

**OFFICE OF INSTRUCTIONAL ENHANCEMENT AND INTERNAL OPERATIONS**  
**Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Items**  
**August 18-19, 2011**

**OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION**

13. Annual Report of the Mississippi Special Education Advisory Panel

**Executive Summary**

Federal regulations for special education require each state to establish a Special Education Advisory Panel. The mission of the Advisory Panel is to promote a partnership between parents, professionals, schools, and students in order to bring about a meaningful and positive school experience for students with disabilities. A report is submitted to the State Board of Education each year.

The Special Education Advisory Panel has established five standing committees to carry out the responsibilities of the Panel and to accomplish its purpose as stated in the Federal law. The five committees are: (a) Continuous Improvement Monitoring, (b) Parental Involvement, (c) Professional Development, (d) Legislative and Policy, and (e) Transition. The recommendations from each committee are summarized in the annual report.

The following recommendations are reflective of recurring needs that are represented in recommendations of multiple committees and in concerns presented by stakeholders during public comment periods of Panel meetings.

**Recommendation #1.** Provide model transition plans, showcase best transition practices around the State, provide a list of school district transition coordinators on the MDE Office of Special Education website and co-sponsor an annual conference in conjunction with Mississippi Parent Training and Information center (MSPTI) and the Mississippi Department of Vocational Rehabilitation.

**Recommendation #2.** Ensure personnel are appropriately trained to support students with behavior support needs.

**Recommendation #3.** Expand annual trainings regarding transition from Part C to Part B.

**Recommendation #4.** The Mississippi legislature should adopt the proposed technical changes to the Exemplary Inclusion Program.

No Action: Discussion Only