

OFFICE OF CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER
Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Items
June 18-19, 2015

OFFICE OF CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER

08. 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 school districts [Goals 1 and 2 – MDE Strategic Plan]

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

- Provide technical assistance in the statewide initiative to improve graduation rates
- Plan and develop the North Carolina New Schools partnership
- Develop a K-12 Career Planning Guide
- Conduct a research study evaluating the effectiveness of legislation that defines the role of the school counselor
- Provide technical support to school districts for innovative programs
- Assist in the implementation of Senate Bill 2191 Schools of Innovation
- Provide curriculum updates in foreign language, fine arts, and science
- Begin development of a new computer science curriculum

Scope of Grant:

- Grant Period: July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016
- Award Amount: Up to \$917,321.76
- Method of Award: Discretionary

Funding Source: State and Federal funds

This item references Goals 1 and 2 of the *Mississippi Board of Education 2016-2020 Strategic Plan*.

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, 2015-2016

Dropout Prevention and Graduation Restructuring (\$257,106.39)

- Assist with planning, development, delivery, monitoring and evaluation of the statewide initiative to improve graduation rates.
- Host regional workshops in 4 – 5 locations as a continuation of the training offered in 2015 to reinforce the implementation of the design principles to support college and career readiness.
- Assist with developing plans and organizing programs that aid the State Superintendent and State Board of Education in establishing, monitoring and evaluating the department's goals.
- Assist with the Career Readiness Taskforce including coordinating and facilitating meetings, drafting documents, and researching best practices.
- Provide on-site assistance with school districts developing and implementing restructuring models.
- Coordinate and develop a plan for monitoring and evaluating the restructuring project.

North Carolina New Schools Grant Support (\$149,169.09)

- Provide planning, development, and assistance to the MDE in the new partnership with North Carolina New Schools i3 Scale Up Grant
- Coordinate and support the startup of the Golden Triangle Early College High School (ECHS).
- Provide planning assistance for up to two more ECHS startups for the 2016-17 school year.
- Document the work of the North Carolina New Schools project in order to demonstrate required in-kind match for commitment to the project.

K-12 Counseling (\$72,361.84)

- Develop a K-12 Career Planning Guide to improve career planning in K-12 to meet the State Board of Education's goal for ensuring all students graduate and are college and career ready.
- Conduct a research study of all counselors to evaluate the effectiveness of recent legislation that defines the role of the school counselor.

Innovative Pilot Programs (\$217,434.62)

- Provide technical support to school districts for innovative programs and assistance in the implementation of Senate Bill 2191 Schools of Innovation
- Assist with curriculum crosswalks, articulation, academic equivalent credit and support for teacher licensing recommendations for innovative curricula.
- Coordinate training with outside partners and experts
- Research and plan for proficiency-based learning and standards-based grading including implementation of "habits of work" as a grading policy.
- Plan and coordinate an Innovative Schools Conference.

Curriculum Updates (\$86,249.82)

- Assist with statewide curriculum updates in foreign language, fine arts, and science programs.
- Develop computer science curriculum

Office of School Improvement (\$135,000)

- Provide technical assistance in improving the evaluation rubric and designing a more consistent approach to how the implementation specialists monitor the progress and support the School Improvement Grant, priority, focus, and at-risk schools.
- Coordinate feedback sessions from stakeholders concerning the new the new evaluation rubric and procedures before roll-out of the new rubric in the 2015-2016 school year.
- Support training on the new approach for the schools and implementation specialists.
- Coordinate and conduct feedback sessions with school and district leaders and implementation specialists gathering data to inform necessary adjustments to the new approach during the school year.
- Design the protocol for feedback sessions and observations.
- Conduct regional feedback sessions and webinars during the year.
- Visit school districts to gather feedback on the school improvement process.

Total Requested: \$917,321.76