

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

**OFFICE OF ACADEMIC EDUCATION**

02. Action: Approval by the SBE to suspend strict compliance with Miss. Code Ann. § 37-173-1 et seq. 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 1 and 2 – 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 any 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. § 37-173-1 et seq., creates the Mississippi Dyslexia Therapy Scholarship for Students with Dyslexia Program and sets out statutory requirements for the State Board of Education, Mississippi Department of Education, eligible students, and schools; 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. § 37-173-13 (2) (b)
- Miss. Code Ann. § 37-173-17 (1) (d)

This item references Goals 1 and 2 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)**

<b>Statutes and/or Regulation(s)</b>	<b>Rule</b>	<b>Proposed Suspension and/or Revisions of Statutes/Rules</b>
<p><b>Mississippi Dyslexia Therapy Scholarship</b></p> <p>Miss. Code Ann. § 37-173-1 et seq.</p>	<p>Miss. Code Ann. § 37-173-13 (2) (b) The Mississippi Department of Education will disburse payments to nonpublic schools under this program in twelve (12) substantially equal installments. The initial payment shall be made after department verification of admission acceptance, and subsequent payments shall be made upon verification of continued enrollment and attendance at the nonpublic school.</p> <p>Miss. Code Ann. § 37-173-17 (1) To be eligible to participate in the Mississippi Dyslexia Therapy Scholarship for Students with Dyslexia Program, a nonpublic school must:</p> <p>(d) Maintain in this state a physical location where a scholarship student regularly attends classes.</p>	<p>The MDE is suspending the requirement for continued attendance at a physical school location 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>