

OFFICE OF COMMUNICATION AND LEGISLATIVE SERVICES
Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Items
Consent Agenda
June 16-17, 2011

OFFICE OF COMMUNICATION AND LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

C. Approval of grant awards for special projects appropriated by the Mississippi Legislature, House Bill 1494

Purpose: The Mississippi Legislature appropriated funds for special projects as identified in House Bill 1494. The Mississippi Department of Education is directed to transfer the designated amounts to the appropriate entities, which shall assume full responsibility for the expenditure of these funds in accordance with state laws and accept all responsibility for any improper expenditure. This requirement will be included in the grant agreements for the entities receiving funds under House Bill 1494.

- Funding Source: State General Fund (House Bill 1494)
- Basis for Awarding the Grant: Legislative Mandate
- Total Amount to be Awarded: \$5,362,872
- Grant Period: July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012

Recommendation: Approval

Back-up material attached

**Special Projects Appropriated by the Mississippi Legislature
Fiscal Year 2012**

Entities appropriated funding in HB 1494:

Detention Centers	\$1,000,000
Dyslexia Program	\$ 300,000
IHL-Alternate Route Certification	\$ 40,400
Jobs for Mississippi Graduates, Inc.	\$ 450,000
Learning Through Sports/Kids College	\$ 785,000
Magnolia Speech School	\$ 325,000
Mississippi Arts Commission – Arts Institute	\$ 15,000
Mississippi Construction Education Program	\$ 86,000
Sight Savers of Alabama, Inc.	\$ 426,472
University of Southern Mississippi – Preschool Language Program	\$ 325,000
Vision Research Corporation – Vision Screening Program	\$ 300,000
Weight Watchers Program - NEW	\$ 300,000
Jones County Jr. College Building Program - NEW	\$ 300,000
Gulfport School District – Travel and Tourism	\$ 75,000
K-12 Company School	\$ 100,000
Mississippi Council for Economic Education	\$ 100,000
Mississippi Symphony Orchestra	\$ 50,000
Principal Corps	\$ 100,000
Teacher Corps	\$ 85,000
World Class Teaching Program	<u>\$ 200,000</u>
 Total Grant Awards for Special Projects	 \$5,362,872

**Special Projects Appropriated by the Mississippi Legislature
House Bill 1494
Fiscal Year 2012**

Detention Centers (State Funds)

Detainees of the 17 detention centers in the State are required to receive educational services by a certified teacher in the sponsoring school district selected by youth court judges. The educational services may be contracted with a private provider if approved by the judge and sponsoring school district. Services include computer-based diagnostic assessment and math and reading instruction, character evaluation, and behavioral counseling. The funds will be used to equip each of the 17 detention centers with a full-time teacher and computer lab complete with software, hardware and furniture for rendering the required educational services.

Dyslexia Program (State Funds)

Funds will be provided to the Mississippi Department of Education for disbursement to schools that apply through an RFP process on a yearly basis for funds to implement local dyslexia assessment and remediation programs. An average of 18 schools has been awarded grants per year since the implementation of the program in 1997. The Dyslexia pilot program provides for certain students enrolled or enrolling in public schools to be tested for dyslexia and related disorders based on a request from a parent, student, school nurse, classroom teacher, or other personnel who believes the need for testing exists. School districts provide remediation in an appropriate multi-sensory, systemic language-based dyslexia program or programs as determined by the district, such as the Texas Scottish Rite Hospital Dyslexia Training Program, for children not qualified to be served in special education services.

IHL – Alternate Route Certification (State Funds)

The IHL will implement the Teach Mississippi Institute. The Institute is an intensive eight-week, nine-semester-hour summer institute which includes instruction in education, effective teaching strategies, classroom management, State curriculum requirements, planning and instruction, instructional methods and pedagogy, and use of test results to improve instruction.

