OFFICE OF THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT
Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Items
March 19, 2020

OFFICE OF THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT

04. Action: Approval to suspend the Mississippi Statewide Accountability System for the 2019 – 2020 school year and to submit a waiver request to the United States Department of Education (ED) as provided for in the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act* (ESEA) [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan]

Background Information: Annual state and federal accountability requirements are outlined in Miss. Code Ann. § 37-17-6(5) and 20 USC §6311(b) (§ 1111(b) of the ESEA).

President Donald Trump declared a national emergency on March 13, 2020, in response to the COVID-19 (coronavirus) outbreak. On March 14, 2020, Governor Tate Reeves issued a Declaration of a State of Emergency for the state of Mississippi. Included in his Proclamation, Governor Reeves directed that pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. § 33-15-11(c), the provisions of state statutes, rules, regulation or order may be temporarily suspended or modified if compliance with such provisions would prevent, hinder, or delay action to cope with the outbreak.

Due to the unique circumstances arising as a result of COVID-19, such as statewide school closures that have occurred during multiple testing windows, it is not feasible for the MDE to administer any of the required state or federal assessments for the 2019 – 2020 school year. Therefore, the MDE will not have sufficient data to produce accountability determinations as required by state and federal law for the 2019 – 2020 school year.

The MDE recommends that districts and schools maintain the same accountability designation in the 2020 – 2021 school year as assigned in the 2019 – 2020 school year with no cumulative impact for cases where multiple years with the same designation could lead to a more severe consequence.

This item references Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 of the *Mississippi Board of Education 2018-2022 Strategic Plan.*

Recommendation: Approval

Back-up material: None