

OFFICE OF CHIEF ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICER
Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Items
Consent Agenda
June 21, 2018

OFFICE OF TEACHING AND LEADING

N. Approval of the appointments to the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and Development

Background Information: Mississippi Code Annotated § 37-3-2 establishes that the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and Development (the Commission) shall be composed of 15 qualified members. The purpose and duty of the Commission is 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. All appointments shall be made by the State Board of Education after consultation with the State Superintendent of Public Education. The State Board of Education, when making appointments, shall designate a chairman. The appointments are recommended in accordance with the internal operating policies of the Commission and Miss. Code Ann. § 37-3-2(2).

The following Commission position is eligible for appointment:

- Due to the resignation/replacement, there is a Lay Person vacancy to fulfill an unexpired term in Congressional District 2. John Howard, Lay Person, is eligible for appointment to fulfill an unexpired term (2016-2020) in Congressional District 2.

Congressional District 2	John Howard
	Lay Person
	Unexpired Term 2016-2020

Recommendation: Approval

Back-up material attached



Elder John Mark Howard was born April 9, 1977 in Shelby, Mississippi and raised in Clarksdale. John is the fifth child of seven children shared between the late Frank and Lela Howard.

As a youth, John was an honor student who took great pride in his studies and grades. He made sure the morals and the educational values his parents instilled in him did not go to waste.

John graduated from Clarksdale High School in 1995. After high school, John received a full academic scholarship to attend Coahoma Community College, where he participated in the school choir and the male quartet. He graduated Valedictorian from CCC in 1997 with an Associate's degree in Mathematics. From there, another full academic scholarship allowed him to finish his education at Jackson State University in Jackson, Mississippi. John received a Bachelor's of Science in Mathematics degree in 1999.

During the 2013-2014 school term while teaching Algebra, Trigonometry, and Pre-Calculus here at Coahoma County High School, John was both recommended and selected from a vast pool of applicants to attend the *Principal's Corps* at the University of Mississippi (Oxford), a prestigious educational leadership program. He took an instructional sabbatical from the classroom during the 2014-2015 school term and received a Master's in Educational Leadership. He served as the Assistant Principal of the Coahoma County Jr./Sr. High School for two years.

John was a devoted mathematics instructor for the past 15 years, receiving many accolades and awards. As a result of his faithful service and tireless dedication to the craft, he was named District Teacher of the Year for the 2007-2008 school term. Most notably, he was revered for his ability to consistently prepare his students for the Algebra I State Assessment Exam, averaging a 90% passing rate for his students (95% passed in 2010).

In addition to being an excellent teacher, John revived the choir program here at CCHS in 2006. An avid songwriter, producer, and musician in his own right, Mr. Howard both penned and recorded an original song with the CCHS choir at Delta State University in 2011. The song "Don't Let Me Go" quickly became the inspirational education anthem for students, parents, and teachers alike.

In December 2000, John married the former Malaika Teague from Atlanta, Georgia. Together, they have operated a van ministry for over 15 years feeding and transporting youth from their community to church and other outreach services. To their union, three children were born, and Japhia, Jordan, and Judah have brought immeasurable joy to their family.

John was a life-long member of St. Luke Church of God In Christ (COGIC) in Moorhead, MS. Following the call of God to ministry under the direction of his former pastor and father, the late Superintendent Frank Howard, John was licensed as a minister in 2008 and ordained as an Elder in July 2011. In April 2014, he was appointed Pastor of St. Mark COGIC in Mound Bayou, MS.

In summary, John Howard is a dynamic man of vision, leadership, and integrity. He credits God as the author of his success story, and his relationship with Jesus Christ as the anchor that keeps him grounded. He is both thankful and humbled by the many blessings he has received throughout his lifetime. His positive influence, genuine concern, and love for people is not only the platform from which he teaches and preaches, but serves.