

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

**OFFICE OF ACCOUNTABILITY**  
**OFFICE OF ACADEMIC EDUCATION**

04. Action: Approval by the SBE to suspend specific policies and process standards in Miss. Admin. Code 7-24: *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards 2019* 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, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – 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, regulations or orders 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.

Due to the unprecedented and unique circumstances arising as a result of COVID-19, such as statewide school closures that have occurred during the later portion of the 2019 – 2020 school year, it is not economically feasible or practical to expect districts and schools to meet specific policies and process standards in the *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2019*, the *Early Learning Collaborative Act*, Miss. Code Ann. § 37-21-51, and certain statutory provisions surrounding school safety.

It is the recommendation of the MDE that the SBE suspend specific requirements within federal and state laws, State Board Policies, the following policies and process standards contained in the *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2019*, and the corresponding policies and standards that apply to the nonpublic schools accredited by the MDE:

- Process Standard 17.2 – Early Childhood Programs
- Process Standard 31 – Safe Schools
- Miss. Admin. Code 7-3: 28.4, State Board Policy Chapter 28, Rule 28.4

This item references Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 of the *Mississippi Board of Education 2018-2022 Strategic Plan*.

Recommendation: Approval

Back-up Material: Attached

**Mississippi Administrative Code 7-24: Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2019  
 Rule 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 Rules</b>
<p><b>Pre-K Programs</b></p> <p>Miss. Code Ann. §§ 37-3-301(ss) and 37-3-301(zz)</p> <p>Miss. Admin. Code 7-3: 28.4, State Board Policy Chapter 38, Rule 28.4</p> <p>Mississippi Early Learning Guidelines for Classrooms Serving Three- and Four-Year-Old Children</p> <p>Process Standard 17.2</p>	<p><b>Process Standard 17.2:</b>            Early Childhood Programs (kindergarten and teacher assistant) [Districts Meeting the Highest Levels of Performance are exempted from provisions of subsection (4) of Miss. Code § 37-21-7.]</p>	<p>Due to the impact of school closures related to COVID-19 and the impact on professional development opportunities, the MDE will suspend the required pre-kindergarten teacher assistant requirements by one school year, such that requirements are as outlined below:</p> <p>By August 1, 2021, 50% of regular education pre-kindergarten teachers, special education pre-kindergarten teachers, and assistant teachers in each district will meet the requirements described in the Early Learning Guidelines for Classrooms Serving Three- and Four-Year-Old Children.</p> <p>By August 1, 2023, 100% of regular education pre-kindergarten teachers, special education pre-kindergarten teachers, and assistant teachers in each district will meet the requirements described in the Early Learning Guidelines for Classrooms Serving Three- and Four-Year-Old Children.</p>

**Mississippi Administrative Code 7-24: *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2019*  
 Rule Suspension Pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. §§ 33-15-31, 33-15-11(b)(9) and 33-15-11(c)(1)  
 Executive Order 1460  
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<b>Statutes and/or Regulation(s)</b>	<b>Rule</b>	<b>Proposed Suspension and/or Revisions of Rules</b>
<p><b>School Safety</b>            Miss. Code Ann. §§ 37-3-81, 37-3-82, 37-3-83, 37-7-321, and 37-11-5</p> <p>Mississippi School Safety Manual, Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) Occupational Safety and Crisis Response Planning, Mississippi Community Oriented Policing Services in Schools (MCOPS) Grant Requirements</p> <p>Process Standard 31</p>	<p><b>Process Standard 31:</b>            The school district complies with State Board Policies and State and Federal laws to provide Safe Schools. Each school has a comprehensive School Safety Plan on file that has been approved annually by the local school board.</p>	<p>MDE will extend the deadline for submission of the annual 40 required hours of training for MCOPS grant recipients from June 30, 2020 until August 1, 2020 in order to be compliant with MCOPS grant requirements.</p> <p>MDE will extend the deadline for submission of the annual 40 required hours of training until August 1, 2020 for school resource officers employed with school districts that created their own police departments.</p> <p>MDE will extend the deadline for completion of the School Resource Officer Basic Course for security guards and school resource officers, as jointly determined and prescribed by the Board on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Training and the State Board of Education within two (2) years of the person's initial employment in such position until August 1, 2020.</p>

Process standard numbers refer to the Process Standards outlined in the *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2019*. Any waivers granted by the State Board of Education will also be granted as applicable to nonpublic schools accredited by the Mississippi Department of Education.