

**OFFICE OF CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER**  
**Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Items**  
**Consent Agenda**  
**May 12, 2016**

**OFFICE OF CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER**

J. Award of discretionary grant to the Research and Curriculum Unit at Mississippi State University to enhance the statewide system of supports to local school districts

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
- Assist with the Breakthrough Learning/North Carolina New Schools i3 Scale Up partnership
- Develop a K-12 Career Planning Guide
- Develop online modules for educator evaluation training
- Provide technical support to school districts for innovative programs
- Assist in the implementation of Senate Bill 2191 Schools of Innovation
- Provide curriculum updates in fine arts, science, social studies, and technical math/writing
- Coordinate computer science curriculum pilots
- Provide technical assistance in the Office of School Improvement to gather evidence that informs decisions on how to improve school improvement initiatives

Scope of Grant:

- Grant Period: July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017
- Award Amount: Up to \$1,738,503
- Method of Award: Discretionary

Funding Source: State funds

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, 2016-2017**

**OFFICE OF SECONDARY EDUCATION**

**Career Readiness and Development**

**Dropout and Graduation Restructuring (\$665,889)**

- The RCU will assist the MDE with planning, development, delivery, and monitoring of statewide initiatives to improve graduation rates.
- Host regional workshops in 4-5 locations on developing graduation restructuring and dropout prevention plans.
- Provide resources and support for districts on developing graduation restructuring and dropout prevention plans.
- Coordinate with the National Dropout Prevention Center/Network (NDPC/N) to provide additional training and support for schools via webinars.
- Provide on-site assistance to three districts/schools developing and implementing restructuring models.
- Align initiatives related to improving graduation rates and college and career readiness with those of school improvement.
- Monitor district restructuring and dropout prevention plans.
- Provide technical assistance with all aspects and goals of the Counsel of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) Career Readiness Initiative (CRI) and New Skills for Youth initiative (NSFY) grant
- Support development of a Career Development Course
- Assist with developing plans and organizing programs that aid the State Superintendent and State Board of Education in establishing and implementing department objectives and initiatives.
- Publish two issues of a magazine highlighting educators, students, and programs around the state.
- Provide mid-year by January 31, 2017, and year-end status report by July 31, 2017.

**Innovative Initiatives, Pilot Projects, and Early College (\$407,983)**

- The RCU will assist the MDE in the partnership with Breakthrough Learning/North Carolina New Schools i3 Scale Up Grant providing planning, development, and assistance.
- Provide ongoing support for the Golden Triangle Early College High School in 2016-17 including assistance with implementation, budgets, leadership, and instruction.
- Provide startup support for the 3 early colleges planned to open in August 2016, i.e., Natchez, Vicksburg-Warren and Coahoma Community College.

- Provide all support necessary to identify up to 3 more locations for early colleges to begin in August 2017.
- Provide instructional coaching for the 4 active early colleges open during the 2016-17 school year. This includes 15-20 days of onsite and/or virtual support for each early college.
- Develop a seminar curriculum for each grade level 9-12 that provides intentional and meaningful training in career and college preparation.
- Develop and implement training for the early college school counselors that prepares them for college advising.
- Provide technical assistance with pilot innovative programs that include career academies, Computer Science for Mississippi (CS4MS) pilots, Senate Bill (SB) 2191 districts of innovation, Project Lead The Way (PLTW), early colleges, middle colleges, and other programs.
- Support the expansion and addition of new districts classified as SB2191 District of Innovation.
- Develop and deliver year-long instructional coach training for interested school districts to attend.
- Provide methods of disseminating information and sharing innovative designs and outcomes via both project briefs and websites.
- Plan and host a fall and spring innovative leadership meeting for superintendents and principals in innovative schools.
- Plan and host an innovative institute summer conference for schools and districts interested or involved in school innovations.
- Provide mid-year by January 31, 2017, and year-end status report by July 31, 2017.

### **Curriculum Updates (\$379,994)**

The RCU staff will provide assistance for statewide curriculum update and pilot programs.

- Support the Fine Arts framework update
- Support the new science curriculum updates with resource development and training
- Support development of a comprehensive computer science curriculum
- Coordinate the CS4MS pilot program
- Coordinate the social studies framework revision
- Develop and pilot a technical math course
- Provide mid-year by January 31, 2017, and year-end status report by July 31, 2017.

### **OFFICE OF SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT (\$135,318)**

- Provide technical assistance in adjusting the evaluation rubric and designing a more consistent approach to how the implementation specialists monitor the

progress and support the School Improvement Grant (SIG), priority, focus, and at-risk schools.

- Support training on the new approach for the schools and implementation specialists.
- Continue the multi-year evaluation of the school improvement processes as a means of providing feedback to the MDE. Use a mixed methods research protocol that is both formative and summative. Provide quarterly formative reports and a final summative report.

## **OFFICE OF SCHOOL AND EDUCATOR ACCOUNTABILITY**

### **Online Modules for Educator Evaluation Training (\$149,319)**

- The RCU will develop and make available to all Mississippi educators online courses/modules for all approved educator evaluation processes and instruments (rubrics).
- The RCU will design and implement online courses for improving the calibration of MSTAR evaluators. The calibration will focus on domains III/IV, i.e., those standards that are observable during classroom observations.