**state superintendent student**

**advisory council application Guide**

School Year 2025-26

*The Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) invites students in grades 11-12 to apply for selection to the 2025-26 State Superintendent’s Student Advisory Council.*

*This application guide will help ensure applicants have all the required materials in advance to complete the online application. Applicants are strongly encouraged to prepare their responses in a separate document and then copy/paste into the online application form.*

***Approximately 30 slots are available for the 2025-26 Student Advisory Council. The deadline to submit the application is Monday, August 25, 2025*.**

# **About the Council**

The State Superintendent’s Student Advisory Council is comprised of juniors who may serve for a term of two years and seniors who serve for one year. The council’s purpose is to provide a forum for Mississippi students to offer diverse perspectives to the state superintendent of education. The selected students will act as liaisons between the MDE and public-school students from across the state.

Students from different backgrounds, school sizes and regions in Mississippi will be able to share their opinions and offer advice about educational opportunities and policy in Mississippi with the state superintendent of education.

# **Requirements – Attendance and Active Participation**

All students will be expected to attend scheduled meetings to remain an active member of the council, to prepare for each meeting upon receiving the agenda, to express views and opinions openly, constructively and respectfully; and actively participate in group projects.

Students are required to attend the first council meeting set for **Tuesday, Oct. 14, 2025, in Jackson.**

Other tentative meetings for 2025-26 are as follows:

* Several virtual meetings between November 2025 and April 2026
* Wednesday, April 8, 2026 – In-person meeting in the Jackson area

Seniors who **successfully complete service and participation** on the council will receive an MDE honor cord for their high school graduation.

By becoming a member of the State Superintendent’s Student Advisory Council, students will benefit by:

* Having a direct role in improving educational opportunities for all students in Mississippi
* Gaining critical leadership, public-speaking, decision-making and team-building skills
* Developing a network of support and mentors through collaboration with other students
* Having a great achievement added to their resumes and college applications

**Minimum Eligibility Criteria**

To be eligible to apply, students must:

* Be currently enrolled in a Mississippi public school
* Be able to travel to the in-person meetings in the Jackson area and attend the virtual meetings when applicable
* Have an available adult chaperone, if needed, for transportation to the meeting locations
* Complete all sections of the application

# **Application Uploads**

* **Resume**: Students will need to upload a resume that highlights their school and community activities, leadership positions and awards. (Maximum three pages)
* **Cover letter**: Students will need to write and upload a properly formatted cover letter introducing themselves along with explaining their personal experiences and perspective on the public school system. (Points will be deducted from letters identified as being written with AI). The letter should be in .doc, .docx or .pdf format. (Maximum 600 words)
* **Parent and Principal Permission**: Print out the permission form at the bottom of this guide and get signatures from a parent/guardian as well as a principal. Then save a digital copy of the permission form so it can be uploaded to the application.

# **Application Questions**

Applicants must provide **thorough responses** **of 500 words maximum to each** of the following questions on the application:

1. The State Superintendent’s Student Advisory Council will provide you with a direct role in improving education for our diverse student population in Mississippi. Why do you wish to be on the student council?
2. What characteristics, accomplishments and experiences do you possess that would be beneficial to the council?
3. What do you believe is the most important issue facing students in Mississippi?
4. What was a challenging experience you had or observed in school that made you realize Mississippi can improve its educational system?
5. What is one thing you think the State Superintendent of Education should know about you or your school experience?
6. What are your college and/or career plans? Why have you chosen or are considering this plan?

**Selection Process**

The applications will be evaluated according to the submission requirements and evaluation criteria. Consideration will be given to a broad representation of students across Mississippi, including geographic location, school, types of interests and experiences as outlined in the application.

**Application Schedule**

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| **Application posted** | July 29, 2025 |
| **Submission deadline** | August 25, 2025 |
| **Notice of selection issued by** | September 22, 2025 |

**Contact**

Shanderia Minor, MDE public information officer, is the point of contact for this application process. Applicants should direct questions to [sminor@mdek12.org](mailto:sminor@mdek12.org) or 601-359-3515.

# **2025-26 State Superintendent’s Student Advisory Council Permission Form**

The following student ­­­­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is applying to join the 2025-26 State Superintendent Student Advisory Council at the Mississippi Department of Education.

Students must be able to travel to the in-person meetings in the Jackson area and attend the virtual meetings. An adult chaperone may need to provide transportation. Attending the two in-person meetings in the Jackson area typically result in missing a full-day of school.

Parents, guardians, and principals, please sign below to acknowledge your permission for a student to join the council as well as your understanding of a student’s commitment if selected.

**Signatures**

**Parent/Guardian (printed)** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian (signature)** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Principal (printed)** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Principal (signature)** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**School** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_