Jobs for Mississippi Graduates, Inc. (State Funds)

Jobs for Mississippi Graduates, Inc., is an affiliate of the national non-profit public service corporation, which assists at-risk and disadvantaged youth in graduating from high school, as well as improving their rate of success in acquiring employability and occupational-specific competencies before leaving high school and/or pursuing post-secondary education. The program offers a unique combination of in-school and out-of-school services, such as tutoring, remediation, employability skills curriculum, job

development and placement, and post-graduation follow-up. The funds will be used for salaries, travel, equipment and office expenses.

Learning Through Sports/Kids College (State Funds)

Learning Through Sports/Kid College will provide qualifying elementary and middle schools with a data-driven, diagnostic, adaptive and prescriptive teaching tool and will implement programs that address drop-out prevention and character education.

Learning through Sports is a leading educational publisher of digital game-based learning programs for K-12. Star sportsmanship will provide every 7th through 12th grade student-athlete, coach, and official participating in MHSAA-sanctioned activities in the State of Mississippi access to a web-based sports related, character-building program.

Magnolia Speech School (State Funds)

Magnolia Speech School, located in Jackson, is a unique auditory oral program for Mississippi's children with hearing loss and language disorders. With small classrooms, specialized staff and a life-changing curriculum, the school helps children reach their potential in the area of spoken language and to mainstream most of these students back into their local school, equipped to understand when spoken to, to speak and be understood, and to read and learn in a regular academic setting. Parents pay minimal tuition on a sliding scale according to income. With 35% of the students enrolled from low-income households, Magnolia Speech School provides over one million dollars annually in financial assistance to families throughout Mississippi. The allocated funds from the State will be used to provide a portion of this financial aid.

Mississippi Arts Commission-Arts Institute (State Funds)

The Mississippi Arts Institute provides training for teams from schools throughout Mississippi on how to use the arts to enhance learning and teaching. This project provides sequential, comprehensive arts education for each student in the school. It involves the creation of an arts-based interdisciplinary curricula and regular instruction by certified music, dance, drama and visual art specialists. In addition, arts specialists meet regularly with classroom teachers to enhance the regular instruction by using the arts as a bridge to learning other subject material. This project provides diverse educational strategies such as verbal, kinesthetic, visual, musical, analytical and emotional, which will allow participants to experience the scope and variety of ways in which we learn, involving the whole person: head, heart and hands.

Mississippi Construction Education Program (State Funds)

The Mississippi Construction Education Program works with MDE to provide training and educational opportunities for the almost 100 Construction and Building Trades programs in the State of Mississippi. Construction jobs have been deemed a critical

shortage across the nation. This partnership helps provide additional opportunities for students to learn the latest techniques in the construction field.

Sight Savers of Alabama, Inc. (State Funds)

Sight Savers of Alabama, Inc. performs the service of following up with children after the initial vision-screening to coordinate both the scheduling and transportation for eye exams, eyeglasses, medication, vision training, surgery, and vision aids. Sight Savers also recruits a network of eye care professionals to treat children, including a volunteer network of doctors and opticians. Treatment is provided free of charge to children who cannot afford the services. Essentially, Sight Savers works to ensure that children get the treatment they need to correct vision problems that are found after mandatory visitors screening.

University of Southern Mississippi – Preschool Language Program (State Funds)

The Children’s Center for Communication and Development, located at the University of Southern Mississippi, assists school districts in providing special education services to children with communication and developmental delays from birth through five years of age. The Center is comprised of an interdisciplinary team, which develops curriculum modules and training materials for statewide use, establishes on-site observation and provides intervention services.

The funds will be used for salaries, travel, consultants and office expenses related to the training, modeling and replication of the program in the public schools.

Vision Research Corporation – Vision Screening Program (State and Tobacco Funds)

The 1996 Legislature appropriated \$50,000 to establish a pilot student vision-screening program to make eye-screening services available to students in the public schools. The purpose of this program was to detect vision problems, which can lead to academic problems. The Vision Research Corporation of Birmingham, Alabama conducted the Mississippi Eye Screening Program during FY 1997, using an advanced screening system originally developed by NASA. Over 8,330 students were screened during the 1996-1997 school year. Since its inception, the pilot program has grown to a statewide effort with approximately 40,000 students screened this past year.

