

**OFFICE OF CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER**  
**Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Items**  
**December 15, 2022**

**OFFICE OF SECONDARY EDUCATION**

05. Action: Approval of new Districts and Schools of Innovation for 2022-2023 [Goal 2 – MBE Strategic Plan]

Background Information: Mississippi Admin. Code 7-3: 28-7, State Board Policy Chapter 28, Rule 28.7, established the process and procedures for Districts and Schools of Innovation. Innovative programs are intended to better prepare students for success in life and work. Innovative programs focus on reducing achievement gaps by expanding learning experiences for students; increasing the number of students who are college- and career-ready; reducing the number of students that exit high school in need of remediation; and motivating students by expanding curriculum choices and learning opportunities for students.

District of Innovation: A District of Innovation is a district that has developed a plan of innovation in compliance with this policy and has been approved by the State Board of Education to be exempted from certain administrative regulations and statutory provisions.

A School of Innovation, independent of a designated District of Innovation, is defined as a school that voluntarily participates in a School of Innovation plan to improve instruction for only one school in the district.

Based on a review of applications, the following are recommended as new Schools or Districts of Innovation for 2023-2024.

1. Vicksburg Warren School District – District of Innovation
2. Jackson Public School District Middle College – School of Innovation

This item references Goal 2 of the *Mississippi Board of Education 2018-2022 Strategic Plan*.

Recommendation: Approval

Back-up material attached

**Vicksburg Warren School District**  
***District of Innovation***

**Summary and Waivers Requested**

The Vicksburg Warren School District's (VWSD) District of Innovation plan centers around equipping all students from Pre-K through 12th grade for college, career, and life. The plan includes innovation to ensure students meet the growing workforce development needs in Vicksburg, Warren County and South-Central MS.

- Leadership skills taught in elementary school
- Career exploration embedded throughout elementary and middle school
- Career Academy Days that allow elementary students to participate in project days to become familiar with the high school Academies
- Student voice and choice to determine the Academy and Pathway they will attend
- CTE courses that provide the opportunity to earn certifications
- Experiential learning opportunities that include industry visits, job shadowing, internships, capstone projects, and opportunities to showcase digital portfolios

The VWSD Innovative Academy model will increase students' motivation by focusing on programs of study reflecting their interests and postsecondary goals and includes:

- **ACME:** The mission of the Architecture, Construction, Mechatronics, and Engineering Academy (ACME) is to provide all students with relevant and equitable opportunities to build community relationships with business partners in the fields of architecture, construction, mechatronics, and engineering.
- **CAB:** The mission of the Communications, Arts and Business Academy (CAB) is to develop a highly skilled workforce to meet the needs of the community. Equity will be promoted through collaboration with community partnerships, stakeholders, and business partners, to prepare students for the evolving workforce.
- **HHS:** The Health and Human Service Academy (HHS) will empower students to serve as community champions and provide excellent social service.

**Plan Goals:**

*All goals set forth will be measured by baseline data from the 2021-2022 school year and updated for review annually. All projections are for 5 years, culminating in the 2026-2027 school year.*

1. Increase the number of dual credit courses taken by high school students by 3% annually.
2. Improve average senior composite ACT scores from 16.2 to 18.
3. Increase and sustain the district's graduation rate from 88% to 90%.
4. Increase the number of cross-curricular PBL to 28% annually.
5. Increase the number of Graduation Endorsements obtained from 25.67% to 50%.
6. Increase the number of students scoring Silver, Gold and Platinum on the ACT WorkKeys by 10% each year (123 seniors to 198 seniors).
7. Increase the number of signed business partners by 200% by the 2026-2027 school year.
8. Increase the number of students taking advanced placement courses 55%.
9. Improve the rate of FAFSA completion for all seniors from 61% to 80%.

10. Broaden the number of nontraditional students by 3% each year enrolled in each Academy Pathway, to include females, males, and minority students.
11. Create a Pathway of Accelerated Learning (PAL) pilot program in upper elementary school(s) to develop the skills necessary to earn the Distinguished Academic Endorsement upon graduation.

