

OFFICE OF CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER
Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Items
April 16, 2020

OFFICE OF ACADEMIC EDUCATION

01. Action: Approval by the SBE to suspend strict compliance with Miss. Code Ann. § 37-21-51 for the 2019 - 2020 school year following Governor Tate Reeves' Proclamation of a State of Emergency as a result of the impact of COVID-19 (coronavirus) on school districts during the Spring of 2020 in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 33-15-31, 33-15-11(b)(9) and 33-15-11(c)(1) [Goals 3 and 4 – MBE Strategic Plan]

President Donald Trump declared a national emergency on March 13, 2020, in response to the COVID-19 (coronavirus) outbreak. On March 14, 2020, Governor Tate Reeves issued a Declaration of a State of Emergency for the state of Mississippi. Included in his Proclamation, Governor Reeves directed that pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. § 33-15-11(c), the provisions of state statutes, rules, regulation or order may be temporarily suspended or modified if compliance with such provisions would prevent, hinder, or delay action to cope with the outbreak. Furthermore, on March 19, 2020, Governor Reeves issued Executive Order 1460, which in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. §§ 33-15-31, 33-15-11(b)(9) and 33-15-11(c)(1), authorizes and empowers the State Board of Education to suspend the provisions of an regulatory statutes, and to make, amend, rescind such orders, rules and regulations that it deems necessary to assist Mississippi public schools to cope with the COVID-19 emergency.

Mississippi Code Ann. § 37-21-51 et seq., creates the Early Learning Collaborative Program and sets out statutory requirements for the State Board of Education and the Mississippi Department of Education; however, strict compliance is not feasible at this time due to the impact of COVID-19 (coronavirus).

It is the recommendation of the MDE that the SBE suspend specific requirements within state laws:

- Miss. Code Ann. § 37-21-51

This item references Goals 3 and 4 of the *Mississippi Board of Education 2018-2022 Strategic Plan*.

Recommendation: Approval

Back-up material attached

**Statute Suspension Pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. §§ 33-15-31, 33-15-11(b)(9) and 33-15-11(c)(1)
Executive Order 1460
2019 – 2020 School Closures Related to COVID-19 (Coronavirus)**

Statutes and/or Regulation(s)	Statute or Rule	Proposed Suspension and/or Revisions of Statutes/Rules
<p>Early Learning Collaborative Act</p> <p>Miss. Code Ann. § 37-21-51</p>	<p>Miss. Code Ann. § 37-21-51 (3)(c)(iv) The department will evaluate the effectiveness of each early childhood collaborative and each prekindergarten provider. If the State Department of Education adopts a statewide kindergarten screening that assesses the readiness of each student for kindergarten, the State Department of Education shall adopt a minimum rate of readiness that each prekindergarten provider must meet in order to remain eligible for prekindergarten program funds.</p> <p>Miss. Code Ann. § 37-21-51 (3)(d) Prekindergarten program funds shall be awarded to early childhood collaboratives whose proposed programs meet the program criteria. The criteria shall include: (xiii) The number of instructional hours to be provided, which shall equal no less than five hundred forty (540) instructional hours per school year for half-day programs and one thousand eighty (1,080) instructional hours per school year for full-day programs</p>	<p>Due to the impact of school closures related to COVID-19 and the cancellation of statewide assessments, the MDE will suspend the required Effectiveness Evaluation Plan for the 2019-2020 school year. Grantees shall remain eligible for funding in the 2020-2021 school year.</p> <p>Due to the impact of school closures related to COVID-19, the MDE will allow reimbursement for Early Learning Collaboratives at the full-time and part-time rate for children in the program. Grantees may continue to receive grant funds from March 16, 2020, the first date of school closures due to COVID-19, through the date classes resume following the state of emergency.</p>