

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.D. Action: Approval of a school of innovation within the Vicksburg Warren School District [Goal 2 – MBE Strategic Plan]

The Office of Secondary Education is requesting approval to renew River City Early College High School Program (RCECHSP) as a school of innovation. The RCECHSP is a joint effort between the Vicksburg Warren School District and Hinds Community College. In 2020, 26 of 35 graduates were first-generation college-going students. The graduates completed an average of 50.91 college semester hours and over half the students continued at the community college or enrolled in a four-year university. RCECHSP has maintained 100% of their teaching staff for the past four years.

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

Recommendation: Approval

Back-up material attached

**School of Innovation
 Vicksburg Warren School District – River City Early College High School Program
 Renewal for 2021-2022**

Only the early college high school program portion of the district of innovation will be renewed.

Process Standard	Rationale for Waiver Request
<p>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. Assistant principals and administrative interns who are not properly endorsed may be included in the 5% FTE working outside their area of endorsement, provided that they do not act in the place of the principal. An appropriate license is required for superintendents, principals, librarians, and guidance counselors.</p>	<p>Because of the small staff, ECHSs need to have flexibility in the staff to provide the individualized teaching and mentoring for students.</p>
<p>13.2 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>ECHSs have modified schedules that align with the campus upon which they are located. Students are also enrolled in online courses, as well as participating in experiential learning experiences at nontraditional school times.</p>
<p>13.3 No more than two (2) of the 180 days may be 60% days. Both teachers and pupils must be in attendance for not less than 60% of the normal school day. {Miss. Code Ann. § 37-151-5(j)}</p>	<p>ECHSs have modified schedules that align with the campus upon which they are located.</p>
<p>25. Individual teachers are limited to three course preparations.</p>	<p>With minimal staffing, it is sometimes necessary for teachers to have more than three preparations each scheduling cycle.</p>

Process Standard	Rationale for Waiver Request
<p>28.4 Student teacher ratios do not exceed 33 to 1 in departmentalized academic core classes serving grades 5-12. {Miss. Code Ann. § 37-151-77} A one-year waiver may be requested for classes that do not exceed more than two students beyond the allowable student teacher ratio.</p>	<p>Because cohorts at ECHSs may include 40 students and the staff is limited, some classes may exceed the student-teacher ratio.</p>
<p>28.5 The total number of students taught by an individual teacher in academic core subjects at any time during the school year shall not exceed 150. A teacher who provides instruction through intra-district or inter-district distance learning or supervises students taking virtual courses will be exempt from the 150-student limitation. A lab facilitator or principal designee will be responsible for the assignment of grades and related activities at the receiving school. (Schools Meeting the Highest Levels of Performance are exempted.)</p>	<p>Because cohorts at ECHSs may include 40 students and the staff is limited, some teachers may exceed the 150-student limit because of personalized learning plans of students or other student needs.</p>