

OFFICE OF CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER
Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Items
Consent Agenda
December 18, 2025

MISSISSIPPI SCHOOLS FOR THE DEAF AND THE BLIND

- C. Approval to adopt policies required by state statute for the Mississippi Schools for the Deaf and the Blind to be placed on the District Policy Service website established by the Mississippi School Boards Association

Background Information: To adopt policies required by state statute for the Mississippi Schools for the Deaf and the Blind's web page maintained on the Mississippi School Boards Association.

1. Policy AEBA – Extended School Year/Summer School
2. Policy AF – School Day
3. Policy AFC – Authority for Emergency Closings
4. Policy BBBCB – School Board Member Visits to Schools
5. Policy BDC – Board Policy Adoption

Recommendation: Approval

Back-up material attached



Section: A – School District Organization

Policy Code: AEBA

Policy: Extended School Year/Summer School

EXTENDED SCHOOL YEAR/SUMMER SCHOOL

This school board shall maintain and operate all of the schools under their control for such length of time during the year as may be required. Miss. Code Ann. § 37-7-301(m).

The Mississippi Public School Accountability Standard for this policy is standard 13.



Section: A – School District Organization

Policy Code: AF

Policy: School Day

SCHOOL DAY

It shall be the policy of this school district to provide sufficient instructional time to give students the opportunity to master specific learning objectives at all instructional levels.

1. The number of hours of actual teaching which shall constitute a school day shall be determined and fixed by the school board of this school district at not less than five and one-half (5-1/2) hours. Miss. Code Ann. § 37-13-67.
2. School Day: That portion of the calendar day that includes the teaching day, intermissions, and any additional time included in the employee contract. School day defines the normal working day for employees. Glossary, *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards*.
3. Teaching Day: A day in which a minimum of 330 minutes of instruction and/or evaluation and/or district approved group testing is provided. Glossary, *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards*.

The Mississippi Public School Accountability Standard for this policy is standard 13.



Section: A – School District Organization

Policy Code: AFC

Policy: Authority for Emergency Closings

AUTHORITY FOR EMERGENCY CLOSINGS

This school board recognizes and accepts its duty and authority to maintain and operate all the schools under its control for such length of time during the year as may be required. Miss. Code Ann. § 37-7-301(m).

Upon application from the school board, the superintendent of schools may close any school because of an epidemic prevailing in the school district or because of the death, resignation, sickness or dismissal of a teacher or teachers or because of any other emergency necessitating the closing of the school. The superintendent is hereby authorized to declare an emergency and to close schools and district offices or dismiss them early in event of natural disaster, inclement weather or other emergencies which threaten the safety, health, or welfare, of students or staff members.

The superintendent will take such action only after consultation with transportation, emergency management, and weather authorities or other agencies as necessitated by the circumstances. The superintendent shall notify the school board of the decision to close the schools. However, all such schools so closed shall operate for the required full time after being reopened during the scholastic year, unless the school board of the local school district submits a plan to alter the school term that is approved by the State Board of Education under the authority of Miss. Code Ann. § 37-13-63 (2).

DISASTER EMERGENCY

If this school board determines that it is not economically feasible or practicable to operate any school within the district for the full one hundred eighty (180) days required for a scholastic year as contemplated due to an enemy attack, a manmade, technological or natural disaster, or extreme weather emergency in which the Governor has declared a disaster or state of emergency or the U.S. President has declared an emergency or major disaster to exist in this state, the school board may notify the State Department of Education of the disaster or weather emergency and submit a plan for altering the school term.

If the State Board of Education finds the disaster or extreme weather emergency to be the cause of the school not operating for the contemplated school term and that such school was in a school district covered by the Governor's or President's disaster or state of emergency declaration, it may permit that school board to operate the schools in its district for less than one hundred eighty (180) days; however, in no instance of a declared disaster or state of emergency under the provisions of this subsection shall a school board receive payment from the State Department of Education for per pupil expenditure for pupils in average daily attendance in excess of ten (10) days.



Districts shall provide sufficient notice (before the close of the prior school day) to staff and students for any weather-related or other unforeseen virtual days. When instances occur that make virtual learning impractical, the district shall either make up any missed days or use the days as weather days as allowed under Mississippi law.

LEAVE DUE TO DECLARED EMERGENCY CLOSURES

The school board may, in its discretion, provide additional administrative leave with pay for all employees (professional, certified, and classified) in the event of declared emergency closures.



Section: School Board Operations

Policy Code: BBBCB

Policy: School Board Member Visits to Schools

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER VISITS TO SCHOOLS

Each school board member elected to office after July 1, 2002 shall spend one full day, without compensation, in one or more of the District's schools. Miss. Code Ann. § 37-7-306(4). Board members elected to office before July 1, 2002 shall not be required to meet the requirement of this policy until such time as they are re-elected.

The Board is to visit schools in the district, in their discretion, in a body for the purpose of determining what can be done for the improvement of the school in a general way. Miss. Code Ann. § 37-7-301(f).

Definition: One full day shall mean seven clock hours spent at one or more of the school district's campuses.

Procedure: Each school board member of the Mississippi Schools for the Deaf and the Blind may choose one of the following options to fulfill the legal requirement of spending one full day in the district's schools:

1. Spend one seven-hour day visiting anyone, or combination, of school(s) in the district;
2. Spend three and one-half hours on two separate days visiting any school or schools;
3. Spend seven hours visiting anyone, or combination, of schools over several days.

Record Keeping: The superintendent of schools shall annually provide each school board member with a "Board Member Visitation Form." Individual board members are to complete this form after each visit to a school campus and return this form to the superintendent on or before June 30th of each year.

The superintendent shall include this information on the July or August board meeting agenda for board review. This record of school board member visitation to the schools shall be reflected in the school board minutes and shall become a permanent part of each board member's personnel file.



Section: School Board Operations

Policy Code: BDC

Policy: Board Policy Adoption

BOARD POLICY ADOPTION

DEFINITION

Policy is a clear statement that sets forth the purpose and prescribes, in general terms, the organization and programs of this school district. The board policy of this school district shall be considered a framework within which the Superintendent and the school staff are expected to discharge their assigned duties through course of action.

ADOPTION OF POLICY

Recommended policies can originate with the board, an individual board member or the superintendent. The following shall be the policy of this school board in adopting policy:

1. The policy issue shall be placed on the school board agenda in advance of the school board meeting.
2. Support material regarding the rationale for the policy shall be included in the board members' packet material so that board members, the school board attorney and the superintendent will have advance opportunity to review facts and reasons relating to the policy.
3. After the board, through majority vote, has agreed on the general contents of the policy, the superintendent (with assistance from the school board attorney and /or other legal counsel) shall draft a copy of such policy for consideration at a subsequent board meeting.
4. The board shall review the draft copy of the policy at the subsequent board meeting and if approved through majority vote, shall direct the superintendent to disseminate the draft policy throughout all school campuses for staff comments and to resubmit the policy to the board—along with any comments and / or recommended changes—at the next regularly scheduled board meeting.
5. The board shall consider adoption of the policy at its next regular monthly board meeting and if such policy meets with the approval of the board as indicated by majority vote, the policy shall be considered approved and then entered into the policy manual of this school district.

Nothing in this process shall prevent this school board from re-submitting a policy to the staff for comments multiple times before adoption. Nothing in this process shall prevent this school board from submitting a policy to the general community for comments before adoption.