**MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

**OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION**

**HOUSE BILL 896 (Nate Rogers Scholarship)**

**GUIDANCE FOR NONPUBLIC SPECIAL-PURPOSE SCHOOLS**

Nonpublic School Requirements:

1. Be accredited by the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) as a nonpublic special purpose school to provide and emphasize instruction in speech-language therapy and interventions as the primary purpose of the school and provide a comprehensive speech- language therapy instruction delivered by speech-language pathologists;
2. Use qualified speech-language pathologists with a 215 licensure certified by MDE and the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association to provide speech-language services for children with speech-language impairments or who has completed training in a department-approved American Speech-Language-Hearing Association based speech-language pathology training program, attaining a master’s degree in speech-language pathology;
3. Use an appropriate specialized speech-language instructional program that is scientific and research-based;
4. Have a current School Program Verification and Assurances form on file with the MDE Office of Special Education by July1 of each school year;
5. Provide to MDE all documentation required for a student’s participation, including the nonpublic school student’s fee schedule;
6. Provide to MDE notification when a parent removes the student from the nonpublic school within ten (10) days from the date of withdrawal;
7. Be academically accountable to the parent or legal guardian for meeting the educational needs of the student by, at a minimum, annually providing to the parent or legal guardian a written explanation of the student’s progress;
8. Maintains in the State of Mississippi a physical location where a scholarship student regularly attends classes; and
9. Maintains a current Letter of Accreditation on file with the Office of Special Education.

Questions related to the application process and IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) should be directed to Teresa Laney, Office of Special Education, at 601-359-3498.

Questions related to the accreditation of nonpublic schools should be directed to the Office of Accreditation at 601-359-3764.