**Benchmarks for Goals:**

*Data will be collected from the student information system and compiled in a data dashboard.*

*Data will be reviewed by relevant stakeholders and Advisory Boards at regular intervals.*

- Attendance
- Retention rates
- Dual Credit and Advanced Placement credits earned
- State Assessment data
- ACT and ACT WorkKeys
- Graduation rates
- College entrance and retention rates (where available)
- Industry certifications earned by students
- Grade Point Averages and Quality Point Averages
- Data on special populations, special education, gender, race, ethnicity, poverty, and other key subcategories within the VWSD to measure equity among programs, Pathways, and Academies

Process Standard	Need for Requested Waiver	Rational for Waiver Request	MDE Decision
<p>Mississippi Code Title 37 § <b>37-13-67</b> - Length of school day  <b>13.1</b> The teaching day must provide at least 330 minutes of instruction per day.</p>	<p>We request that students be relieved of seat time requirements to accommodate learning on the 5x5 bell schedule. This will allow students to earn more Carnegie units earlier in high school which creates room in their schedule for dual credit and AP courses and will also provide opportunities for CTE students to complete multiple programs. This schedule further supports our efforts to grow the workforce in Vicksburg and Warren County and prepare students for post-secondary college and career goals.</p>	<p>In order to accommodate the 5x5 bell schedule, the VWSD needs relief from the current 140 hour Carnegie unit requirement.</p>	<p><b>Recommend Approval</b></p>
<p>Mississippi Code Title 37 § <b>37-13-67</b> - Length of school day  <b>13.2</b> The school district must ensure that during the academic school year a minimum of 140 hours of instruction is provided for each Carnegie unit of credit offered and 70 hours for each one-half (½) unit offered, except for remedial instructional programs, dual enrollment/dual credit, correspondence courses, MS Virtual Public School courses, and innovative programs authorized by the State Board of Education.</p>	<p>We request that students be relieved of seat time requirements to accommodate learning on the 5x5 bell schedule. This will allow students to earn more Carnegie units earlier in high school which creates room in their schedule for dual credit and AP courses and will also provide opportunities for CTE students to complete multiple programs. This schedule further supports our efforts to grow the workforce in Vicksburg and Warren County and prepare students for post-secondary college and career goals.</p>	<p>In order to accommodate the 5x5 bell schedule, the VWSD needs relief from the current 140 hour Carnegie unit requirement.</p>	<p><b>Recommend Approval</b></p>
<p>Mississippi Code Ann. § <b>37-3-2</b> - Guidelines for Mississippi Educator Licensure K-12  <b>5.</b> It shall be the duty of the commission to:  c. Establish, subject to the approval of the State Board of Education, standards for initial teacher certification and licensure in all fields;</p>	<p>We request to allow elementary teachers to teach at the secondary school level so that instructors may be utilized outside of their licensed areas where deemed appropriate by the building principals. Many teachers have expertise in a variety of subject areas but the instructor does not have a secondary endorsement. This waiver would allow those teachers to be utilized much like an expert citizen licensed instructor, at the building principals' discretion.</p>	<p>Elementary teachers are experts at collaborative learning. This approach is essential to the execution of PBL and is vital to the success of Academy implementation. We would like to utilize elementary teachers at the secondary level to assist with cross-curricular PBL and teaming strategies. b. Mississippi is</p>	<p><b>Recommend Denial</b>  <b>Rationale:</b> Current State Board of Education policy offers a temporary license that can be requested by the LEA for a fully certified teacher</p>

Process Standard	Need for Requested Waiver	Rational for Waiver Request	MDE Decision
<p>d. Establish, subject to the approval of the State Board of Education, standards for the renewal of teacher licenses in all fields;</p> <p>e. Review and evaluate objective measures of teacher performance, such as test scores, which may form part of the licensure process, and to make recommendations for their use;</p>		<p>currently in a teacher shortage. Many times it is hard to find a teacher certified in an area of need. Many elementary teachers may have expertise in ELA or Social Studies and have years of experience in both, yet they do not have a secondary endorsement to teach in these areas. Allowing elementary certified teachers to teach at secondary schools will help with this shortage. District of Innovation Accelerated Application Fall 2022 Vicksburg Warren School District Page 47 of 156 c. VWSD would ask for this waiver for up to 3 years while the teacher works towards gaining full 7-12 certification in the area of employment.</p>	<p>teaching out of field. One criterion for the issuance of the one-year temporary license is for the candidate to show progress towards gaining full state certification. In addition, supplemental endorsements for all core subject areas taught at the secondary level may be added by taking and obtaining the required passing score on the appropriate Praxis Subject Assessment.</p>

**Department Recommendation: Approve**

**Jackson Public School District**  
***School of Innovation***  
**Summary and Waivers Requested**

The “Count Me In-Future Teachers of Mathematics” Middle College High School Program will create a “grow your own” pipeline of mathematics teachers for the Jackson Public School District by providing a collegiate experience to enhance content knowledge and develop highly effective pedagogy. As the state of Mississippi adjusts to a teacher shortage, the Jackson Public School district saw an opportunity to get students whose ISPs (Individualized Success Plans) expressed an interest in teaching connected to JPS faculty and a local college to address our need for high-quality mathematics teachers. This approach will:

- Create a pathway to a college education, potentially at little to no out-of-pocket costs to students.
- Recruit students who are typically underrepresented in college (minority, low socioeconomic status, first-generation college graduates, English Language Learners, or students with disabilities).
- Support students through rigorous coursework while earning dual enrollment credit without placing a financial burden on their families.

