

Chapter 51: Mississippi Recovery School District

Rule 51.1 Mississippi Recovery School District. The Mississippi Recovery School District shall provide leadership, management and oversight of all school districts that are subject to state conservatorship.

1. Conservatorship

Whenever the governor declares a state of emergency in a school district, the State Board of Education may assign an interim conservator to the local school district. For states of emergency declared under 37-17-6(11)(b), the State Board of Education may abolish the school district and assume control and administration of the schools formerly constituting the district and appoint a conservator. The reasons for declaring of a state of emergency in a local school district include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a. An extreme emergency exists in a school district that jeopardizes the safety, security or educational interests of the children enrolled in the schools in that district and that the emergency situation is believed to be related to a serious violation or violations of accreditation standards or state or federal law;
- b. If a school district meets the State Board of Education's definition of a failing school district for two (2) consecutive full school years;
- c. Or in the event that more than fifty percent (50%) of the schools within the school district are designated as Schools At-Risk in any one year;
- d. A lack of financial resources;
- e. Withdrawal of the accreditation of a public school district; or
- f. Failure to meet minimum academic standards as evidenced by a continued pattern of poor student performance.

2. Corrective Action Plan

As stated in MS Code 37-17-6(20), the conservator appointed to the district shall within forty-five (45) days after being appointed present a detailed and structured corrective action plan to move the local school district out of conservatorship status to the local school board and local superintendent of education if they have not been removed, or if the board and superintendent have been removed, to the local governing authority of the municipality or county in which the district conservatorship is located. A copy of the conservator's corrective action plan shall also be filed with the State Board of Education.

The Mississippi Department of Education has established the following procedures in order to meet the 45 day corrective action plan requirement. The findings from an accreditation audit compiled by the Office of Accreditation will become the conservator's corrective action plan. This detailed plan outlines findings, corrective actions, and recommendations for implementation required to comply with the standards addressed in the *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards*.

3. Education Employment Procedures Law

When a district has been placed in Conservatorship, the Education Employment Procedures Law shall not apply to any teacher, principal, superintendent or other professional in the local school district. The Education Employment Procedures Law shall not be applicable in any school

district for a full period of time that the state of emergency as declared by the Governor continues to exist. MS Code §37-0-103(2)

Source: *Miss Code Ann. §37-17-6 (Adopted 12/2011)*