

**OFFICE OF CHIEF ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICER**  
**Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Items**  
**Consent Agenda**  
**June 13, 2019**

**OFFICE OF ACCREDITATION**

- J. Approval to adopt State Board Policy Part 3, Chapter 36, Rule 36.6: Optional Graduation Requirements for Students Displaced by a Federally or Nationally Declared Natural Disaster

(Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process without public comments)

Background Information: In accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 37-16-7 each student must meet the minimum requirements established by the State Board of Education and its local board of education in order to receive a high school diploma. See also Miss. Code Ann. § 37-17-6 and Process Standard 14 of the *Mississippi Public Schools Accountability Standards, 2018*. However, students displaced by natural disasters may experience educational barriers that prevent them from meeting the requirements set forth by the State Board of Education or a local board of education. Consistent with the McKinney-Vento Act, the MDE is charged with ensuring displaced youth have equal access to appropriate secondary education and support services by assisting local districts with removing these barriers.

The temporary rule and final action are necessary to implement the policy revisions immediately upon its filing with the Secretary of State in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 25-43-3.113(2)(b)(ii). See also Miss. Code Ann. § 25-43-3.108. For a rule to become effective immediately upon its filing, the Board is required to make a finding that the rule only confers a benefit or removes a restriction on the public or some segment thereof.

The Commission on School Accreditation voted 9-1 in favor of the establishment of State Board Policy Part 3, Chapter 36, Rule 36.6: Optional Graduation Requirements for Students Displaced by a Federally or Nationally Declared Natural Disaster at its regularly scheduled meeting on April 4, 2019.

The public comment period was open through 5:00 p.m. May 10, 2019 with no public comments received.

Recommendation: Approval

Back-up material attached

Proposed State Board Policy 36.6

**Chapter 36: Graduation Requirements**

*Rule 36.6 Optional Graduation Requirement for Students Displaced by a Federally or Nationally Declared Natural Disaster*

The State Board of Education encourages Mississippi school districts to make every effort to assist displaced students in meeting Mississippi graduation requirements.

In situations where students are displaced from other states, territories, or countries due to a federally or nationally declared natural disaster and have been unsuccessful in meeting the Mississippi graduation requirements, the State Superintendent of Public Education shall have the authority to allow these displaced students to graduate from a Mississippi public school if certain criteria are met as described below.

The State Superintendent of Public Education may grant the Mississippi school district in which the student is enrolled as a senior the authority to collaborate with school officials from the student's home state, territory, or country to determine the procedures and requirements (i.e., assessment and course requirements) for awarding a diploma to eligible students.

This policy shall be limited to students who were last enrolled as a junior or senior in their home school in another state, territory, or country.

Source: 42 U.S.C. § 11432 and Miss. Code Ann. §§ 37-1-3, 37-16-7, and 37-17-6 (Adopted TBD)