

OFFICE OF CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER
Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Items
June 19-20, 2014

OFFICE OF CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER

14. Approval to award a discretionary grant to the Research and Curriculum Unit at Mississippi State University to enhance the statewide system of support and coordinated services to local districts

Purpose: The Research and Curriculum Unit (RCU) at Mississippi State University will continue to provide the following services for the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE):

- Data collections and management
- Technical support for the learning management system
- Assessment and curriculum development
- Program development and evaluation
- Educator and administrator evaluation

Funding for this discretionary grant will be a collaborative effort across multiple offices at MDE in an effort to reduce duplication of services.

Scope of Grant:

- Grant Period: July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015
- Award Amount: Up to \$400,000
- Method of Award: Discretionary

Funding Source: State and Federal funds

Recommendation: Approval

Back-up material attached

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Chief Academic Officer

Statewide System of Support and Coordinated Services to Local Districts
Scope of Work, 2014-2015

Total Request: \$400,000

Innovative Schools (\$100,000)

The MDE is actively piloting and supporting several innovative school models, including Career Academies, Early College High Schools, *Excellence for All*, ACT QualityCore, MS Works, and various blended approaches to these models.

- Provide technical assistance for innovative models
- Develop a needs assessment based on status of implementation, report to MDE by October 31, 2014.
- Deliver professional development supporting problem-based learning instructional strategies for teachers
- Support schools during startup and planning phases
- Coordinate a statewide conference for MS Innovative Schools for spring 2015.
- Gather relevant data on student outcomes and implementation for reporting to the MDE
- Design a program evaluation plan and conduct program evaluations.
- Provide an interim evaluation report to the MDE by December 2014, and the final report by June 15, 2015.

Counseling (\$50,000)

- Support MDE to improve counseling services related to college and career readiness for all students.
- Update counseling training and evaluation process for counselors, or other strategies adopted by the taskforce.
- Make training available for counselors based on recommendations by the taskforce. This may include support on new ASCA model, evaluation, software (CHOICES), technology, leadership, etc.
- Implement other strategies adopted by the taskforce.
- Conduct and analyze a survey of counselors to evaluate impact of 2014 legislation during spring 2015. Provide a preliminary report to MDE by December 2014 and final report in June 2015.
- Continue providing technical assistance for improving career planning activities including the iCAP requirements and Pathways to Success initiative.
- Annually update all related resources and documents: including programs of study, pathways booklets, iCAP guides, and pathway maps.
- Prepare training materials for counselors, teachers, and leaders as needed.

- Design training modules for both face-to-face and electronic delivery.
- Make presentations around the state at various conferences and meetings to explain the pathways and innovative programs.

Mississippi Teacher Center (\$250,000)

- Provide online training resources supporting M-STAR domains III/IV.
- Provide training opportunities for Mississippi Statewide Teacher Evaluation System (M-STAS) including coordination of webinars, face-to-face sessions for teachers and administrators, and certification training to trainers.
- Provide a video library from Teaching and Learning Exploratory to all principals and educators.
- Conduct a study evaluating the first year of M-STAR and Mississippi Principal Evaluation System (MPES) using the school accountability results from all teachers in SY13-14 to evaluate outcomes.
- Provide technical assistance and consulting as requested on behalf of the MDE to support the update to process manuals, legislative reports, and others upon request.
- Conduct eight regional focus group sessions during the *spring 2015*.
- Gather feedback from administrators on the overall process to inform recommendations for system improvements.

**Office of the Deputy Superintendent
Personal and Professional Services
Annual Performance Evaluation Form**

Contractor/Grantor Name: Mississippi State University (RCU)	Contract/Grant Number: RCU01-05
Contract/Grant Start & End Dates: July 19, 2013-June 30, 2014	Total Amount of Contract: \$400,400.00
Project Title: RCU Combined Grant	
Scope of Work: The contract between the Mississippi Department of Education and the Research and Curriculum Unit at Mississippi State University is for the purpose of providing services related to data collections and management, technical support for the learning management system, program development and evaluation, and educator and administrator evaluation. Funding was a collaborative MDE effort between Innovative High Schools, Dropout Prevention, Academic & Career Counseling, MS Works, Federal Programs, and the MS Teacher Center.	


ANNUAL PERFORMANCE EVALUATION		
Rating		Remarks
1 – Unacceptable 2 – Poor	3 – Good 4 – Excellent	
1. Completion of Contractual Obligations	4	
2. Delivery and Timeliness	4	
3. Responsiveness to Requests	4	
4. Cooperation and communication with OCTE and all other stakeholders	4	
5. Compliance to terms of the Contract	4	
Overall Rating	20	RCU was very helpful in the successful pilot of MPES, providing evaluation of innovative programs, working with counselors, and dropout prevention, and assisting MDE with professional development across offices.

Evaluator's Recommendation

- Recommended for future services
- Suggestions for improvement (See additional comments and documentation)
- Not recommended for future services (See additional comments and documentation)

Follow-Up Activities/Additional Comments

We would not be as successful in MPES without the support and work of the RCU.

Evaluator's Signature 

Evaluator's Printed Name Jean Massey

Evaluator's Title Associate State Superintendent Date 5/22/2014

Program Office Office of Career and Technical Education

**Office of Career & Technical Education (OCTE)
Performance Rating System**

- 4 – Excellent: All competencies related to the current contract/grant scope of work were completed.
- 3 – Good: Half of the competencies related to the current contract/grant scope of work were completed.
- 2 – Poor: Less than half of the competencies related to the current contract/grant scope of work were completed.
- 1 – Unacceptable: None of the competencies related to the current contract scope of work were completed.