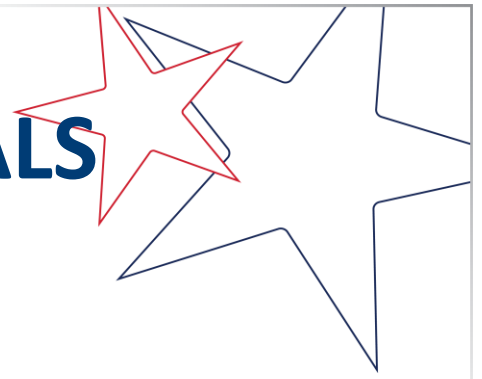


REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR MSMS EXPANSION



Background

The Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science (MSMS) was established during the 1987 Legislative Session with a vision to cultivate academic excellence for academically gifted students. Since its inception, MSMS has been housed on the campus of the Mississippi University for Women. Gov. William Winter, inspired by a visit to the North Carolina School for Math and Science, envisioned a school where academically gifted 11th and 12th grade students in Mississippi could thrive. His goal was to create an environment that would challenge students intellectually, allowing them to push the boundaries of their knowledge and skills. The curriculum was designed to be academically rigorous with a strong emphasis on mathematics and science, while also fostering personal growth through a residential life program. This program was designed to enhance leadership development and instill a sense of accountability and responsibility, preparing students to become the next generation of leaders for Mississippi. These foundational principles continue to guide the school's mission today, ensuring its legacy in shaping future leaders.

Purpose and Goals

The Mississippi State Board of Education (SBE) invites the Mississippi University for Women (MUW) and Mississippi State University (MSU) to submit proposals to the Mississippi State Board of Education (SBE) to house and operate MSMS. These universities are invited to submit proposals based on their expertise in the arts, mathematics, science, and engineering research. Proposals should address the SBE's goals to increase enrollment opportunities and enhance educational programming for the students at MSMS. By collaborating with Mississippi's leading research institutions, the SBE aims to provide students with access to cutting-edge research, advanced coursework, and enriching academic experiences that will support their growth and development as future leaders.

Proposals should address how the university will work collaboratively with MSMS leaders to operate the high school.

While the MSMS understands the importance of the partnership between the school and the university, it is important for MSMS to retain its autonomy as a state school



under the supervision of the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE). To maintain a strong partnership between MSMS and the university, the proposing university will have a seat on the MSMS advisory board to help guide the strategic path of the school.

Following the submission deadline for each proposal, the SBE will evaluate the proposals to develop a recommendation to the Legislature to ensure the future growth of MSMS. Should the Legislature prescribe any changes to the operations and/or location of MSMS, it is anticipated that any such changes would go into effect starting in the 2026-27 school year.

Scope of Work/Areas of Focus

1. Academics

Objective: Enhance the high school's academic offerings through access to adjunct faculty and additional research opportunities.

Implementation should include, but is not limited to:

- Tuition waiver for dual credit classes
- Access to professors of the arts as adjunct faculty
- Network support for required assessments
- Access to research labs
- Access to college library
- Articulation agreements for coursework

2. Residential Life and Facilities

Objective: Provide a structured and supportive residential experience for high school students while ensuring safety and integration within the college setting.

Implementation should include, but is not limited to:

- Designated modern dorms for high school students only



- Support from the university's housing and recruitment offices for MSMS residential life staff
- Cross train MSMS residential life staff with the university's residential life staff
- Student access to campus mental health counseling and services
- Specific residential area with dedicated security
- Opportunity to reserve meeting spaces on campus as needed for outreach and summer activities
- Provide facility support for plumbing, HVAC, electrical, locksmith, carpentry, custodial, technology, etc. as needed along with summer maintenance support
- Designated parking for students and staff including meeting the parking needs of potential expansion of enrollment in the future
- Landscaping and grounds support
- Access to the campus post office
- Support from campus police for security, emergency calls and support

3. Food Services

Objective: Ensure that high school students have access to nutritious and age-appropriate meal plans.

Implementation should include, but is not limited to:

- Collaborate with college's food service provider to create a specialized meal plan for MSMS
- Establish a dining schedule that integrates into MSMS academic schedule and weekend schedule
- Consider a card swipe system for food services per meal rather than a prepaid plan
- Identify location of food services for high school students



4. Student Affairs

Objective: Enrich student life through participation in extracurricular activities while maintaining high school identity and traditions.

Implementation should include, but is not limited to:

- Access to campus ID system for students
- Access to career center
- Access to campus events
- Access to health center
- Access to wellness center with possible designated times and supervision for high school students
- Access to campus shuttle system
- Access to sports fields for practice and events

5. Human Resources and Business Support

Objective: Ensure appropriate staffing and administrative oversight to support high school students on a college campus

Implementation should include, but is not limited to:

- Act as a fiscal agent for MSMS including payroll, accounts payable and purchasing cards
- Provide human resources support
- Allow staff to participate in university's employee benefits program
- Include MSMS staff on the campus crisis action team
- Identify a communication liaison from the university to MSMS



Submission Deadline

Proposals must be submitted by **Tuesday, February 25, 2025**. Late submissions will not be considered.

Submission Guidelines

Response must, at a minimum, include the following:

- One-page narrative outlining the strengths and distinguishing skills or capabilities the university has that would benefit MSMS
- Estimated timeline for implementation
- Budget detailing funding sources outside of the annual legislative appropriation for MSMS
- Contact information for a primary point of contact within the institution
- Entire proposal should not exceed 12 single-spaced pages

Submission

Proposals must be submitted via email to Dr. Donna Boone, MDE Chief Academic Officer, at dboone@mdek12.org, by **Tuesday, February 25, 2025**. The subject line should read **Proposal for MSMS Expansion**.

For questions, contact Dr. Donna Boone at dboone@mdek12.org or 601-359-3077.

