

OFFICE OF CHIEF ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICER
Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Items
August 16, 2018

OFFICE OF TEACHING & LEADING

06.A. Action: Renew grant to the University of Mississippi for the Mississippi Teacher Fellowship Program (subject to the availability of funds) [Goal 4 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford)

Background Information: The grant will provide scholarships for up to 30 new critical shortage area teachers and 58 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 eighth year of a ten-year annual renewal award.

Purpose: In accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 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, 2011 – June 30, 2019
- Current Grant Period: July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019
- Current Award Amount: \$ 587,409
- Original Method of Award: Request for Proposals

Funding Source: State Funds

This item references Goal 4 of the *Mississippi Board of Education 2016-2020 Strategic Plan*.

Recommendation: Approval

Back-up material: None