OFFICE OF CHIEF ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICER
Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Items
Consent Agenda
September 23, 2021

OFFICE OF ACCREDITATION

G.   Approval of Accredited Status for Lighthouse Academy for Dyslexia

Background Information: Based on Policy 1.3 of the *Mississippi Nonpublic School Accountability Standards, 2021*, initial accreditation of a nonpublic school requires any newly applying school to be fully operational and to substantiate compliance with all accreditation requirements of the State Board of Education. Sufficient data necessary to substantiate compliance with all accreditation standards must be available at the time of the initial accreditation audit. Each nonpublic school voluntarily seeking initial accreditation must have conducted a program of educational services for a period of at least one (1) calendar year prior to the date of proposed State Board of Education accreditation.

The Lighthouse Academy for Dyslexia is a special purpose school for students whose primary learning disability is dyslexia opened in August 2021. The school serves students in the Gulf South Region. The goal of the school's program is to remediate the specific learning disability of dyslexia to the degree that students are able to return to the traditional school environment of their choice.

All teachers/dyslexia therapist are licensed through the Mississippi Department of Education and hold a license in dyslexia therapy or are currently serving as an intern while completing the dyslexia therapist program requirements. All therapists are trained in the Orton-Gillingham based instruction as required by Miss. Code Ann. § 37-173-1.

The Lighthouse Academy for Dyslexia is staffed with a full-time principal, an assistant principal/therapist, 7 full-time certified teachers (all of which are certified dyslexia therapists or dyslexia therapist interns), and have access to a certified counselor. The school currently enrolls 43 students in grades 2 - 6.

Recommendation: Approval

Backup material: None