

OFFICE OF CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER
Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Items
Consent Agenda
June 16, 2017

OFFICE OF CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER

- K. Discretionary grant to the Research and Curriculum Unit at Mississippi State University to enhance the statewide system of support and coordinated services to local school districts [Goals 1 and 2 – MBE Strategic Plan]

Purpose: The Research and Curriculum Unit (RCU) at Mississippi State University will provide the following services for the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE):

- Provide technical assistance, resources and support in the statewide initiative to improve graduation restructuring and dropout prevention plans.
- Provide technical support for Career and Readiness Initiative.
- Provide ongoing assistance with the implementation for the existing early college high schools as well with the implementation of budgets, leadership, and instruction in 2017-18.
- Provide technical assistance to design professional development and leadership programs targeting middle school principals, counselors, and teachers.
- Assist in the implementation of Senate Bill 2191 Schools of Innovation
- Provide curriculum updates in social studies and business.
- Develop a modification guide supporting instructional strategies for general education teachers to use with special needs students in the classroom.
- Collaborate with the Office of Special Education and special education teachers to draft a sequence of career development courses for Significant Cognitive Disability (SCD) students and plan for implementation.
- Support Office of School Improvement by providing training to District and School Leadership Teams (DLTs and SLTs) and P-16 Councils and to gather evidence that informs the OSI on how to improve the MDE's school improvement initiatives.

Scope of Grant:

- Grant Period: July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018
- Award Amount: Up to \$1,427,385
- Method of Award: Discretionary

Funding Source: State and Federal funds

Recommendation: Approval

Back-up material attached

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Chief Academic Officer

**Statewide System of Support and Coordinated Services to Local Districts
Scope of Work, 2017-2018**

OFFICE OF SECONDARY EDUCATION

**Career Readiness and Development, Dropout and Graduation Restructuring/
Innovative Initiatives, Pilot Projects, and Early College (\$586,796.60 State and
Federal Funds)**

- Assist the MDE with planning, development, delivery, and monitoring of statewide curriculum frameworks and initiatives to improve graduation rates for ALL students and the goal of providing high quality career development for ALL students. This includes emphasis on (1) the SBE career readiness goals, (2) providing professional development and assistance for local districts (3) designing dropout and graduation restructuring plans that align with the MDE's ESSA plan (4) supporting the MDE counseling personnel in the development of career readiness trainings and guidance materials and (5) supporting development of a P20 website.
- Provide technical assistance for regional 2 day workshops in 2-3 locations on developing graduation restructuring and dropout prevention plans.
 - The workshops will provide face-to-face training for schools with a graduation rate below 80%. Any school may attend.
- Provide resources and support for districts on developing graduation restructuring and dropout prevention plans.
 - Planning and support materials will be updated/edited based on ESSA.
 - Development and upkeep of RCU Dropout Prevention/ Graduation Restructuring webpage
- Monitor district dropout prevention/restructuring plans.
 - The RCU will review all district 2017-18 plans for completion without evaluating quality of the plans and provide a status report to MDE by October 15, 2017, and December 1, 2017
- Use a tracking tool to monitor training and site visits for reporting purposes.
- Support the MDE Career Development Plan implementation.
- Aid MDE in the development of updated graduation options through trainings and creation of support materials.
- Provide design and implementation support for the RiseUp Mississippi website including programming and database systems support as necessary.
- Support development of the combined IHL, MCCB, MDE P20 website.
- Design, develop, and print resource materials to support secondary education.

- Participate in regional and national meetings or events, such as the career readiness, dropout prevention, career academies, and exploring innovations in education to remain on the cutting edge and supporting MDE with various initiatives.
- Offers school districts the opportunity to pilot innovative programs that include career academies, middle school leadership academies, early colleges, middle colleges, and other programs.
- Provide technical assistance and support for innovative programs and initiatives at the direction of the Office of Secondary.
- Provide ongoing support for the existing early college high schools in 2017-18 including assistance with implementation, budgets, leadership, and instruction.
- Provide startup support for those interested in planning for and/or opening early colleges. Support will include but is not limited to preparing operating documents, foundational planning, onsite leadership and instructional support, organizational structure and implementation.
- Provide instructional coaching for the active early colleges open during the 2017-18 school year. This includes 5-10 days of onsite and/or virtual support for each early college, coaching training and new teacher training.
- Complete the writing and revision process for seminar curricula for each grade level 9-12 that provides intentional and meaningful training in career and college preparation.
- Provide technical assistance to design professional development and leadership programs targeting middle school principals, counselors, and teachers.
- Plan and host a fall and spring innovative leadership meeting for superintendents and principals in innovative schools.
- Plan and host an innovative institute summer conference for schools and districts interested or involved in school innovations.
- Organize and host learning tours of innovative schools and/or districts for those interested in learning more about their practices.
- Participate in regional and national meetings or events, such as the career readiness, dropout prevention, career academies, and exploring innovations in education to remain on the cutting edge and supporting MDE with various initiatives.
- Provide mid-year by January 31, 2018, and year-end status report by July 31, 2018.

