditation requirements of the State Board of Education. Sufficient data necessary to substantiate compliance with all accreditation standards must be available at the time of the initial accreditation audit. Each nonpublic school voluntarily seeking initial accreditation must have conducted a program of educational services for a period of at least one calendar year prior to the date of proposed State Board of Education accreditation. This one-year requirement is not applicable to educational programs under the jurisdiction of state agencies currently operating accredited school programs.

The YOU, located within the Central Mississippi Correctional Facility in Pearl, MS, provides academic, vocational, and counseling programs for male students ages 15-18. Students at the YOU have been adjudicated to the adult system and remanded by the Mississippi Department of Corrections. Students receive specialized programming addressing their academic needs to prepare them to successfully return to their local schools and assist in their transition to life once released.

The YOU is staffed with a full-time principal, guidance counselor, school psychologist, library media specialist, 2 special education teachers, 4 academic teachers, and 2 vocational teachers. Students also receive various education and treatment services from a drug and alcohol counselor, recreation coordinator, social workers, and medical and mental health professionals. Currently, 37 students are enrolled.

Recommendation: Approval