

**2015**

**Special Education  
Directors Quarterly  
Meeting**

# **AGENDA**

**Jackson Convention Complex, Jackson, Mississippi**

**September 16, 2015**





Welcome to the 2015 Special Education Director's Quarterly Meeting! This is great time of the year as we welcome our students back from summer vacation and begin to enjoy the Fall weather. This is also an exciting year as we begin to implement our new Results-Driven Accountability Model (RDA). This new accountability model will drive our State's focus to improve outcomes for students with disabilities.

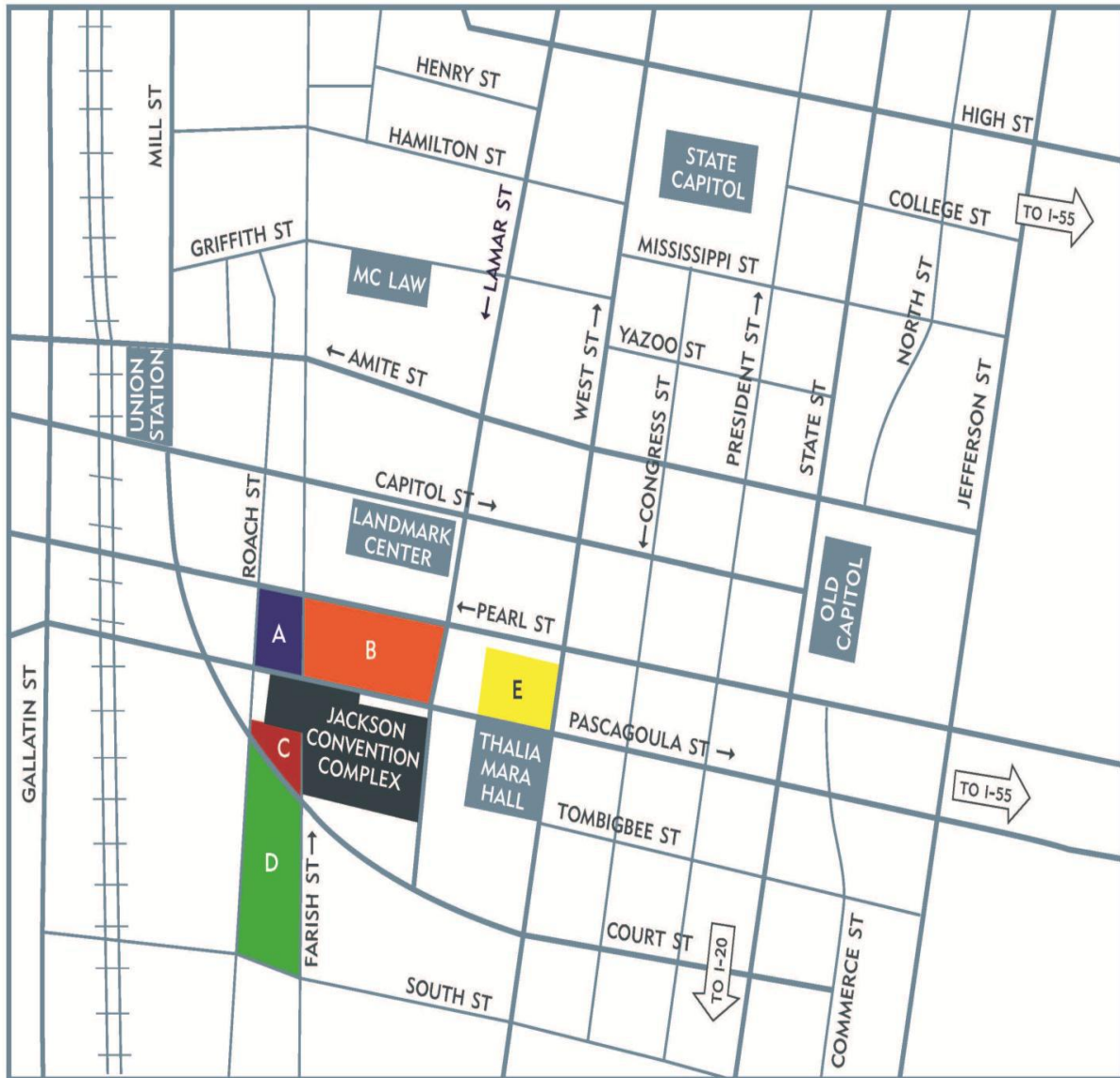
Just as the leaves outside begin to change colors, our State has many new changes this school year. This year, we are excited to release the Procedures (Volumes I, II, III, and IV) for State Board Policy 7219 Regarding Children with Disabilities under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Amendments of 2004. I am thankful to the Child Find Task Force that worked diligently to complete the revisions based on the public comments we received. We will be implementing a new State assessment this year. To ensure the Mississippi Testing Accommodation Manual reflects the needs of our students, a Stakeholder Group is being formed to provide feedback.

