

**OFFICE OF CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER**  
**Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Items**  
**March 21, 2018**

**OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

- E. Contract with North Mississippi Education Consortium to coordinate, deliver, and facilitate regional training sessions for Mississippi Department of Education for 2018-2019

Awarded Vendor: North Mississippi Education Consortium  
Oxford, Mississippi

Scope of Project: One of the goals of the State Board of Education deals with effective teachers and leaders. To support this goal, a contract is proposed for Professional Development related services with the North Mississippi Education Consortium (NMEC). NMEC will, in turn, sub-contract with the five other RESAs in the state and the University of Mississippi to perform the specified services for the Professional Development and Regional Service Delivery Model components. Services will include but are not limited to: (1) coordinating and facilitating training sessions; (2) procuring related services such as speakers/trainers; (3) developing training materials; and (4) offering focused on-site and virtual professional development and technical assistance to schools and districts.

Under the Professional Development component of the contract, approximately 390 sessions are planned to train almost 41,525 participants during the 2018-2019 school year. The MDE offices involved in the planning of the trainings include School Improvement, Elementary Education and Reading, Secondary Education, Professional Development, Quality Professionals, Federal Programs, Special Education, and Student Assessment. The number of days for each training session will vary based on the focus and design of the professional development.

Under the Regional Service Delivery Model component, content specialists will develop engaging training modules and instructional resources that will be delivered through online and face-to-face professional development. Content areas will include mathematics, literacy, English Language Arts, special education, and science. The specialists will work directly with classroom teachers and district personnel to improve instructional practices and educational outcomes for students.

Basis for Contract: Mississippi Code Section 37-7-345 gives the State Board of Education the authority to contract with and provide funds to Regional Education Service Agencies (RESA) for any education-related service.

NMEC will serve as the fiscal agent under this contract. This is the eighth year to contract with NMEC for professional development services.

MDE has evaluated the services provided by the Contractor during FY17 and has found the contractor to be in compliance with the contract requirements. Participant evaluations indicate the RESAs are effectively handling the event registration process, communication with event participants, and event logistics.

Personnel associated with this contract are not former Department employees or related to any Department employees.

Scope of Contract:

- Term of Contract: July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019
- Total Amount to be Awarded: Up to \$4,897,811.67
- Method of Award: Exempt from competitive selection process

Funding Source: State and Federal funds

Recommendation: Approval

Back-up material attached

*Miss. Code Ann. § 37-7-345*

MISSISSIPPI CODE of 1972

\*\*\* Current through the 2016 Regular and 1st and 2nd Extraordinary Sessions of the  
Legislature \*\*\*

TITLE 37. EDUCATION  
CHAPTER 7. SCHOOL DISTRICTS; BOARDS OF TRUSTEES OF SCHOOL DISTRICTS  
ARTICLE 7. BOARDS OF TRUSTEES; GENERAL POWERS AND DUTIES

Miss. Code Ann. § 37-7-345 (2016)

§ 37-7-345. Authorization to establish regional educational service agency; agency to be organized as nonprofit tax exempt corporation; operation and management by public advisory board; board of directors; Executive Director; powers and responsibilities of educational service agency

(1) A regional educational service agency (ESA) may be established in a region of the state when twelve (12) or more school districts determine there are benefits and services that can be derived from the collective and collaborative formation of an agency for the purpose of pooling and leveraging resources for the common benefit of students, teachers, administrators and taxpayers. An educational service agency shall be incorporated in the State of Mississippi and organized under the laws of the State of Mississippi as a nonprofit corporation. The educational service agency shall obtain 501(c)(3) status with the Internal Revenue Service.

(2) The operation and management of the educational service agency shall be the responsibility of a public advisory board composed of the superintendents of schools or their designees from each participating school district.

(3) A board of directors shall be elected on an annual basis from the advisory board to oversee the day-to-day operations of the agency.

(4) The executive board shall hire an executive director to serve as the executive agent of the board of the regional educational service agency.

(5) The board of directors of a regional educational service agency shall have the authority to establish policies for the regional educational service to determine the programs and services to be provided, to employ staff, to prepare and expend the budget, to provide for financing programs and projects of the regional educational service agency, and to annually evaluate the performance of the agency. The board may purchase, hold, encumber and dispose of real property, in the name of the agency, for use as its office or for any educational service provided by the agency.

(6) The educational service agency is authorized and empowered to: develop, manage and provide support services and/or programs as determined by the needs of the local school district. Educational service agencies (ESAs) shall:

(a) Act primarily as service agencies in providing services and/or programs as identified and requested by member school districts (services may include, but are not limited to, professional development, instructional materials, educational technology, curriculum

development and alternative educational programs);

(b) Provide for economy, efficiency and cost effectiveness in the cooperative delivery and purchase or lease of educational services, materials and products (services may include, but are not limited to, purchasing cooperatives, insurance cooperatives, business manager services, auditing and accounting services, school safety/risk prevention, and data processing and student records);

(c) Provide administrative services (services may include, but are not limited to, communications/public information, employee background checks, grants management, printing/publications and internships);

(d) Provide educational services through leadership, research and development in elementary and secondary education;

(e) Act in a cooperative and supportive role, including contracting, with the Mississippi Department of Education, Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning, Mississippi Community Colleges and other state educational organizations in the development and implementation of long-range plans, strategies and goals for the enhancement of educational opportunities in elementary and secondary education; and

(f) Serve, when appropriate and as funds become available, as a repository, clearinghouse and administrator of federal, state, local and private funds on behalf of school districts which choose to participate in special programs, projects or grants in order to enhance the quality of education in Mississippi schools.

(7) The State Board of Education shall have the authority to contract with and provide funds to regional educational service agencies for any education-related service.

**HISTORY:** SOURCES: Laws, 2004, ch. 408, § 1; Laws, 2009, ch. 344, § 1, eff from and after July 1, 2009.