

OFFICE OF EDUCATIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY
Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Items
April 14-15, 2011

OFFICE OF ACCREDITATION

31. Approval of an Accredited-Temporary Status for Millcreek of Pontotoc

On March 7, 2011, the Office of Accreditation received a letter from Waller Lansden Dortch & David, LLP, the law firm representing Acadia Healthcare Company, regarding the Agreement and Plan of Merger entered into between Acadia healthcare Company, LLC, and Youth & Family Centered Services, Inc. (YFCS). YFCS owned and operated through a wholly-owned subsidiary the Millcreek School of Magee, including three satellite schools, and the Millcreek School of Pontotoc, including four satellite schools. The closing of the transaction occurred on April 1, 2011, and YFCS became a wholly-owned subsidiary of Acadia. According to the attorney for Acadia, there were no changes to the tax IDs, names, or operations of the schools as a result of the merger.

Based on nonpublic school accreditation policy 2.3, an Accredited-Temporary status may be assigned to a special purpose school that serves students with disabilities when (a) the special purpose school is in compliance with IDEA and relevant state regulations and (b) is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools or by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO).

Millcreek of Pontotoc is a residential treatment program currently serving elementary and secondary students who are experiencing emotional and/or behavioral problems. Students at Millcreek of Pontotoc are placed by local public school districts that do not have appropriate services for these students and may be placed by the Department of Human Services. Students receive specialized programming addressing their academic needs, which is coordinated with the Mississippi Frameworks, to prepare students to successfully return to their local schools. Millcreek of Pontotoc is staffed with 1 principal, 2 licensed therapists, 3 unlicensed therapists, 7 special education teachers, 6 nurses, 1 director of nursing, 8 teacher/psychiatric assistants, 1 school psychologist, 2 part-time psychiatrists, 1 IEP coordinator, 1 language speech therapist, 1 program director, 1 licensed counselor, 7 psychiatric assistants, and 1 recreation therapist . Currently, 71 students are enrolled.

Recommendation: Approval