Thank you for your dedication and leadership as we embrace the new season and changes for this school year.

Sincerely,

Gretchen Cagle, State Director  
Office of Special Education

# JACKSON CONVENTION COMPLEX PARKING MAP



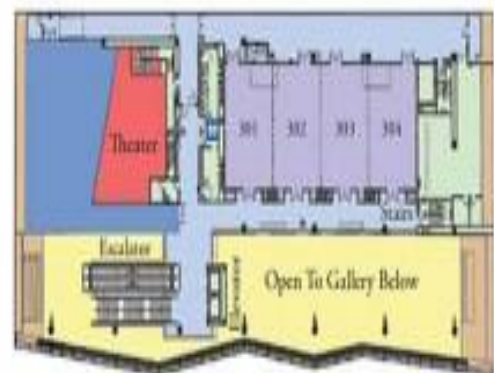
- A** – CONVENTION CENTER PUBLIC PARKING  
PASCAGOULA
- B** – CONVENTION CENTER PUBLIC PARKING  
PASCAGOULA
- C** – CONVENTION CENTER PUBLIC PARKING  
CORNER OF COURT & ROACH

- D** – CONVENTION CENTER PUBLIC PARKING  
CORNER OF FARISH & COURT
- E** – CITY CENTRE GARAGE  
CORNER OF WEST & PASCAGOULA

JACKSON CONVENTION COMPLEX  
LEVEL 2



JACKSON CONVENTION COMPLEX  
LEVEL 3



# *Agenda*

8:00-8:30	Registration and Continental Breakfast					
8:30-9:30	Welcome and Opening Session (Rooms 216-218)					
9:30-10:15	SCD Determination and Guidance Document (Rooms 216-218)					
10:15-10:30	Break					
	Room 211	Room 212	Room 213	Room 214A	Room 214B	Room 215
10:30-11:45	<i>Child Find Procedures (Shannon Boyce)</i>	<i>Conducting SLP Evaluations (Teresa Laney and Dr. Tarance Hart)</i>	<i>Innovative Inclusion Programs (Grant Dickinson, Mallory Strayham, and Melissa Sundberg)</i>	<i>Personnel Reports (Louis King)</i>	<i>Data Walls/Data Rooms, Accountability for All (LeighAnn Cheeseman)</i>	<i>How the Accountability System Impacts Students with Disabilities (Tollie Thigpen)</i>
11:45-1:00	Lunch Served in the Gallery (SPED Updates with Gretchen Cagle)					
1:00-2:30	<i>Child Find Procedures (Shannon Boyce)</i>	<i>Conducting SLP Evaluations (Teresa Laney and Dr. Tarance Hart)</i>	<i>Innovative Parent Programs (Linda Moore, Dr. Margaret Ellmer, and Aresia Rhodes)</i>	<i>Personnel Reports (Louis King)</i>	<i>Data Walls/Data Rooms, Accountability for All (LeighAnn Cheeseman)</i>	<i>How the Accountability System Impacts Students with Disabilities (Tollie Thigpen)</i>
2:30-2:45	Break					
2:45-4:00	<i>Child Find Procedures (Shannon Boyce)</i>	<i>Conducting SLP Evaluations (Teresa Laney and Dr. Tarance Hart)</i>	<i>Innovative Parent Programs (Linda Moore, Dr. Margaret Ellmer, and Aresia Rhodes)</i>	<i>Personnel Reports (Louis King)</i>	<i>Innovative Inclusion Programs (Grant Dickinson, Mallory Strayham, and Melissa Sundberg)</i>	<i>How the Accountability System Impacts Students with Disabilities (Tollie Thigpen)</i>
4:00-4:30	Daily Sign out					

## **Special Education Directors Meeting Bio Information**

**Gretchen Cagle** is currently the State Director of Special Education. Prior to this position she served as the Educator in Residence in the Office of Student Assessment at the Mississippi Department of Education. She previously served as the Assistant Director of Special Education for the Rankin County School District from 2003 to 2012. She holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Southern Mississippi and a master's degree from Peabody College at Vanderbilt University.