Curriculum Updates (\$213,203.40 State and Federal Funds)

- Provide assistance for statewide curriculum revision and development.
 - Computer science curriculum pilots: Coordinate the CS4MS pilot program and implementation plan; coordinate the statewide steering committee meetings; and provide website with resources promoting and supporting the CS4MS project.
 - Social Studies framework revision: Coordinate and provide technical assistance. Plan to have new framework ready for SBE by January 2018.

- Participate in regional and national meetings or events, such as the career readiness, dropout prevention, career academies, and exploring innovations in education to remain on the cutting edge and supporting MDE with various initiatives.
- Provide mid-year by January 31, 2018, and year-end status report by July 31, 2018.

Special Education (\$450,000 Federal Funds)

- Collaborate with the Office of Special Education and special education teachers to draft a sequence of career development courses for SCD students and plan for implementation. This guide will help teachers, counselors, and students understand career pathway options for SCD students. This guide is targeted for completion in June 2018.
- Collaborate with OSE to provide training and implementation support for the alternative graduation option, Linking Academic Standards to Assessment Gaps (LINK), to a standard diploma for students unable to pass the state required assessments.
- Develop a modification guide supporting instructional strategies for general education teachers to use with special needs students in the classroom. This includes standards, method of teaching, materials and resources and assessments. The plan is for a guide for each of three grade spans: K-5, 6-8, and 9-12.
- Special Education courses:
 - Follow the curriculum development plan and collaborate with the OSE and special education teachers to develop new curricula for high school courses that align with the Mississippi College and Career Readiness Standards (CCRS) and that are appropriate for Significantly Cognitively Disabled (SCD) students.
 - Complete the courses for Algebra 1 and English I. Provide technical assistance for dissemination and training.
 - Complete at least 2 more courses based on OSE priorities that include science (biology) and social studies (US history).
- Assist with updates and revisions to the current IEP Guidance Document.
- Develop a draft guidance document on specially designed instruction.
- Draft a guidance document on prior written notice and other aspects of the procedural safeguards for both parents and teachers.
- Design, develop, and print resource materials in support of special education programs.

Office of School Improvement (\$177,385 Federal Funds)

- Provide training to District and School Leadership Teams (DLTs and SLTs) and P-16 Councils and to gather evidence that informs the OSI on how to improve the MDE's school improvement initiatives.
- Provide training to DLTs and SLTs and P- 16 Councils on topics predetermined by the OSI that align with The Center on School Turnaround's Four Domains for Rapid School Improvement. The four domains are:
 - Domain 1: Turnaround Leadership
 - Domain 2: Talent Development
 - Domain 3: Instructional Transformation
 - Domain 4: Culture Shift
- Provide training in the months of September, October, November, January, February and March. Each monthly training will be conducted in three locations- a north, central, and south regional location. Sessions will be designed for DLTs and SLTs and for P-16 Council members. The RCU will secure locations and handle logistics. The registration will be hosted in the RCU GoSignMeUp.
- Host a 2-3 day conference in September or January. The RCU will provide support and present at the OSI's conference.
- Continue the evaluation multi-year evaluation of the school improvement processes as a means of providing feedback to MDE.
- Collaborate with the MDE, the final set of research questions shall be agreed upon no later than August 31, 2017, however should the final set of questions require substantially more resources than planned for these questions, the contract may require modification. The same basic research protocol will be used in 2017-18 as in the two previous years. That includes mixed methods and is both formative and summative.
- Provide for three reports:
 - July - August:
 - Planning and startup
 - Preliminary research to prepare IRB documents
 - Prepare IRB documents including observation guides, interview guides, questionnaires, and any necessary sampling plans
 - Discuss all study details with MDE staff prior to IRB approval
 - September – April: Data gathering
 - Fall and Spring regional focus groups (3 in the Fall, 3 in the Spring)
 - Fall and Spring online surveys
 - Reports:
 - January 15, 2018
 - April 15, 2018
 - June 15, 2018

Total Requested: \$1,427,385.00