

OFFICE OF CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER
Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Items
Consent Agenda
August 20, 2015

OFFICE OF SECONDARY EDUCATION

E. Approval to award discretionary grants for operational expenses for the Golden Triangle Early College High School

Purpose: The Mississippi Department of Education is awarding discretionary grants to Lowndes County School District and East Mississippi Community College to assist in implementing the Early College High School to provide students with the maximum opportunity for success after high school. The Early College High School will also help reduce dropout rates and better prepare students for a global society. The grant funds will be used for professional development, resources, materials, technology needs and assessments essential to program success.

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 five districts in four counties. Because of the unique regional nature, the GTECHS needs assistance with funding for the beginning operational cost that will allow the school to provide necessary services that go beyond the available MAEP funding.

Scope of Grant:

- Grant Period: August 20, 2015 – June 30, 2016
- Award Amount: \$250,000
- Method of Award: Discretionary

Funding Source: State Funds

Recommendation: Approval

Back-up material attached

**Innovative High School Awards
Golden Triangle Early College High School**

District/Partnership	Award Amount
Lowndes County School District	\$150,000
East Mississippi Community College	\$100,000
Total	\$250,000