**Sharon Coon** is currently employed with the Mississippi Department of Education, Office of Special Education as the Autism Instructional Support Specialist in the Division of Instructional Support. Ms. Coon has held this position since June 2015. Prior to employment with MDE, Ms. Coon was a special education teacher for five years and worked at the Madison County School District Office of Special Services as a behavior specialist for five years. Ms. Coon holds a degree in elementary education and special education.

**Bobby Richardson** is an Educator in Residence (EIR) in the Office of Student Assessment at the Mississippi Department of Education. As the Educator in Residence, Bobby primarily works on implementing State assessments related to IDEA students and in transitioning the current portfolio-based alternate assessments to the new alternate assessments. Before joining MDE in 2014, Bobby spent 14 years working in elementary, middle, and high school special education. He has taught resource, inclusion, self-contained, and regular education reading. He has also worked as the coordinator of the school-based enterprise, and worked with at-risk high school students to prepare them for the GED. Bobby has worked at the district level as the teacher of incarcerated youth, homebound instructor, and intervention specialist/district support team co-chair. In 2012, Bobby worked as the Transition Coordinator and GED Options Coordinator in a local school district. He worked with teachers and students at the middle and high school level on designing and implementing effective transition plans. He also worked with the high school subject area teachers and the students with significant cognitive disabilities (SCD) on alternately assessing these students using the MS Alternate Assessment of Extended Curriculum Frameworks (MAAECF) and Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM).

Bobby believes, when given the proper tools and instruction, every student can achieve their potential. In the classroom, Bobby worked diligently to ensure success for all students by creating meaningful and engaging opportunities. In his current role, he continues to lead with passion and integrity.

Bobby currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Mississippi Council for Exceptional Children (CEC). He is also affiliated with the Division on Career Development & Transition (DCDT), and MS Professional Educators (MPE).

### **Training Description – SCD Determination and Guidance Document**

This session will introduce participants to the newly developed SCD Determination and Guidance Document. Participants will examine the three criteria, as identified on the IEP, for determining if a student with a disability meets the criteria for SCD.

**Shannon Boyce** taught Special education for 7 years and worked as a psychometrist for over 15 years in various school districts. She has several years of experience with gifted testing and gifted standards, RtI, and behavior. She has taught classes at both Holmes Community College and Copiah Lincoln Community College. Prior to MDE, she worked at the Federal Correctional Institution in Yazoo City, MS teaching GED classes and testing inmates for possible learning or cognitive disabilities. In addition, Shannon served as the District Teacher Support Team Coordinator in JPS for 3 years. Shannon is married to Dan Boyce and lives in Pelahatchie, MS. She has one son, Rouse Davis.

**Aletha Simpson** is currently serving in the role of Case Manager and Assistant Special Education Director for the Grenada School District. Prior to her current position, she served as a psychometrist and Lead Speech Language Pathologist. Ms. Simpson has served as a valuable member of the MDE Child Find Task Force.

### **Training Description- Child Find Procedures**

This session will outline the major components of the newly developed Child Find Procedures. Participants will review recommended forms and examine common Child Find citations, as determined by cyclical monitoring. In addition, participants will review frequently asked questions for Child Find.

**Tarance Hart, Ph.D.**, has 10 years of experience as a teacher. He has worked for the Mississippi Department of Education as a teacher recruiter, Director of Teacher Effectiveness, Director of the Mississippi Teacher Center, and currently serves as the Director of Educator Accountability.

**Teresa Laney** is a Speech Language Instructional Specialist with the Mississippi Department of Education. She has 12 years of experience as a school-based Speech Pathologist in three different districts in Mississippi. Teresa has a B.S. in Speech/Language and Audiology from the University of Southern Mississippi and an M.S. in Communication Disorders from Western Kentucky University. She is certified in dyslexia testing and has seven years of experience tutoring children with reading difficulties. Teresa currently lives in Madison County with her husband and has two daughters and a son (in-law).



### **Training Description- Conducting SLP Evaluations**

This training session will focus on the newly developed Speech Language Pathologist Assessment. Participants will review the skills necessary for an SLP to be determined successful and appropriate artifacts. Lastly, participants will be introduced to domains for the assessment.

