

**OFFICE OF CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER**  
**Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Items**  
**February 19, 2026**

**OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION**

05.B. Action: Award Educator-in-Residence (EIR) State Systemic Improvement Plan grant to the participating school district for Director of Districts and Schools of Innovation [Goals 1, 2, and 4 – MBE Strategic Plan]

Background and Purpose: The Mississippi Department of Education (MDE), through the Office of Innovation and Support Systems, seeks approval to establish and appoint a Director of Districts and Schools of Innovation. This position provides statewide oversight of Districts and Schools of Innovation as authorized under Mississippi Code §§ 37-179-1 through 37-179-11 and strengthen statewide transition support for students with disabilities.

The Office of Special Education will award a grant to the participating Educator-in-Residence (EIR) district based on successful competitive applications. The grant award will be in the amount of salary, fringe benefits, and indirect costs of 1%. EIR salaries are based on comparable state agency positions, school district positions, or similar professional roles. Incremental raises are included for extended year grant agreements. The grant funds are distributed each year based on legislative appropriation.

Continuation of grant shall be contingent upon the successful completion of services from the preceding fiscal year's grant and the availability of funds.

Scope of Grant:

- Term of Award: March 1, 2026 – June 30, 2028
- Award Amount: \$291,788.48
- Method of Award: Educator-in-Residence Application

Funding Source: State funds

Summary of Selection Process:

A competitive application process was utilized to award grants.

Scoring Criteria:

- A. Qualifications
- B. Literacy Content and Coaching Knowledge
- C. References

This item references Goals 1, 2, and 4 of the *Mississippi Board of Education Strategic Plan*.

Recommendation: Approval

Back-up material attached

<b>Name of District</b>	<b>Number of EIRs</b>	<b>Year 1</b>	<b>Year 2</b>	<b>Year 3</b>	<b>Award Amount</b>
Petal School District	1	\$42,255.48	\$124,766.50	\$124,766.50	\$291,788.48

The Mississippi Department of Education reserves the right to negotiate grant award amounts dependent upon appropriations. The grant award will not exceed the above amount.