

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

OFFICE OF SECONDARY EDUCATION

21. Approval to establish the Golden Triangle Early College High School as Mississippi's first Early College High School [Goals 1 and 2 – MDE Strategic Plan]

Executive Summary

The Golden Triangle Early College High School (GTECHS) is a four-year early college program that will be housed at the Golden Triangle campus of East Mississippi Community College (EMCC). During the four years of high school, students will earn a Mississippi high school diploma and have the opportunity to earn an Associate's degree or industry certifications from EMCC. The number of college courses taken by students will increase each year, with students spending the majority of their school day on the community college campus by their third year in the program. At the end of the four-year program, students will have earned college credit that will transfer to a four-year university or will have earned the certifications necessary to secure a position with the growing number of local industries.

The GTECHS will be regionally located and accept students from 5 districts in 4 counties. Because of the unique regional nature, the GTECHS requests approval to be the first Early College High in Mississippi under the guidance of the Mississippi Department of Education and with governance provided by the Lowndes County School District.

This school is being established with support from the Mississippi Department of Education, Mississippi State University and a partnership with the North Carolina New Schools (NCNS). The NCNS has received an i3 Scale-Up grant from the Department of Education to help develop capacity to support early college high school models. Mississippi is a partner in the grant.

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

Recommendation: Approval