

**OFFICE OF CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER**  
**Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Items**  
**July 18, 2024**

**OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION**

04.A. Action: Award competitive grant for Special Education State Systemic Improvement Plan Regional Literacy Coordinator (K-3) Educator-in-Residence services [Goals 1 and 4 – MBE Strategic Plan]

Background and Purpose: The Office of Special Education (OSE) is seeking to employ a fulltime, 12-month Educator-in-Residence (EIR). School districts, community colleges, and Institutions for Higher Learning are eligible for grant recipients. The MDE, OSE developed a State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) that is clearly aligned to the strategic goals. This comprehensive, multi-year plan is based on high expectations for students with disabilities and is focused on building the capacity of local districts to implement and scale-up evidence-based practices in reading with a focus on improving reading proficiency in grades K-3. The Program’s goals and objectives are: a) to provide technical assistance to teachers and administrators on evidence-based literacy strategies; b) provide appropriate services to schools to ensure that there is cohesive, sustained, intensive and classroom-focused professional development and coaching that is rigorous, engaging, and aligned to the Mississippi College and Career-Readiness Standards; c) develop non-threatening, open, professional, and collaborative work relationships with district-level school personnel, school-based literacy coaches, principals, and teachers; and d) effectively identify the needs of assigned school and teachers to prioritize, schedule, organize, and provide technical assistance to teachers to increase grade-level reading outcomes for students by the end of 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. The SSIP Regional Literacy Coordinator (K-3) will be responsible for overseeing the implementation of the SSIP plan and ensuring accurate data reporting to the U.S. Department of Education. The number of years this grant is to be funded is 5 (five) years.

Awarding of the grant each year shall be contingent upon the successful completion of services, a performance evaluation, and the availability of funds.

Scope of Grant:

- Grant Period: July 18, 2024 – June 30, 2029  
(With a liquidation period ending July 12, 2029)
- Award Amount: \$485,799.76
- Method of Award: Request for Application

Funding Source: Federal funds (IDEA)

Summary of Selection Process:

A competitive grant selection process was utilized to award grants.

Scoring Criteria:

- A. Application
- B. Resume and References
- C. Certifications/License
- D. Interview

This item references Goals 1 and 4 of the *Mississippi Board of Education Strategic Plan*.

Recommendation: Approval

Back-up material attached

**State Systemic Improvement Plan Regional Literacy Coordinator (K-3)**

District/Partnership	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Total
Kemper County School District	\$96,227.20	\$96,227.20	\$96,227.20	\$98,559.08	\$98,559.08	\$485,799.76

\*The Mississippi Department of Education reserves the right to negotiate grant award amounts dependent upon appropriations. The grant award will not exceed the above amount.