

OFFICE OF CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER
Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Items
July 25, 2016

OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION

01. Action: Revise methodology for the calculation of reimbursement for the Educable Child Program [Goal 1 – MBE Strategic Plan]

Purpose: Mississippi Code Section 37-23-69 authorizes the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) to administer the financial components of the Educable Child Program. The Educable Child Program program reimburses for services provided to students with disabilities who qualify for the Educable Child Program. State Board Policy Chapter 74, Rule 74.1 directs the Office of Special Education (OSE) to provide oversight of funding for students with disabilities who are placed in approved private school/facilities under the Educable Child Program.

Eligibility: Students eligible for special education who qualify for the Educable Child Program include:

- Students placed by parents in an approved Educable Child private day school
- Students placed by parents in an approved Educable Child private residential treatment program
- Students placed in an approved Educable Child facility who are in DHS custody
- Students placed in an approved Educable Child facility by a school district

Basis for Reimbursement: State Board Policy Chapter 74, Rule 74.1(3)(b) states that the formula for appropriated funds will be defined annually by MDE utilizing an approved formula methodology. Funds will be awarded based on the following methodology:

- I. Using the total appropriation from the Legislature:
 - a. Subtract the total parent placed in private day school costs from previous school year. (Pursuant to Mississippi Code Section 37-23-69(a), *students placed by parents in a private day school have a maximum reimbursement of \$600 to \$1,000 per year per student*). Then,
 - b. Subtract the total travel amount based on usage from previous school year.
 - c. Take the remainder of the appropriation and divide it by the total number of billable days from the previous year. Adjustments will be made based on the growth or decline of the program from the previous two school years.

Appropriation-Parent Placed-Travel = Daily Rate of Reimbursement
Billable days+/- % change

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

Funding Source: State funds

Recommendation: Approval