Upon acceptance to the Middle College, students will receive a contingent contract for employment with the Jackson Public School District upon meeting all teacher licensure requirements within four years.

Curriculum design will be based on students’ ISPs. In general, students will work toward the attainment of an Academic, Distinguished, or CTE high school diploma endorsement. The district will cover all fees associated with the Middle College dual enrollment, textbooks, and transportation.

**Middle College Goals:**

1. To provide an opportunity for an increased number of college credits for students in groups which are typically underrepresented in college.
2. To develop a partnership with a local college which will foster high levels of collaboration between school district and collegiate faculty members which will create an enriching and rigorous academic environment.
3. To develop a “grow your own” pipeline of mathematics educators to return to the Jackson Public School District to fill teaching vacancies. The Middle College seeks to decrease the beginning of the year mathematics teacher vacancies from 21 to 13 or less in five years (2028).

**Annual Performance Targets:**

Collection and analysis of ACT composite and sub scores, MAAP scores, mean grade point average, attendance, the number of college course hours earned, the number of students continuing to a four-year program of study, retention rates, graduation rates, and the number of students filling Mathematics teacher vacancies will be data points shared with MDE annually. Data will be reported by

student demographics (race, gender, grade level, exceptionalities, etc.) to help ensure that all groups of students are experiencing growth and high levels of achievement.

<b>Annual Middle College High School Performance Targets/ Academic Achievement and Success Goals</b>					
<b>Targets</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2027</b>	<b>2028</b>
To Increase the mean ACT composite score from 14.9 to 21 or greater by 2028.	15 Composite Score	16.5 Composite Score	18 Composite Score	19.5 Composite Score	21 Composite Score
To increase the percentage of students enrolling in a 4-year college from 16% to 80% by 2028.	N/A *Middle College participants will be juniors.	40% enroll in a 4-year college the school year following high school graduation.	50% enroll in a 4-year college the school year following high school graduation	65% enroll in a 4-year college the school year following high school graduation	80% enroll in a 4-year college the school year following high school graduation
To decrease the number of Math vacancies in JPS by 38.10% (8 vacancies) by 2028.	N/A *Middle College participants will be juniors.	23.81% Decrease (a decrease of 5 vacancies)	28.57% Decrease (a decrease of 6 vacancies)	33.33% Decrease (a decrease of 7 vacancies)	38.10% Decrease (a decrease of 8 vacancies)
To create a cohort of Middle College students wherein 80% or above maintain a 2.5 grade point average or above in college coursework by 2028.	40% of MC students maintain a GPA of 2.5 or above.	50% of MC students maintain a GPA of 2.5 or above.	60% of MC students maintain a GPA of 2.5 or above.	70% of MC students maintain a GPA of 2.5 or above.	80% of MC students maintain a GPA of 2.5 or above.

Process Standard	Rational for Waiver Request	MDE Decision
<p><b>13.2</b> The school District must ensure that during the academic school year a minimum of 140 hours of instruction is provided for each Carnegie unit of credit offered and 70 hours for each one-half (½) unit offered, except for remedial instructional programs, dual enrollment/dual credit, correspondence courses, MS Virtual Public-School courses, and innovative programs authorized by the State Board of Education</p>	<p>The Middle College will need to modify its schedule to align with the University’s schedule.</p> <p>Students may also be enrolled in online courses as well as participating in internships, community service activities, or work-simulations.</p>	<p><b>Recommend Approval</b></p>
<p><b>13.3</b> No more than two (2) of the 180 days may be 60% days. Both teachers and pupils must be in attendance for not less than 60% of the normal school day. {Miss. Code Ann. § 37-151-5(j)}</p>	<p>The Middle College will need to modify the District’s calendar to align with the University's calendar as it related to the college level courses.</p>	<p><b>Recommend Approval</b></p> <p>Note: Only 5 days per school year will be approved.</p>
<p><b>25.</b> Individual teachers are limited to three course preparations.</p>	<p>With minimal staffing, it will sometimes be necessary for a teacher(s) to have more than three preparations in order to meet the students’ needs for graduation.</p>	<p><b>Recommend Approval</b></p> <p>NOTE: this will only apply to teachers in the Middle College Program.</p>

**Department Recommendation: Approve**