

OFFICE OF CHIEF ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICER
Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Items
August 17, 2017

OFFICE OF TEACHING AND LEADING

H. Renew grant to the University of Mississippi for the Mississippi Teacher Fellowship Program

Background Information: The grant will provide scholarships for up to 50 new critical shortage area teachers and 99 continuing critical shortage area teachers who pursue a Master of Education degree or an Educational Specialist degree. These selected participants must agree to continue employment in a Mississippi school district identified as a critical shortage area for a period of up to three (3) years. This is the seventh year of a ten year annual renewal award.

In accordance with Mississippi Code Annotated § 37-159-9 (2017), the Mississippi Teacher Fellowship Program is designed as an innovative partnership to address Mississippi's teacher shortage. The goal of the program is to attract additional qualified teachers to the critical teacher shortage areas of Mississippi and retain the qualified teachers already serving as licensed teachers in geographical critical teacher shortage areas. Scholarships will be made available to persons seeking a Master of Education degree or Educational Specialist degree at a Mississippi institution of higher learning in exchange for employment in these geographical shortage areas. The vision for the Mississippi Teacher Fellowship Program is to provide educational experiences to students enrolled in at-risk schools that will allow these students to participate fully in the economic and social opportunities of our nation.

Scope of Grant:

- Grant Period: July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018
(Option to renew annually up to ten years)
- Award Amount: \$587,409
- Method of Award: Request for Proposals

Funding Source: State Funds

Summary of Selection Process:

A competitive grant selection process was utilized to award the initial grant. The grant is renewable for up to ten years based on successful completion of the program and availability of funds. The Grantee will provide a yearly report of the effectiveness of the program.

Scoring Criteria:

- A. Qualifications
- B. Plan for Performing the Required Services
- C. Budget

Recommendation: Approval