

MISSISSIPPI BOARD OF EDUCATION

2012

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Board Requests Determined by Law

FULL FUNDING OF MAEP (\$2,286,163,845) (PRELIMINARY ESTIMATE)

The Mississippi Adequate Education Program (MAEP) was designed to provide the necessary resources to all school districts in an equitable manner. The required full funding level for MAEP is prescribed by MS Code §37-151-7.

RESTORATION OF DIVERTED FUNDS

Teacher Supply Funds (\$18,714,987)

A portion of the sales tax diversion into the Education Enhancement Fund has been redirected to fund MAEP for the past several years. Because of this, districts have not had the resources needed for instructional supplies, as prescribed by MS Code §37-61-33.

Public School Building Funds (\$20,000,000)

For the past several years, Public School Building Funds, which are set aside through MS Code §37-47-33, have also been redirected to fund MAEP, leaving districts without the resources necessary to make much-needed repairs and renovations to their schools.

Ad Valorem Tax Reduction (\$43,973,562)

The Ad Valorem Tax Reduction must be restored to prevent counties and municipalities from having to increase taxes on the local level.

Additional Needs

COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS (\$3,000,000)

The Mississippi Board of Education supports the need to provide professional development for the implementation of Common Core State Standards. Common Core State Standards is a national initiative sponsored by the National Governors Association.

SUPERINTENDENTS ACADEMY (\$2,500,000)

The Mississippi Board of Education supports the need for a Superintendents Academy. The Superintendents Academy would provide professional development and training for aspiring superintendents to better: foster relationships with local school boards; gain overall knowledge of school district finances; and foster relationships with local government leaders (i.e., Mayor, Alderman, Board of Supervisors).

Non-Funding Priority

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

The Mississippi Board of Education supports a structured, statewide approach to quality early childhood education. The mental development of children from birth to age five is a critical component of success in school. Studies of Reading First programs in Mississippi found that some children enter kindergarten with a vocabulary of a one-year-old child. Children who begin school behind their peers have a very difficult time meeting grade-level expectation and continue to remain behind throughout elementary, middle and high school. A quality pre-K program can put a child on a path to success right from the start.

APPOINTED SUPERINTENDENTS

The Mississippi Board of Education supports appointment of all school district superintendents. Only 147 of the nation's approximately 14,500 school districts have elected superintendents. Alabama, Florida and Mississippi are the only three states that elect superintendents. The Board supports legislation to phase in the transition from elected to appointed superintendents.

CREATING A WORLD CLASS EDUCATION SYSTEM