

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION	TOPIC: INTRODUCTION
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Under Miss. Code Ann. § 37-3-1 *et seq.*, the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) is statutorily authorized to supervise all local school districts as they carry out the educational functions of the state. The MDE ensures that schools meet the minimum standards established for instruction, curriculum, construction of school buildings, transportation, educator licensure, vocational education, accreditation, and other areas. These duties encompass kindergarten through the grade 12.

The MDE is responsible for administration and disbursement of various fund sources for the operation of public schools in Mississippi. This includes appropriations from the State Legislature and federal program funds. The federal monies are received directly from the United States Department of Education, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and directly from other state agencies such as the Department of Economic and Community Development and the Employment Security Commission. A majority of these funds are "passed through" the MDE to the local schools.

The MDE is also responsible for ensuring the policies of the State Board of Education (SBE) are implemented both in the agency, the local school districts, the state schools, Districts of Transformation, and the Mississippi Achievement School District. The policies set by the SBE include performance-based accreditation standards, teacher certification standards, statewide high school graduation standards, student competency testing criteria, and other similar items.

The SBE consists of nine members. Five members are appointed by the Governor, two members are appointed by the Lieutenant Governor, and two members are appointed by the Speaker of the Mississippi House of Representatives in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 37-1-1. The current Board members are listed below:

Mr. Glen East	Administrator	July, 2032
Mr. Matt Miller	2nd Sup. Court District	July, 2029
Dr. Ronnie McGehee	At-large	July, 2028
Mr. Bill Jacobs	At-large	July, 2024
Mr. Mike Pruitt	At-large	July, 2031
Mrs. Mary Werner	At-large	July, 2026
Dr. Wendi Barrett	Teacher	July, 2027
Mr. Matt Mayor	1st Sup. Court District	July, 2025
Mrs. Billye Jean Stroud	3rd Sup. Court District	July, 2030

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The State Superintendent of Public Education serves as the Chief Administrative Officer and executive agency head of the MDE, with Deputy Superintendents (Chiefs) reporting directly to him or her. Additionally, the Executive Directors/Superintendents of the state schools, as well as the Superintendent in a District of Transformation or the Achievement School District, report directly to the State Superintendent of Public Education or his/her designee (i.e., Chief Academic Officer or Chief of School and District Transformation, respectively). The Deputy Superintendents (Chiefs) include the following:

- Chief of Advocacy and Counsel
- Chief of Government Relations, and Internal and External Affairs
- Chief Academic Officer
- Chief Accountability Officer
- Chief Operations Officer
- Chief Informations Officer
- Chief Communications Officer
- Chief of School and District Transformation

MDE employees are mostly located in the historical Central High School Building, in Jackson MS; however, MDE has offices in the Greymont building, as well as other areas in the State.

The SBE employs a Director of Educational Accountability, who oversees the areas of Internal Audit, Program Evaluations, and Public Reporting.

The SBE serves as the governing board of the MS Schools for the Deaf and Blind, MS School of the Arts, and MS School for Mathematics and Science.