

OFFICE OF CHIEF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT OFFICER
Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Items
April 21, 2016

OFFICE OF THE TEACHER CENTER

12. Action: Approval of educator preparation programs as recommended by the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification, and Licensure and Development [Goal 4 – MBE Strategic Plan]

Background Information: In accordance with Section 37-3-2(1), *Mississippi Code of 1972*, as amended, there is established within the State Department of Education the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification, and Licensure and Development. It shall be the purpose and duty of the Commission to make recommendations to the State Board of Education regarding standards for the certification and licensure and continuing professional development of those who teach or perform tasks of an educational nature in the public schools of Mississippi. At the April 8, 2016 meeting, the Commission made recommendations for program approvals.

The following preparation programs are recommended for approval:

- A. Mississippi State University to modify existing music education degree program
- B. Belhaven University to implement a new degree program in School Administration and Leadership
- C. William Carey University to implement a new degree program for emotional and behavioral disorders
- D. William Carey University to add early childhood concentration to their current undergraduate program
- E. Blue Mountain College to implement a new Physics add-on endorsement
- F. Blue Mountain College to implement a new Secondary Biology degree program

Recommendation: Approval

Back-up material attached

Educator Preparation Program Recommendations

Executive Summary

12. A. Mississippi State University to modify existing music education degree program

The proposal includes a modification of the current music education program. The modification includes courses in Music Technology for Educators, World Music, and Elementary Music, and restructuring the sequence of educational topics to include a foundational course in music education, and earlier and more field experiences throughout the sequence. The modification includes the creation of Foundations of Music Education.

The current music program curriculum does not incorporate all of the advances in music education created by the use of new technology. The modification will allow music teacher candidates to be equipped with the skills to use technology to enhance their instruction.

12. B. Belhaven University to implement a new degree program in School Administration and Leadership

The proposal includes implementation of a new degree program to offer the Master of Education and Education Specialist degree program in School Administration and Leadership that will lead to a certification endorsement in administration upon completion of degree and certification requirements. The program would offer 11, three (3) credit hour courses delivered via an online-hybrid format. Online courses will run during eight-week sessions with classes meeting in cohorts during the first, fourth, and seventh weeks of the course sessions. Courses are aligned with and meet the EPP, State, ISLLC, InTASC, and CAEP Standards.

The Hanover Research Group, in a study conducted this past year for Belhaven University, indicates that projections anticipate average to slightly below average employment growth in job opportunities associated with Educational Leadership degrees. The Hanover Report also points out that communities are struggling to find highly skilled and qualified educational administrators. The report shows that there is a low applicant-to-hire ratio and a general lack of highly qualified educational administrators in urban districts, while rural areas find it difficult to attract and retain top candidates. Therefore, there will be a demand for highly educated and qualified K-12 administrators, especially in the South. Statistics show Mississippi is a high needs area.

12. C. William Carey University to implement new degree program for emotional and behavioral disorders

The proposal includes implementation of a Master and Specialist of Education in Emotional and Behavioral Disorders and an add-on endorsement in Emotional and Behavior Disorders for educators who maintain a standard professional teaching license at the AA level and above.

The program is needed to assist in fulfilling the increasing demand in Mississippi for qualified teachers, positive behavior specialists, behavior interventionists, and related personnel in the field of mental health, to teach children and youth with significant emotional and/or behavioral disorders, in both public schools and residential facilities. School districts surrounding William Carey University are currently requesting this expanded concentration. The program will lead to Master of Education, Specialist, or add-on endorsement upon completion of degree and certification requirements.

12. D. William Carey University to add early childhood concentration to their current undergraduate program

The southern region of Mississippi needs quality early intervention in the areas of reading, math, health, and nutrition. School districts surrounding William Carey University are currently requesting the early childhood concentration. The curriculum provided in this concentration would support training in early childhood education and maintenance of an early childhood facility. The program will add early childhood concentration to their current undergraduate program that will lead to an endorsement upon completion of an approved program of 21 hours.

12. E. Blue Mountain College to implement an add-on endorsement in Physics

The institution proposes to offer a 21-hour supplemental endorsement in Physics. There were new Physics courses recently added due to the implementation of a minor in Physics for the Bachelor of Science Degree program. This would provide undergraduate students with another licensure option, as well as be available for current secondary teachers. This new degree program for Physics will lead to a supplemental endorsement upon completion of degree and certification requirements.

During the 2013-2014 academic year, the faculty of the Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences investigated the possibility of adding a minor in Physics to the Bachelor of Science Degree Program. Syllabi for new courses were created, reviewed, and approved by the faculty of the department. In addition, it was identified that no university or college in north Mississippi offers a supplemental teacher licensure endorsement in Physics. Also, physics is one of the critical shortage subject areas identified for the state.

12. F. Blue Mountain College to implement a new Secondary Biology degree program

The proposal includes a 31-33 semester hour program of study for the Master of Education in Secondary-Biology which will better equip teachers in the Biological Science field by providing them with a stronger background in content areas along with effective educational practices. Blue Mountain College proposes to meet the critical shortage need for middle school and secondary teachers which would assist with adding qualified science teachers to the pool of eligible candidates for districts to hire. It will also assist students in becoming more competent in methods of investigation, analysis of data, and the use of instruments and technology used in research in biological science education. This program will lead to a certification in secondary biology upon completion of degree and certification requirements.