

**OFFICE OF CHIEF ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICER**  
**Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Items**  
**July 19, 2018**

**OFFICE OF ACCREDITATION**

04. Action: Approval of request to the Governor that a state of emergency be declared in the Noxubee County School District [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan]

This item references Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 of the *Mississippi Board of Education 2016-2020 Strategic Plan*.

Recommendation: Approval

Back-up material attached

The Honorable Phil Bryant  
Governor  
State of Mississippi  
Post Office Box 139  
Jackson, MS 39205

Dear Governor Bryant:

This letter is in regard to action taken by the State Board of Education concerning the Noxubee County School District. The Commission on School Accreditation held a special-called meeting on July 18, 2018 to consider information presented by the Office of Accreditation, Mississippi Department of Education, regarding the District's impairments related to findings of serious violations of federal and state law and accreditation standards, serious concerns regarding financial resources, inappropriate standards of governance, and a continued pattern of poor performance.

Grave concerns raised by the information provided by Department staff required the Commission to consider its responsibility under Mississippi Code Annotated Section 37-17-6. This consideration led the Commission to determine, as evidenced by its Resolution, that an extreme emergency situation exist in the Noxubee County School District and that this extreme emergency jeopardizes the safety, security, and educational interests of the children enrolled in the schools of this District pursuant to Section 37-17-6(12)(b).

The reports from the Department staff and the Commission's Resolution were presented to the State Board of Education at its July 19, 2018 board meeting. Due deliberation of the reports and documents led the Board to conclude that an extreme emergency situation exists in the Noxubee County School District brought on by findings related to serious violations of federal and state law and accreditation standards, serious concerns regarding financial resources, inappropriate standards of governance, and a continued pattern of poor performance. As a result, the Board approved a Resolution determining that an extreme emergency situation exists in the District pursuant to Mississippi Code Annotated Section 37-17-6(12)(b).

The Board also approved a motion, pursuant to the same statute, asking you to declare that a state of emergency exists in the Noxubee County School District. Contingent upon your declaration that a state of emergency exists in the District, the Board approved a motion pursuant to Mississippi Code Annotated Section 37-17-6(12)(b)(vii) and Section 37-17-13, abolishing the Noxubee County School District. To that end, please accept this correspondence as the official request by the Commission on School Accreditation and by the State Board of Education that you declare that a state of emergency exists in the Noxubee County School District.

Recognizing that this action is of the gravest nature, I am submitting the following documents in support of the Commission and Board request; a copy of the July 18<sup>th</sup> Resolution adopted by the Commission on School Accreditation; a copy of the July 19<sup>th</sup> Resolution adopted by the State Board of Education; and, draft of the July 19, 2018 minutes of the State Board of Education. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Carey M. Wright, State Superintendent of Education, at (601) 359-3512.

Respectfully,

Rosemary G. Aultman, Chair  
State Board of Education

CC: Dr. Carey M. Wright, State Superintendent of Education  
Commission on School Accreditation  
Special Assistant Attorney General

**DRAFT**