

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

**OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY EDUCATION AND READING**

O. Approval to establish the *Mississippi Early Learning Guidelines* (Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process with public comment)

A. *Mississippi Early Learning Guidelines for Classrooms Serving Three-Year-Olds (2015)*

B. *Mississippi Early Learning Guidelines for Classrooms Serving Four-Year-Olds (2015)*

*Mississippi Early Learning Guidelines for Classrooms Serving Three-Year-Olds (2015)* and the *Mississippi Early Learning Guidelines for Classrooms Serving Four-Year-Olds (2015)* will provide clarity on the minimum requirements and recommendations for the operation of public school three and four-year-old programs in the schools of Mississippi.

As a part of the development of the new guidelines, a committee comprised of district leaders, principals, assistant principals, pre-kindergarten teachers, early childhood educators and stakeholders, and Head Start representatives reviewed the *Mississippi Pre-Kindergarten Curriculum Guidelines for Three Year Old Children (2004)* and the *Mississippi Early Learning Guidelines for Four Year Old Children (2006)*, along with the *Mississippi Kindergarten Guidelines (2012)*.

The sections in the guides cover the following components:

- Section I: Requirements for Voluntary Enrollment
- Section II: Physical Settings and Outside Play
- Section III: Organizational Procedures and Staff
- Section IV: Curriculum, Materials, and Assessment
- Section V: Parent Participation and Transportation

Recommendation: Approval

Back-up material attached

**APA Comments on the *Mississippi Early Learning Guidelines for Classrooms Serving Three-Year-Olds* and the *Mississippi Early Learning Guidelines for Classrooms Serving Four-Year-Olds***

The Office of Elementary Education and Reading received the following APA comments about the *Mississippi Early Learning Guidelines for Classrooms Serving Three-Year-Olds* and the *Mississippi Early Learning Guidelines for Classrooms Serving Four-Year-Olds*.

<b>Comments</b>	<b>MDE Response</b>
Please remove "shall"...it is for first person only.	No change required. Because the document is setting forth requirements, "shall" is appropriate here.
<p>After reading both documents, I am not clear about curriculum choices. Please provide guidance to the following.</p> <p>Question: If the LEA has a three year old and preK research-based curriculum that addresses and is aligned with MDE requirements, does the LEA have the autonomy to utilize that curriculum with any and all students in the building of said ages? My question is specific to Head Start classes that are currently situated in our buildings.</p>	<p>No change required. Topic will be addressed through professional development.</p> <p>The Head Start is responsible for curriculum selection in Head Start classrooms, as materials must meet Head Start program standards. Ideally, the Head Start and school district would work collaboratively to select instructional materials that meet Head Start program standards and alignment requirements to the MDE Early Learning Standards.</p>

**APA Comments on the *Mississippi Early Learning Guidelines for Classrooms Serving Three-Year-Olds* and the *Mississippi Early Learning Guidelines for Classrooms Serving Four-Year-Olds***

**From:** Bonnie McDonald [mailto:bonniejane51@gmail.com]

**Sent:** Tuesday, May 5, 2015 5:51 PM

**To:** MDE Early Childhood

**Subject:** Three year old curriculum

Please remove "shall"...it is for first person only.

Thank you,  
Bonnie McDonald

**APA Comments on the *Mississippi Early Learning Guidelines for Classrooms Serving Three-Year-Olds* and the *Mississippi Early Learning Guidelines for Classrooms Serving Four-Year-Olds***

**From:** Deborah Woullard [mailto:deborah.woullard@hattiesburgpsd.com]

**Sent:** Thursday, May 7, 2015 11:59 AM

**To:** MDE Early Childhood

**Subject:** Curriculum

After reading both documents, I am not clear about curriculum choices. Please provide guidance to the following.

Question: If the LEA has a three year old and preK research-based curriculum that addresses and is aligned with MDE requirements, does the LEA have the autonomy to utilize that curriculum with any and all students in the building of said ages? My question is specific to Head Start classes that are currently situated in our buildings.

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MISSION POSSIBLE

It's not about you. It's not about me. It's about the mission of HPSD.

**Deborah A. Woullard**  
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