Weight Watchers Program (State Funds)

Funds are provided to Weight Watchers to offer grants for a Weight Watchers Program to Mississippi School Districts for its teachers and employees. The appropriation requires that the local district absorb 60% of the cost and the grant will cover 40% of the cost.

Jones County Jr. College Building Program (State Funds)

Funds are provided to be applied toward a vocational education building project for Jones Jr. College in Bay Springs, MS.

Gulfport School District – Travel and Tourism (State Funds)

The Gulfport School District's Academy of Travel and Tourism is designed to offer an alternative curriculum for students who do not typically enroll in vocational programs. The program provides training and skills necessary for professional, entry-level positions in the travel and tourism industry. Paid internship positions are provided within travel and tourism businesses. Funds will be used on salaries, travel, teaching resources, professional development, equipment and office expenses.

K-12 Company School (State Funds)

K-12 Company is a "virtual" public school company that offers online educational programs for children in kindergarten through 12th grade. In Mississippi, the funds appropriated by the Legislature will enable pilot programs which will use technology-based theory to turn around underperforming schools. The program will be instituted in three schools.

Mississippi Council for Economic Education (State Funds)

The Mississippi Council for Economic Education at Millsaps College provides economic and financial professional development to kindergarten through twelfth grade teachers, so that students who graduate from high school are financially and economically literate, and understand how economics relates to their lives as workers, citizens and consumers. The emphasis is on teaching teachers to infuse research-based financial and economic education into the curriculum. The top priority program is the Master Teacher of Economics, which is an in-depth program that teaches the college-level Macroeconomics and Microeconomics in a teacher-friendly way with extensive use of National Council on Economic Education lesson plans. Teachers who have completed the Master Teacher of Economics program have increased their scores on the Test of Economic Literacy from an average 62% to 84%. Students who have completed the personal financial literacy curriculum have increased their scores from 48% to 85%. The funds will be used for providing the specialized professional development for teachers.

Mississippi Symphony Orchestra (State Funds)

House Bill 706, which created the Mississippi School of the Arts (MSA), authorized the State Board of Education to enter into agreements with the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra and other professional organizations for instruction and educational services at Mississippi School of the Arts (MSA) and other public schools. The program provides instruction on music appreciation and theory, music history, and music performance in

school districts that are unable to provide music education through local resources. The funds will be used for musicians, salaries, travel and materials.

Principal Corps (State Funds)

The Principal Corps in the School of Education at the University of Mississippi, modeled after the Mississippi Teacher Corps, will be a scholarship program designed to recruit the brightest and most talented candidates to complete specialized principal training. The program will include instruction for two full summers and one academic year of graduate work and will pay the tuition, accommodations and per diem for first-year principals accepted into the program. The program will utilize leading authorities in the country and the Barksdale Reading Institute to design the principal-training curriculum with an emphasis on literacy instruction, and will serve as a model for other universities.

Teacher Corps (State Funds)

The Teacher Corps is a two-year program, similar to the Peace Corps that recruits college graduates to teach in Mississippi schools, primarily in the Mississippi Delta and in Jackson. The program is designed for non-education majors and provides them with teacher training and certification, a full scholarship for a master's degree in education from the University of Mississippi and job placement. The program provides dedicated, talented teachers for critical-needs school districts in Mississippi, affords a structured entry into the teaching profession for outstanding liberal arts graduates who have not taught before and identifies and nurtures educational leaders.

World Class Teaching Program (State Funds)

The World Class Teaching Program is a program designed to assist teachers in gaining National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) certification. The program was originally operated by Mississippi State University, and the 1998 Legislature increased the sites by adding programs at The University of Southern Mississippi and The University of Mississippi. The 1999 Legislature expanded the program to include sites at Delta State University and at Jackson State University. The funds will be used for salaries, travel, office expenses and consultants to support the World Class Teaching Program at these universities.