**Grant Dickinson** is currently the Director of Student Services in the Ocean Springs School District. Prior to Director of Student Services, Mr. Dickinson served as an Assistant Principal and a Special Education Teacher.

**Ms. Mallory Strayham** has five years experience as a general education and special education teacher. She holds a Master's Degree in Special Education and is currently pursuing a Specialist's Degree in Instructional Leadership.

**Ms. Melissa Sundberg** has eight years of teaching experience, all of which are in the inclusion setting. Ms. Sundberg has a Master's Degree in Education, with certification in Elementary Education, Special Education, and English as a Second Language. She is a Model Technology Teacher and Google Classroom Teacher.

### **Training Description- Innovative Inclusion Programs**

This session will focus on the strategies developed and implemented by the Ocean Springs School District for an award-winning inclusion program. The participants will learn the steps the district took to develop an inclusion program and increase graduation rates for students with disabilities. The trainers will provide participants with an overview of the student data utilized by the district and resources useful in developing an inclusion program.

**Linda Moore** is currently the Special Education Director for the Rankin County School District. She began teaching Special Education in 1971. She has experience in instruction and administration of all exceptionalities and grade levels, including gifted and dyslexia in three states. She was the Parent Consultant for the Mississippi Department of Education Office of Special Education in 1994, and then went on to be a Special Education consultant for Adams and Reese, LLC. from 1994-1999. She has been employed by the Rankin County School District for ten years. Mrs. Moore holds a B.A. from Penn State, a M.Ed. from the University of Southern Mississippi, and is a licensed Psychometrist through William Carey College.

### **Training Description- Innovative Parent Programs**

Parents are an untapped and under-appreciated resource for information and support for the IEP team and the district. This session will offer an interactive discussion of methods, initiatives, and endeavors to partner with parents to improve services for the whole child.

**Louis King** received a B.A. in Journalism from The University of Southern Mississippi, and he is currently enrolled in the M.P.Adm. program at Belhaven University. In 2009, Mr. King began his career with the Department of Education as an Educational Program Coordinator in The Office of Special Education. Mr. King currently serves as a Staff Officer III in the Office of Special Education. He provides support for MSIS, Educable Child, Educational Scholarship Account, and several other special education programs and initiatives.

### **Training Description- Personnel Reports**

This session will provide participants with information necessary to complete personnel reports. With the December 1 count just around the corner, participants will receive valuable information to complete personnel reports with ease. In addition, participants will discover how to review personnel reports in MSIS.

**LeighAnne Cheeseman** is a Regional Literacy Coordinator and Literacy Coach with the Mississippi Department of Education through the Literacy-Based Promotion Act. She earned her degree from Flagler College in Elementary Education (K-6) with endorsements in ESOL and Reading. A native of Florida, she has taught Kindergarten and First Grade. In Mississippi, she has had the honor of teaching in Jackson Public Schools and Canton Public Schools. She has served as a presenter at several conferences, including Passports to Literacy, the 2015 JPS Mini-Conference, and the 2014-2015 MDE Literacy Mini-Conference in Meridian, and she will be presenting at the Rethink Literacy Conference in September 2015. Her areas of expertise in Literacy Instruction include ELL supports, phonemic awareness strategies, and the College and Career Readiness Standards.

### **Training Description- Data Walls/Data Rooms, Accountability for All**

This training session will provide participants with the description of a data wall, setting up a data wall, the benefits of a data wall, planning and goals setting. Participants will discuss how to utilize data walls for making instructional decisions and influencing decision-making. Participants will learn how to set up a data wall and utilize the data for progress monitoring and setting goals.

**Tollie Thigpen**, Director of School and District Accountability, has several years of experience in school accountability systems, data analysis, and reporting. Tollie has worked directly with accountability systems over the past three years, including the development of the new Mississippi Statewide Accountability System. Prior to that, Tollie served as the Director of Special Populations, Data and Reporting, as well as a School Improvement Specialist in the Office of Federal Programs. Tollie earned his Bachelor's degree from Alcorn State University and Master's degree from Mississippi College.

### **Training Description- How the Accountability System Impacts Students with Disabilities**

This session will review the business rules of the Mississippi Statewide Accountability System. The components of the system will be explored to demonstrate how students with disabilities are included.