

OFFICE OF CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER
Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Items
Consent Agenda
January 15, 2026

MISSISSIPPI SCHOOLS FOR THE DEAF AND THE BLIND

F. Approval for the Mississippi Schools for the Deaf and the Blind to receive a donation

Executive Summary

Mississippi Code Ann. § 43-5-1 (4) provides the SBE is authorized “to receive and hold property, real and personal, and to accept and use as provided by law, separate from the needs of the other institutions, all bequests, devices and donations made or which may in the future be made to or for it, and shall continue to enjoy the rights and privileges heretofore conferred upon it by law and such as are necessary now, or hereafter, to accomplish the purposes of its own establishment and operation and maintenance hereunder, provided that the same be not inconsistent with or in conflict with this chapter. The State Board of Education, in its discretion, may delegate any such powers and duties, as it deems appropriate, to any administrative staff of the State Department of Education, the Mississippi School for the Deaf or the Mississippi School for the Blind.”

At this time, the SBE has not delegated such powers, and therefore the MSDB requests that the Board accept the donation from Mrs. Rice and Mrs. Maddox in memory of Mr. James Rice May, whose son was a former student at the Mississippi School for the Blind.

Recommendation: Approval

Back-up material attached

West's Annotated Mississippi Code

Title 43. Public Welfare

Chapter 5. Schools for the Blind and Deaf (Refs & Annos)
in General

Miss. Code Ann. § 43-5-1

§ 43-5-1. State Board of Education; consolidations

Currentness

(1) The State Board of Education shall be the Board of Trustees of the Mississippi School for the Deaf and the Mississippi School for the Blind and shall retain all powers and duties granted by law to the Board of Trustees of the Mississippi School for the Deaf and the Mississippi School for the Blind. Wherever the term Board of Trustees of the Mississippi School for the Deaf and Mississippi School for the Blind appears in any law the same shall mean the State Board of Education.

(2) The provisions of this section shall not be construed to require any consolidation or combination of the Mississippi School for the Deaf and the Mississippi School for the Blind other than where economies can be realized through the common utilization of maintenance personnel and equipment, physical facilities, vehicles and administrative personnel, where the same can be done without impairment of the effectiveness of the educational programs of the two (2) institutions or the welfare of the students.

(3) The provisions of this section shall not be construed to require any consolidation of services involving curriculum or instructional programs of the two (2) institutions.

(4) The State Board of Education, on behalf of each of these institutions, shall have the power to receive and hold property, real and personal, and to accept and use as provided by law, separate from the needs of the other institutions, all bequests, devices and donations made or which may in the future be made to or for it, and shall continue to enjoy the rights and privileges heretofore conferred upon it by law and such as are necessary now, or hereafter, to accomplish the purposes of its own establishment and operation and maintenance hereunder, provided that the same be not inconsistent with or in conflict with this chapter. The State Board of Education, in its discretion, may delegate any such powers and duties, as it deems appropriate, to any administrative staff of the State Department of Education, the Mississippi School for the Deaf or the Mississippi School for the Blind.

Credits

Laws 1944, Ch. 163, § 1; Laws 1989, Ch. 544, § 142; [Laws 1991, Ch. 534, § 15, eff. July 1, 1991](#). Amended by [Laws 2020, Ch. 369 \(H.B. No. 667\), § 1, eff. July 1, 2020](#).

Miss. Code Ann. § 43-5-1, MS ST § 43-5-1

The Statutes and Constitution are current with laws from the 2025 Regular and First Extraordinary Sessions. Some statute sections may be more current, see credits for details. The statutes are subject to changes provided by the Joint Legislative Committee on Compilation, Revision and Publication of Legislation.

Superintendent
LaMarlon J. Wilson, Ed.S.

Assistant Superintendent
Adrienne Williams, Ph.D.

Exec. Dir. of Finance/Operations
Alison Bradford



Mississippi Schools for the Deaf & Blind

Where Endless Opportunities Abound!

Lower Elementary Principal

Paula McClain

MSB Principal

Lakesha Doyle, Ed.S.

MSD Principal

Jeremy Knott, Ed.D.

December 10, 2025

Dear Members of the Board,

I am writing to request formal acceptance of a donation in the amount of \$30.00 made to the Mississippi School for the Blind. This contribution was generously given by Mrs. Rice and Mrs. Beverly Maddox in memory of Mr. James Rice May, whose son was previously a student at our school.

We are grateful for this thoughtful gift, and, in accordance with policy, seek the Board's approval to accept and utilize these funds in support of our students.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Lakesha Doyle
MSB Principal