



MISSISSIPPI  
DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION

## CAREER OPPORTUNITY

### **DEPUTY DIRECTOR - TIER III (ASSOCIATE STATE SUPERINTENDENT) OFFICE OF ACADEMIC EDUCATION NON-STATE SERVICE**

**Salary Range: \$91,555.33 - \$156,216.29**

Salary will be negotiable and commensurate with experience.

The Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) seeks an Associate State Superintendent (Chief Deputy - Tier III) for the Office of Academic Education. This individual must possess the educational expertise to provide strategic leadership to drive student-centered school improvement efforts across innovative learning environments and state special schools. This role focuses on advancing effective school innovation and transformation strategies, improving student outcomes, and strengthening systems of support for all students. The Director ensures coordinated support systems across innovative school models, alternative programs, and state special schools to improve student outcomes and ensure alignment with state performance frameworks, and accountability standards.

#### **RESPONSIBILITIES:**

##### **Youth Services & Engagement**

- Direct services for students impacted by chronic absenteeism, foster care, the juvenile justice system, and other at-risk circumstances.
- Oversee compulsory attendance enforcement and dropout prevention strategies.
- Coordinate cross-agency support for vulnerable student populations, ensuring educational continuity and compliance with federal/state regulations.
- Supervise staff and liaisons responsible for youth-related interventions, including those in alternative and juvenile detention education.

##### **District Innovation & School Improvement**

- Lead the development and implementation of innovative educational models and strategic school improvement initiatives.
- Support school and district transformation through data-informed improvement plans, coaching, and equity-focused reform strategies.
- Facilitate strategic planning sessions with school and district teams to set academic priorities and build internal leadership capacity in conjunction with other MDE offices.
- Monitor implementation of district improvement plans and school-level academic action plans aligned to MDE and federal requirements.
- Represent the Office of School and District Transformation in site visits, school board meetings, and state-level accountability discussions, as applicable.
- Identify professional learning needs and assist in the design and delivery of targeted supports to principals and instructional leaders.
- Serve as the central liaison across all MDE departments (e.g., Special Education, Literacy, CTE, Workforce, Assessment, Federal Programs) to coordinate and align all state-provided supports for struggling districts.



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Mississippi Department of Education is an Equal Opportunity Employer

**Special Schools Oversight**

Provide governance, support, and accountability oversight for state special schools, including:

- School for Math and Science – ensuring advanced STEM curriculum, academic excellence, and talent development.
- School for the Arts – supporting artistic excellence and specialized arts programming across disciplines.
- School for the Deaf and Blind – ensuring full access, individualized learning, and specialized instructional services aligned with IDEA and accessibility standards.
- Serve as liaison between the state education agency and special schools to support shared planning, accountability, and innovation.

**Leadership & Administration**

- Oversee a multidisciplinary team responsible for compliance, program development, strategic planning, and student support services.
- Manage budgets, grants, and resource allocation for assigned programs and schools.
- Analyze program and school data to drive decisions, improve outcomes, and report progress to stakeholders.
- Represent the district/state in interagency initiatives, task forces, hearings, and community events.

**SPECIAL QUALIFICATIONS:**

- Deep knowledge of education law, special education (including IDEA and ADA), school accountability, and at-risk youth services.
- Proven ability to lead complex organizations, manage diverse teams, and drive cross-sector collaboration.
- Strategic thinker with strong policy, operational, communication, and data analysis skills.

**EXPERIENCE/EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS:**

- Master’s degree in education, Public Administration, or a related field (Doctorate preferred).
- Minimum of 7–10 years of progressive leadership experience in K-12 education, with experience overseeing special programs, student services, or school innovation.

APPLY

- Visit [Mississippi State Personnel Board](#) to apply
- Deadline: June 3, 2025

BENEFITS

- [mdek12.org/humanresources/mde-employee-benefits/](https://mdek12.org/humanresources/mde-employee-benefits/)

INQUIRIES

- Wendy Clemons  
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601-359-3077

