



**Minutes of the
Commission on School Accreditation
Regular Scheduled Teleconference meeting
September 18, 2025
8:30 a.m.**

A regular meeting of the Commission on School Accreditation (CSA or Commission) took place via teleconference and video means from the Central High School Building, 359 North West Street, Jackson, Mississippi at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, September 18, 2025. The public was invited to view the livestreaming via the MDE YouTube Channel or in person in the Senator Grey Ferris Board Room.

Commission members in attendance via teleconference included:

Anthony Bryant, Tupelo, MS
Dr. John-Mark Cain, Meridian, MS
Judge Mary B. "Betsy" Cotton, Yazoo City, MS
Dr. Carla Evers, Pass Christian, MS
Patrice Guilfoyle, Jackson, MS
Jeremy Hamm, Carthage, MS
Toni Kersh, Biloxi, MS
Pamela Manners, (Chair), Biloxi, MS
Aisha Maxwell, Horn Lake, MS
Carter Myers, Oxford, MS
Brad Stevens, Smithville, MS
Ingrid Williams, Clinton, MS

Members absent: Dr. Sarah Wilborn

The Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) staff members/representatives present included:

Dr. Jo Ann Malone, Associate State Superintendent/Executive Secretary, Office of Accreditation
Wendy Clemons, Chief Academic Officer
John Ferrell, Chief of School and District Transformation
Erin Myers, General Counsel
Ma'Kesha Adams, Executive Director, Secondary Curriculum and Instruction
Melissa Biggs, Office of Accreditation
Andrea Hanson, Office of Accountability
Lori Hartley, Office of Accreditation
J. Christopher Haynes, Office of Accreditation
Shulawnda Johnson, Office of Accreditation
Dawn Tassin, Office of Accreditation
Heather Morrison, MS Institutions of Higher Learning

Jonathan Dennis, Special Assistant Attorney General, served as legal counsel to the Commission.

Commission on School Accreditation – MINUTES
September 18, 2025

I. Announcement of Quorum and Call to Order

Ms. Pamela Manners, Chair of the CSA, opened the Commission meeting and conducted a roll call of the Commission members.

Ms. Manners announced that a quorum of the Commission existed.

Ms. Manners called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

II. Adoption of Agenda

On a motion by Dr. Carla Evers, seconded by Brad Stevens, the Commission unanimously voted to adopt the agenda.

III. MDE Updates

Dr. Malone welcomed the three (3) new members of the Commission (Dr. John-Mark Cain, Judge Mary B. “Betsy” Cotton, and Carter Myers) who introduced themselves. She informed the Commission that Trosiki Pettus had resigned because of a job change.

IV. Action: Election of the 2025-2026 Chair of the Commission on School Accreditation

On a nomination by Jeremy Hamm, the Commission unanimously voted to reelect Pamela Manners 2025-2026 Chair of the Commission on School Accreditation.

V. Action: Election of the 2025-2026 Vice-Chair of the Commission on School Accreditation

On a nomination by Pamela Manners, the Commission unanimously voted to reelect Dr. Carla Evers 2025-2026 Vice-Chair of the Commission on School Accreditation.

VI. Action: Approval of the minutes of the June 5, 2025, meeting of the Commission on School Accreditation

On a motion by Anthony Bryant, seconded by Jeremy Hamm, the Commission unanimously voted to approve the minutes of the June 5, 2025, meeting of the Commission on School Accreditation.

VII. Action: Approval to upgrade the accreditation status of the Aberdeen School District from PROBATION to ACCREDITED

Dr. Malone presented this information to the Commission.

On a motion by Brad Stevens, seconded by Dr. Carla Evers, the Commission unanimously voted to approve upgrading the accreditation status of the Aberdeen School District from PROBATION TO ACCREDITED.

VIII. Action: Approval to upgrade the accreditation status of the Canton School District from PROBATION to ACCREDITED

Dr. Malone presented this information to the Commission.

On a motion by Anthony Bryant, seconded by Patrice Guilfoyle, the Commission unanimously voted to approve upgrading the accreditation status of the Canton School District from PROBATION TO ACCREDITED.

IX. Action: Approval to upgrade the accreditation status of the Jefferson Davis County School District from PROBATION to ACCREDITED

Dr. Malone presented this information to the Commission.

On a motion by Jeremy Hamm, seconded by Toni Kersh, the Commission unanimously voted to approve upgrading the accreditation status of the Jefferson Davis County School District from PROBATION TO ACCREDITED.

X. Action: Consideration of waiver request from the Okolona School District for Process Standard 2.1 (Principal Duties) of the *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2025*, for the School Year 2025-2026.

Dr. Malone presented this information to the Commission.

On a motion by Carter Myers, seconded by Anthony Bryant, the Commission unanimously voted to approve the request to waive Process Standard 2.1 (Principal Duties) of the *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2025*, by the Okolona School District for the School Year 2025-2026.

XI. Action: Consideration of waiver request from the Coffeeville School District for Process Standard 2.1 (Principal Duties) of the *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2025*, for the School Year 2025-2026.

Dr. Malone presented this information to the Commission.

On a motion by Ingrid Williams, seconded by Aisha Maxwell, the Commission unanimously voted to approve the request to waive Process Standard 2.1 (Principal Duties) of the *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2025*, by the Coffeeville School District for the School Year 2025-2026.

XII. Discussion: Proposed revisions to the *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2025*, specifically, Appendix A-8, to be effective beginning with the 2025-2026 school year.

Ms. Ma’Keshia Adams presented this information to the Commission.

XIII. Action: Consideration of request of the State Board of Education to begin the Administrative Procedures Act (APA) Process to revise the *Mississippi Public School*

Accountability Standards, 2025, specifically, Appendix A-8, to be effective beginning with the 2025-2026 school year.

On a motion by Dr. Carla Evers, seconded by Anthony Bryant, the Commission unanimously voted to approve the request of the State Board of Education to begin the Administrative Procedures Act (APA) Process to revise the *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2025*, specifically, Appendix A-8, to be effective beginning with the 2025-2026 school year.

XIV. Discussion: Proposed revisions to the *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2025*, specifically, Process Standard 3.1, to be effective beginning with the 2025-2026 school year.

Mr. John Ferrell presented this information to the Commission.

XV. Action: Consideration of request of the State Board of Education to begin the Administrative Procedures Act (APA) Process to revise the *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2025*, specifically, Process Standard 3.1, to be effective beginning with the 2025-2026 school year.

On a motion by Aisha Maxwell, seconded by Carter Myers, the Commission unanimously voted to approve the request of the State Board of Education to begin the Administrative Procedures Act (APA) Process to revise the *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2025*, specifically, Process Standard 3.1, to be effective beginning with the 2025-2026 school year.

XVI. Other Business

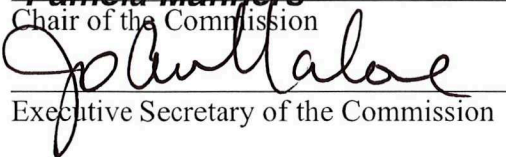
Dr. Malone reminded the Commission of the special-called meeting on Thursday, September 25, 2025, to assign annual accountability statuses.

XVII. Adjournment

On a motion by Ingrid Williams, seconded by Aisha Maxwell, the Commission unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 a.m.

APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION

10/14/25
(Month) (Day) (Year)

Pamela Mannors
Chair of the Commission

Executive Secretary of the Commission