

OFFICE OF CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER
Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Items
April 15, 2021

OFFICE OF SECONDARY EDUCATION

02. Action: Approval of Districts and Schools of Innovation for 2021-2022 [Goal 2 – MBE Strategic Plan]

02.A. Action: Approval of a school of innovation within the Laurel School District [Goal 2 – MBE Strategic Plan]

The Office of Secondary Education is requesting approval to create a school of innovation in the Laurel School District. The Laurel High School Middle College Program (LHSMCP) is a joint effort between the Laurel School District and Jones County Junior College. The Middle College Program (MCP) allows students to simultaneously earn a high school diploma and an associate degree with opportunities to earn up to 60 hours of transferable college credit to universities, and/or an industry certification credential. This innovative model differs from the traditional model in that students will complete most of their State-MAAP assessments in Biology I, Algebra I, English II, and U.S. History prior to their Junior Year to allow more time for dual credit courses.

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

Recommendation: Approval

Back-up material attached

School of Innovation
Laurel School District – Laurel High School and Jones County Junior College
New Approval for 2021-2022

The Middle College Program (MCP) allows students to simultaneously earn a high school diploma and an associate degree. The student body consists of high school juniors and seniors enrolled in dual credit courses at Laurel High School and Jones County Junior College. This model expands learning opportunities for highly motivated students, provides up to 60 hours of college credit transferable to universities, and/or an industry certification credential. The key to the success of this initiative is a strong partnership between the Laurel School District and Jones County Junior College, the local community college.

Process Standard	Requested Waiver	Rationale for Waiver Request
Standard 2.2	With the exception of academic core subjects, the professional staff in each school is comprised of no more than 5% of Full Time Equivalent (FTE) units working outside the area or areas of endorsement.	Many of the Cambridge International Exam courses need teachers rich in content knowledge. These individuals often can deliver the content and manage the classroom without a license. Experiential and project-based learning classes will be taught by business, community, and industry leaders who do not hold educational licenses and have expert knowledge often not available in the pool of applicants with a Mississippi teacher licensure.
Process Standard 2.3	The school district employs in each school a licensed librarian or media specialist who devotes no more than ¼ of the workday to library/media administrative duties.	The role of the library/media center is changing in middle/high schools. This position is better suited with an individual who has varied technology skills rather than library science. Since most librarians today are certified via the alternate route the individuals employed should be able to perform the library tasks.
Standard 13.2 ** - LHS will use the 2021-2022 School	Minimum of 140 Hours of Instruction	Students are enrolled in online courses and participate in experiential learning

Process Standard	Requested Waiver	Rationale for Waiver Request
<p data-bbox="203 233 526 373"><u>Year to plan for the 5 X 5 to involve all stakeholders who will be impacted.</u></p> <p data-bbox="203 415 526 1213">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 data-bbox="548 233 953 296">Waiver to move to a 5 X 5 Block Schedule</p>	<p data-bbox="976 233 1432 443">experiences at nontraditional school times. Students will also have the flexibility to attend classes at Jones County Junior College during the regular course of a school day.</p> <p data-bbox="976 485 1432 989">With the 5 Block day/75 minutes per block, our courses would not meet the minimum number of minutes in the accreditation standards. This schedule would allow for more instructional time for remediation and enrichment in Algebra I, Biology I, English II, & US History, and ACT Preparation. This would allow for more students to enroll in Dual Credit Classes and participate in more Career and Technical Education Programs.</p>