

**OFFICE OF CHIEF OPERATIONS OFFICER**  
**Summary of State Board of Education Items**  
**June 19-20 2014**

**OFFICE OF THE MISSISSIPPI TEACHER CENTER**

40. Approval to renew grant to the University of Mississippi for the Mississippi Teacher Fellowship Program (subject to the availability of funds)

Purpose: The grant will provide scholarships for up to 50 new critical shortage area teachers and 99 continuing critical shortage area teachers who pursue a Master of Education degree or an Educational Specialist degree. These selected participants must agree to continue employment in a Mississippi school district identified as a critical shortage area for a period of up to three (3) years. This is the fourth year of a ten year annual renewal award.

In 1998 the Mississippi Legislature passed House Bill 609 which addresses the critical teacher shortage in the state, with Section 13 of this bill providing for the University Assisted Teacher Recruitment and Retention Program. As a result of Section 13 of HB 609, the Mississippi Teacher Fellowship Program is designed as an innovative partnership to address Mississippi's teacher shortage. The goal of the program is to attract qualified teachers to the critical teacher shortage areas of Mississippi. Scholarships will be made available to persons seeking a Master of Education or Educational Specialist degree at a Mississippi institution of higher learning in exchange for employment in these geographical shortage areas. The vision for the Mississippi Teacher Fellowship Program is to provide educational experiences to students enrolled in at-risk schools that will allow these students to participate fully in the economic and social opportunities of our nation.

Scope of Grant:

- Grant Period: July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015  
(Option to renew annually up to ten years)
- Award Amount: \$587,409
- Method of Award: Request for Proposals

Funding Source: State Funds

Summary of Selection Process:

A competitive grant selection process was utilized to award the initial grant. The grant is renewable for up to ten years based on successful completion of the program and availability of funds. The Grantee will provide a yearly report of the effectiveness of the program.

Scoring Criteria:

A. Qualifications

B. Plan for Performing the Required Services

C. Budget

Recommendation: Approval