

OFFICE OF CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER
Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Items
Consent Agenda
October 17, 2024

MISSISSIPPI SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

C. Approval of the Mississippi School of the Arts Drone Policy

Executive Summary

The document contains the policy to operate a drone for educational purposes by Mississippi School of the Arts staff for filmmaking and other film needs.

Recommendation: Approval

Back-up material attached

Policy on Drones (unmanned aircraft systems/UAS)

Understanding that airborne UAS/drones poses a safety hazard, the Mississippi School of the Arts (MSA) forbids anyone from flying a drone or any remote-controlled aircraft in the skies over any of its school campuses or school properties, including, but not limited to campus or any location for school purposes without authorization from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

The FAA has serious concerns about the safety of operating UAS near people or large gatherings. Therefore, any school personnel and/or students operating UAS/drones shall familiarize themselves with the FAA website. The pilot of any drone must be authorized by the MSA Administration and have a valid 107 certification. Operation of the drone requires that any flight at night to have strobe lights. Flights over people are prohibited. The drone must remain within 400 feet of the ground and stay within the line of sight of the pilot at all times. Additional approvals for any flights must be obtained prior to use through proper authorities.

The following three links are beneficial as a reference by illustrating the Do's and Don'ts of UAS flying pictorially and also the various types of No Drone Zone signage examples for designated prohibited areas and should be reviewed by any staff and/or students operating or considering operating UAS/drones.

<http://www.faa.gov/uas>

http://www.faa.gov/uas/publications/media/27231_FAA_KBYF_lores.pdf

http://www.faa.gov/uas/no_drone_zone/

The superintendent or his/her designee shall report any unauthorized operation of UAS/drones over school property to law enforcement authorities and/or the FAA.

Any person violating this policy could be subject to immediate removal from school property and could be banishment from school property. Violators will also be reported to appropriate law enforcement to include the FAA.

Any student violating this policy shall be dealt with according to the MSA Student Handbook. Any school district employee violating this policy shall be subject to formal disciplinary action.