

OFFICE OF EDUCATIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY
Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Item
January 20-21, 2011

OFFICE OF ACCREDITATION

25. Approval of recommendations on exceptions to pupil-teacher ratio requirements for grades 1-4

State Law 37-151-77 and State Board Policy 2100 indicate that the State Board of Education is authorized to waive the pupil-teacher requirements for districts with exceptions to the enrollment ratio of 27:1 in grades 1-4.

Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) staff reviewed the report of sections for forty (40) districts out of compliance with State Law 37-151-77.

MDE staff notified the districts of their status.

Number of districts exempted for Star School, High Performing, and Successful (QDI of 166 & above)	18
Total sections out of compliance in 22 districts	63
Sections that corrected data input errors	04
Sections with dropped enrollment since data entry	05
Sections corrected the excessive enrollment	22
Sections over the maximum due to a rotating schedule	03
Remaining sections not able to reduce the classroom ratio	29

An interdepartmental committee met on January 18, 2011, to consider requests from eight (8) districts for exceptions to the enrollment ratio of 27:1 in grades 1-4. The waiver requests are detailed in the attached backup material.

If a school district does not meet the class size requirement for grades 1-4 as required by State Law 37-151-77, the state aid for the following fiscal year will be reduced. The reduction will be based on the required pupil-teacher ratio mandated in the statute. A waiver may be granted by the State Board of Education if school districts are making a good faith effort to comply with the statute but complying with the statute is physically impossible, and the cost of temporary classroom space cannot be justified.

Back-up material attached

Recommendation: Approval