

**OFFICE OF CHIEF SCHOOL PERFORMANCE OFFICER  
Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Items  
September 18-19, 2014**

**OFFICE OF SCHOOL PERFORMANCE**

06. Report on the impact of the New Start School law for school year 2014-2015

No Action: Discussion only

Back-up material attached

## **NEW START SCHOOL PROGRAM REGULATIONS**

### **1. Publication of Notice of Failing School**

Following receipt of the classification of failing for any school in the district, the local school board of the district in which the failing school is located shall initiate the notice required by 37-167-1(3)(b) in a suitable newspaper. Publication of the notice will be at the earliest available date following the official release of accountability grades.

Notice shall substantially comply with Appendix One. The local school board shall bear all costs related to publication of the required notice.

Following completion of publication, the local school board shall promptly confirm in writing completion of publication to the Deputy Superintendent of Education responsible for the Mississippi Recovery School District.

### **2. Notice to Employees of Failing Schools**

When a school is classified as failing in any school year, the Deputy Superintendent or his/her designee shall provide written notice to the principal and each employee that such school may be transformed into a new start school. The notice shall also state that if the school receives a classification of failing for the succeeding school year and transformation into a new start school occurs, the person's employment with the local school district shall be terminated.

### **3. Comprehensive Plan of Improvement**

If a school that has been classified by the State Department of Education as a failing school in any school year, the Mississippi Recovery School District shall take steps to facilitate the transformation of the failing school into a new start school. However, the school board of the local school district may appeal to the State Board of Education for an additional year by submitting a comprehensive plan of improvement. The State Board of Education may grant a one-year delay if it determines circumstances merit giving the school an additional year to achieve academic improvement. A template will be provided to schools as a guide, but additional items can be added to the plan as determined by the local school board. At a minimum, the following items must be included in the comprehensive plan of improvement:

- a. The district and school name subject to new start status.
- b. Area(s) of needed improvement including a three-year summary of the school's accountability grades.
- c. Specific steps needed to implement the improvement changes.
- d. Action(s) required to successfully complete the steps.
- e. The person responsible for the implementation (contact person).

- f. The funding source and overall estimated cost to implement the plan.

#### **4. Transformation Plan**

If a local school district fails to submit an acceptable comprehensive plan of improvement, or if a school is determined to be failing in each of two consecutive years, the failing school will then be subject to transformation into a new start school. Upon receiving information that a particular school has been classified as failing for any school year, the Deputy Superintendent shall issue a transformation plan for implementing the New Start School Program for such school. The transformation plan will be served on the local school board for the school district in which the failing school is located. The local school board, the superintendent of schools, and all others affected by the transformation of the failing school into a new start school shall comply with all requirements of the transformation plan.

At a minimum, the transformation plan shall include the following:

- a. The name of the school subject to transformation into a new start school.
- b. The date by which employee evaluations must be submitted by the superintendent of schools to the Mississippi Recovery School District.
- c. The effective date by which administration and control of the failing school will be transferred to the Mississippi Recovery School District.
- d. Any other provision necessary for transformation of the failing school into a new start school.

A transformation plan may be amended as may be required to implement the provisions of Miss. Code Ann. Section 37-167-1 and these regulations.

#### **5. Access to School District Resources**

The Mississippi Recovery School District shall have access to all books, records, files, and other items in the possession of the local school district relating to the new start school. This includes, but is not limited to personnel records, student records, property book, bank, and other accounts.

#### **6. Personnel Selection**

No person selected by the Deputy Superintendent to be principal of a new start school shall be subject to election and approval for employment by the local school board until such time as control of such school is transferred to the local school district.

The Deputy Superintendent shall notify the superintendent of the school district of the person selected to be principal of the new start school, the terms of the contract of employment, and the time within which such contract must be executed.

The principal of a new start school shall select and recommend for employment all licensed (certified) and nonlicensed (classified) personnel at the new start school. Each teacher recommended for employment must be approved by the Deputy Superintendent.

Any employee of a failing school receiving an unsatisfactory employee evaluation pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. Section 37-167-1(a) may be terminated by the Mississippi Recovery School District upon the transformation of the former school into a new start school.

All employees of a new start school shall be employees of the local school district in which the new start school is located, and shall have all the benefits and privileges of a district employee except as indicated in Miss. Code Ann. Section 37-167-1 and these regulations. However, all such employees shall be under the supervision and direction of the Deputy Superintendent, or his/her designee, responsible for the Mississippi Recovery School District.

**7. Local School District Support for New Start Schools**

No action by the local school board involving the academic, financial, managerial or operational functions of the new start school shall be effective without the approval of the Mississippi Recovery School District. The local school board shall keep the Deputy Superintendent informed of all matters involving the new start school so as to prevent disruption of operations in such school.

**8. Students**

Students previously enrolled in, in attendance at and residing in the attendance zone of the former school are deemed to be enrolled in the new start school without the necessity of reapplying for enrollment. Students desiring to attend another school in the local school district or in another district may petition the local school board in accordance with applicable law and local school board policy.

Enrollment in and attendance at a new start school shall not limit a student's participation in district extracurricular activities.

**9. Noncompliance**

Failure to comply with the implementation of the New Start School Program by any local school district will be considered a violation of the relevant provisions of the Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards.