

OFFICE OF CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER
Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Items
Consent Agenda
March 19, 2026

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 EBAB – Smoke Free Buildings
2. Policy EBBA – School Safety Plan
3. Policy EBBAB – Sex Offender
4. Policy EBBAG – Cardiac Emergency Response Plan
5. Policy EBBC – Emergency Drills
6. Policy EBBC-1 – Emergency Drills-Earth Quakes
7. Policy EBC – Security
8. Policy EBHA – Use of School Property
9. Policy EDDA – Special Use of School Buses
10. Policy EFA – Data Breach Prevention Phishing Emails

Recommendation: Approval

Back-up material attached



Section: E – Business Management

Policy Code: EBAB

Policy: Smoke Free Buildings

SMOKE FREE BUILDINGS

Consistent with the provisions of Public Law 103-227, 20 USC 6083, the Mississippi School for the Deaf and Blind, Mississippi Board of Education (Board of Trustees) bans the use of all tobacco products in all school buildings in the district and on all school vehicles by all persons at all times.

This ban extends to all employees, students, and patrons attending school-sponsored athletic events and meetings. The ban extends to school-owned or operated vehicles and facilities. The board issues this ban in a sincere appeal to all employees, students and patrons to cooperate in helping to create within our facilities a truly healthy environment for all concerned.

Section 1043 (a) and (c-1) and (f-1) of 20 USC 6083 states:

PROHIBITION

After the enactment of this Act, no person shall permit smoking within any indoor facility owned or leased or contracted for and utilized by such person for provision of routine or regular kindergarten, elementary, or secondary education or library services to children.

FEDERAL AGENCIES

Kindergarten, Elementary or Secondary Education or Library Service -- After the date of the enactment of this Act, no Federal agency shall permit smoking within any indoor facility in the United States operated by such agency, directly or by contract, to provide routine or regular kindergarten, elementary, or secondary education or library services to children.

CIVIL PENALTIES

Any failure to comply with a prohibition in this section shall be in violation of this section and any person subject to such prohibition who commits such violation may be liable to the United States for a civil penalty in an amount not to exceed \$1,000 for each violation, or may be subject to an administrative compliance order, or both. Each day a violation continues shall constitute a separate violation. In the case of any civil penalty under this section, the total amount shall not exceed the amount of Federal funds received by such person for the fiscal year in which the continuing violations occurred.



For the purpose of the prohibition in subsection (c), the term "person" shall mean the head of the applicable Federal agency or the contractor of such agency providing the services to children.



Section: E – Business Management

Policy Code: EBBA

Policy: School Safety Plan

Please Note: For information related to student conduct, disciplinary action, and the School Safety Act of 2001, please refer to Miss. Code Ann. § 37-11-55.

The superintendent shall be responsible for ensuring that each school in the district maintains a School Safety Plan, which shall be subject to approval by the superintendent and the school board. The Safety Plan is to be reviewed on a regular basis and revised as needed.

SCHOOL SAFETY PLAN

A comprehensive, systematic, broad-based continuous process designed to create and maintain a secure and orderly school climate that is free of drugs, violence, and fear. A safe and orderly school climate promotes the success and development of all children and the staff who serve them. At a minimum, the School Safety Plan should address the following components:

- Crisis Intervention Team,
- School Safety Self-Assessment,
- School Safety Drill Assessment, and
- Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Training

CRISIS INTERVENTION TEAM

An interdisciplinary team of professionals whose goals are to respond to emergencies or crisis situations and to provide an array of services, which may include counseling, medical, legal, security or police, etc. The Crisis Intervention Team may also be utilized in a planning capacity in order to establish coordination and linkages prior to the actual occurrence of an event.

SCHOOL SAFETY SELF-ASSESSMENT

A strategic planning and assessment instrument used to evaluate the extent of the school safety plan. In the broadest of terms, the assessment should include a comprehensive review of the entire educational program of a school and/or school district. It may, however, focus on specific areas such as assessment of the gang problem, weapons in schools, drug or alcohol abuse, schoolyard bullying, facilities evaluation, policies and procedures, compliance with statutes, attitudes and a host of emerging trends in the field of school safety.



SCHOOL SAFETY DRILL ASSESSMENT

A process designed to evaluate the effectiveness of a crisis management plan and the readiness of an individual school and/or school district. This assessment may include a review of policies and procedures, safety drills, linkages with the appropriate agencies, the role of Crisis Intervention Team members in the event of a crisis, professional development activities, and training students how to respond during a crisis.

MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION TRAINING

Beginning in the 2019-2020 school year, the school district shall conduct, every two (2) years, refresher training on mental health and suicide prevention for all school employees and personnel, including all cafeteria workers, custodians, teachers, and administrators. This training shall be in connection with the Mississippi Department of Mental Health. The district shall report completion of the training to the State Department of Education.

Note: EACH SCHOOL is to have its own school safety plan that includes at a minimum each of the components listed above.

The Mississippi Public School Accountability Standard for this policy is standard 31.



Section: E – Business Management

Policy Code: EBBAB

Policy: Sex Offender

SEX OFFENDER

This school board is committed to providing a safe and orderly educational environment conducive to teaching and learning. This Board directs the superintendent to develop guidelines and/or administrative procedures, subject to board approval, that comply with Miss. Code Ann. Section § 45-33-26, as shown below.

SEX OFFENDERS PROHIBITED FROM SCHOOL BUILDINGS AND PROPERTY

1. Unless exempted under subsection (2), it is unlawful for a person required to register as a sex offender under Section 45-33-25:

1. To be present in any school building, on real property comprising any school, or in any conveyance owned, leased or contracted by a school to transport students to or from school or a school-related activity when persons under the age of eighteen (18) are present in the building, on the grounds or in the conveyance; or
2. To loiter within five hundred (500) feet of a school building or real property comprising any school while persons under the age of eighteen (18) are present in the building or on the grounds.

- 2.

1. A person required to register as a sex offender who is a parent or guardian of a student attending the school and who complies with subsection (3) may be present on school property if the parent or guardian is:

1. Present at the school because the presence of the sex offender has been requested by the principal for any other reason relating to the welfare of the child
2. Transporting the sex offender's child to and from school;
3. Attending a conference at the school with school personnel to discuss the progress of the sex offender's child academically or socially;
4. Participating in child review conferences in which evaluation and placement decisions may be made with respect to the sex offender's child regarding special education services;
5. Attending conferences to discuss other student issues concerning the sex offender's child such as retention and promotion;



2. Subsection (1) of this section shall not apply to a sex offender who is legally enrolled in a particular school or is participating in a school-sponsored educational program located at a particular school when the sex offender is present at that school.
3.
 1. In order to exercise the exemption under subsection (2), a parent or guardian who is required to register as a sex offender must notify the principal of the school of the sex offender's presence at the school unless the offender: (i) has permission to be present from the superintendent or the school board, or (ii) the principal has granted ongoing permission for regular visits of a routine nature.
 2. If permission is granted by the superintendent or the school board, the superintendent or school board president must inform the principal of the school where the sex offender will be present. Notification includes the nature of the sex offender's visit and the hours when the sex offender will be present in the school, and the sex offender is responsible for notifying the principal's office upon arrival and upon departure. If the sex offender is to be present in the vicinity of children, the sex offender has the duty to remain under the direct supervision of a school official.
4. For the purposes of this section, the following terms shall have the meanings ascribed unless the context clearly requires otherwise:
 1. "School" means a public or private preschool, elementary school or secondary school.
 2. "Loiter" means standing or sitting idly, whether in or out of a vehicle, or remaining in or around school property without a legitimate reason.
 3. "School official" means the principal, a teacher, any other certified employee of the school, the superintendent of schools, or a member of the school board.
5. A sex offender who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to a fine not to exceed One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00), incarceration not to exceed six (6) months in jail, or both.
6. It is a defense to prosecution under this section that the sex offender did not know and could not reasonably know that the property or conveyance fell within the proscription of this section.
7. Nothing in this section shall be construed to infringe upon the constitutional right of a sex offender to be present in a school building that is used as a polling place for the purpose of voting.



Section: E – Business Management

Policy Code: EBBAG

Policy: Cardiac Emergency Response Plan

CARDIAC EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN

Each school shall have a cardiac emergency response plan on file in the principal's office. The cardiac emergency response plan will address the appropriate use of school personnel to respond to incidents involving an individual experiencing sudden cardiac arrest or a similar life-threatening emergency while on school grounds. This plan shall also account for incidents involving an individual experiencing sudden cardiac arrest or a similar life-threatening emergency while attending or participating in an athletic practice while on school grounds. The cardiac emergency response plan must be shared with local emergency response service providers.

The cardiac emergency response plan shall integrate, at a minimum, the following guidelines:

1. Establishing a cardiac emergency response team;
2. Activating the team in response to a sudden cardiac arrest;
3. A plan for implementing AED placement and routine maintenance within the school;
4. Disseminating the plan throughout the school campus;
5. Maintaining ongoing staff training in CPR/AED use;
6. Practicing using drills annually;
7. Integrating local EMS with the plan; and
8. Ongoing and annual review and evaluations of the plan.

Appropriate AED placement shall be dictated by the plan and in accordance with guidelines set by the American Heart Association or another nationally recognized, evidence-based standard. The Mississippi Schools for the Deaf and Blind school board may accept gifts, grants and donations, including in-kind donations designated for the purchase of an AED that meets the standards established by the United States Food and Drug Administration, for the costs incurred to inspect and maintain such device, and for the training of staff in the use of such device.

Appropriate school staff will be trained in first-aid, CPR, and AED use that follow evidence-based guidelines set forth by the American Heart Association or another nationally recognized, evidence-based standard. Staff that are to be trained include, but is not limited to, licensed coaches, school nurses, and athletic trainers. Practice drills shall be held annually in accordance with the plan.



A school district, school district employee, or agent acting in good faith who provides assistance or services under this policy shall be immune from civil prosecution and shall not be liable in any action for civil damages in any capacity. Miss. Code Ann. § 73-25-37.

The superintendent shall develop procedures to support this policy.



Section: E – Business Management
Policy Code: EBBC
Policy: Emergency Drills

EMERGENCY DRILLS

It shall be the duty of the principals and teachers in each building of this school district to instruct the pupils in the methods of fire drills and to practice fire drills until all the pupils in the school are familiar with the methods of escape. Such fire drills shall be conducted often enough to keep such pupils well drilled. It shall be the further duty of such principals and teachers to instruct the pupils in all programs of emergency management as may be designated by the state department of education.

It shall be the further duty of such principals and teachers to develop and conduct an active shooter drill within the first sixty (60) days of each new school semester for students, teachers, and staff. Miss. Code Ann. Section § 37-11-5.

This superintendent shall be responsible for ensuring that each school has a current crisis management plan that includes procedures for bomb threat, fire, earthquake, hurricane, tornado, and shootings. The superintendent shall also ensure that the principal and staff at each school conduct regular safety drills in event of an emergency situation related to weapons, weather, or major loss of power.

The Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards for this policy are standards 29 and 31.



Section: E – Business Management

Policy Code: EBBC-1

Policy: Emergency Drills -Earthquakes

EMERGENCY DRILLS – EARTHQUAKES

1. Staff members-administrators and teachers will take charge and give instructions in a firm, calm manner.
2. No person should rush outdoors. The greatest danger is just outside entrances and close to walls.
3. Students should take cover under desks, tables, and heavy furniture, in interior doorways, or against weight-bearing inside walls. Stay away from windows, light fixtures and gymnasiums, cafeterias, or other large areas.
4. After the quake is over, evacuate the building and move to an open area.
5. Avoid fallen wires.
6. Do not start fires.
7. Do not enter buildings until they have been inspected by competent personnel.

The Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards for this policy are standards 29 and 31



Section: E – Business Management

Policy Code: EBC

Policy: Security

SECURITY

The superintendent is directed to establish rules and regulations as may be needed for security to include, but not be limited to:

1. provisions for door locks
2. minimizing fire hazards
3. reducing the possibility of faulty equipment
4. keeping records and funds in a safe place
5. protection against vandalism and burglary
6. the prosecution of vandals
7. school visitors

SECURITY PERSONNEL

The school board, in its discretion, may employ one or more persons as security personnel and may designate such persons as peace officers in or on any property operated for school purposes by such board upon their taking such oath and making such bond as required of a constable of the county in which the school is situated. Miss. Code Ann. § 37-7-321 (1).

BASIC LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING

Any person employed by a school board by a security guard or school resource officer or in any other position that has the powers of a peace officer must receive a minimum level of basic law enforcement training, as jointly determined and prescribed by the Board on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Training and the State Board of Education, within two (2) years of the person's initial employment in such position. Upon the failure of any person employed in such position to receive the required training within the designated time, the person may not exercise the powers of a peace officer in or on the property of the school district. Miss. Code Ann. § 37-7-321 (2).

NONCOMMERCIAL RADIO

The school board is authorized and empowered, in its discretion, and subject to the approval of the Federal Communications Commission, to install and operate a noncommercial radio broadcasting and transmission station for educational and vocational educational purposes. Miss. Code Ann. § 37-7-321 (3).



INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT

If a law enforcement officer is duly appointed to be a peace officer by a school district under this section, the local school board may enter into an interlocal agreement with other law enforcement entities for the provision of equipment or traffic control duties, however, the duty to enforce traffic regulations and to enforce the laws of the state or municipality off of school property lies with the local police or sheriff's department which cannot withhold its services solely because of the lack of such an agreement. Miss. Code Ann. § 37-7-321 (4).

LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS HIRED BY SCHOOL DISTRICT

The governing authorities of any municipality or the board of supervisors of any county may allow off-duty municipal or county law enforcement officers who are hired individually for security purposes by the school district or districts within that municipal or county to use municipal or county law enforcement uniforms and equipment during such off-duty employment. Miss. Code Ann. § 21-19-49 (3).

The Mississippi Public School Accountability Standard for this policy is standard 31.



Section: E – Business Management

Policy Code: EBHA

Policy: Use of School Property

USE OF SCHOOL PROPERTY

The Mississippi Schools for the Deaf and Blind believes that the first priority in the use of its school property is the education of children in the district. However, this district will allow the public use of indoor or outdoor school property during non-school hours for purposes of recreation or sport, to support active living, reduce obesity, reduce health care costs associated with obesity, increase community safety, maximize community resources, and promote community support for schools.

Local citizens are also encouraged to use the property for other reasonable general public use including religious, political, literary, community, cultural, scientific, mechanical, agricultural, or parental involvement purposes.

The board shall exercise its authority to fix and collect rentals, rates, and charges for the occupancy or use of school property in such amounts and in such manner as may be determined.

The superintendent is directed to establish rules and regulations in support of this policy. The rules and regulations will require evidence of appropriate liability insurance coverage. The school district will not permit the use of school property or equipment by any person or organization that does not furnish evidence of insurance coverage.

If the district has provided classroom space or other school facilities for a federally sponsored Head Start program and is planning to make a material change in the arrangement, the superintendent will give notice to the director of the Head Start program at least seven (7) days prior to a school board hearing on the matter.

School districts and school district employees may not be held liable for any claim resulting from a loss or injury arising from the use of indoor or outdoor school property or facilities made available for public recreation or sport.



Section: Business Management

Policy Code: EDDA

Policy: Special Use of School Buses

SPECIAL USE OF SCHOOL BUSES

This school board, subject to rules and regulations promulgated by the State Board of Education permits or may permit:

- the use of publicly owned school buses for the transportation of participating students, teachers, coaches and sponsors in connection with athletic events, events of boys' and girls' clubs, events of Future Farmers of America or 4-H Clubs and special events in connection with the schools which the board may consider a part of the educational program.

The superintendent or designee shall establish procedures specifying guidelines and consequences for violation of the policy.



Section: Business Management

Policy Code: EFA

Policy: Data Breach Prevention (Cyber Security)

PURPOSE

It is the policy of the Mississippi Schools for the Deaf and Blind School District that employees comply with the Mississippi-mandated identity theft prevention laws and School District data breach procedures. Employees are required to protect the sensitive personally identifiable information about students, employees and others from inadvertent, negligent and willful disclosure or breach of such information, data or records. Violation of this Policy may result in corrective action up to and including termination and may be punishable by law.

DEFINITION

Data Breach - Disclosure of personal information pertaining to students or staff by any unauthorized person.

Personally Identifiable Information (PII) - The information or data that could be combined to positively identify an individual including, but not limited to: (1) social security number; (2) driver's license number or State identification card number; and (3) financial account number, credit or debit card number, security code, access code, or password that would permit access to an individual's financial account. Personal information does not include publicly available information that is lawfully made available to the general public from federal, state or local government records.

Risk – A measure of the extent to which an entity is threatened by a potential circumstance or event.

Threat – Any circumstance or event with the potential to adversely impact the district, MDE, or any other district.

Zero – A method that cannot be undone and is used to wipe and overwrite a district device so that all data is permanently removed and irrecoverable.

GUIDELINES DATA BREACH NOTIFICATION

All employees must protect and secure all electronic resources and information, data and records of the School District from theft, and inadvertent disclosure when they are under the supervision and control of the School District, and when they are not under the supervision or control of the School District, for example, but not limited to, working at home, on vacation, or elsewhere. If any employee becomes aware of the release of School District information, data or records the release must be reported to the Superintendent or designee immediately.



If there is a breach of security of the information, data, or records of the School District, the School District must disclose any breach of security of computerized records after discovery or notification of the breach to any Mississippi resident whose personal information was, or is reasonably believed to have been accessed by an unauthorized person.

Before disclosing a breach of security, the School District must report the breach of security and any information pertaining to the breach to the local or state law enforcement agency for investigation or handling in advance of the disclosure to the customer, or others. The School District may be required to delay notification if a law enforcement agency determines that the notification will impede a criminal or civil investigation.

In the event that the Mississippi Schools for the Deaf and Blind School District becomes aware of a cybersecurity risk or threat that may potentially impact the MDE, the State Network Consortium, or other districts, the district shall notify the MDE Information Security and Data Privacy Officer within 24 hours to ensure that the MDE is able to properly mitigate and coordinate a response to the emerging risk or threat, including notifying other districts.

The School District administration must then determine whether a data breach notification will be issued. Notifications may be made through written notice, telephone notice, electronic notice, or a substitute notice.

A notice of the security breach must be provided to residents whose unencrypted and un-redacted computerized personal information was or is reasonably believed to have been accessed and acquired by an unauthorized person and that the School District believes has or could cause loss or injury.

All records of the School District must be destroyed pursuant to the School District document retention and destruction policy, schedule, Mississippi Department of Archives requirements. Destruction means shredding, erasing, or modifying the personal information in the records to make them unreadable, undecipherable or non-reconstructable through generally available means.

PHISHING EMAILS

Phishing is defined as the fraudulent practice of sending emails purporting to be from a reputable source in order to induce individuals to reveal personal information, such as their password or other login credentials. School districts may become targets of these emails due to the sensitive information in their care. It is for this reason that every employee of the district must be alert to these predatory practices.

Though not an exhaustive list, some common characteristics of phishing emails are as follows:

1. Emails requiring the submission of personal information;
2. Emails with generic salutations (ex. Dear employee);
3. Attachments which contain a virus such as malware;



4. Phony links in which the email asks you to click;
5. Bad grammar and spelling; and
6. Emails from people you do not recognize.

Every employee of the district shall be alert to these emails. If an employee receives a suspicious email they shall not reply to the email, avoid clicking any links or attachments, and report it to the appropriate administrator.

Every employee who has been provided a district email shall regularly clean their mailbox. Emails older than 365 days shall not be kept in the mailbox and shall be deleted.

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER REQUIREMENT

Unless otherwise permitted by law, School District employees must protect the privacy of Social Security numbers.

1. The School District may not do any of the following:
 - a. Publicly post or publicly display in any manner an individual's Social Security number. "Publicly post" or "publicly display" means to intentionally communicate or otherwise make available the Social Security number to the general public.
 - b. Print an individual's Social Security number on any card required for the individual to access products or services provided by School District.
 - c. Require an individual to transmit his or her Social Security number over the Internet unless the connection is secure or the Social Security number is encrypted.
 - d. Require an individual to use his or her Social Security number to access an Internet website unless a password or unique personal identification number or other authentication device is also required to access the website.
 - e. Print an individual's Social Security number on any materials that are mailed to the individual unless Federal or State law requires the Social Security number to be on the document to be mailed. However, Social Security numbers may be included in applications and forms sent by mail, including documents sent as part of an application or enrollment process or to establish, amend or terminate an account, contract or policy or to confirm the accuracy of the Social Security number. A Social Security number that is permitted to be mailed under this section may not be printed, in whole or in part, on a postcard or other mailer not requiring an envelope, or visible on the envelope or without the envelope having been opened.
2. The School District may collect, use, or release a Social Security number as required by federal or state law, or may use the Social Security number for internal verification, administrative purposes or for law enforcement investigations.



3. This requirement does not apply to a document that is required by law to be open to the public, and originates with, or is filed, recorded or maintained by any governmental agency, instrumentality or taxing authority.

DISTRICT TECHNOLOGY DISPOSAL

Before a district device is discarded, it must be completely voided of all sensitive district information. No district device may be sold, discarded, or otherwise thrown away until the device has been zeroed. Disciplinary action may be taken against any individual who discards a district device without taking the proper steps to remove all sensitive information from the device.