

OFFICE OF INSTRUCTIONAL ENHANCEMENT AND INTERNAL OPERATIONS
Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Items
October 20-21, 2011

OFFICE OF FEDERAL PROGRAMS

15. Approval to award a grant to Teach For America/Mississippi Delta to recruit, train, and support recent college graduates who commit to teach in hard to staff schools for two years

Purpose: The purpose of this grant is to recruit qualified new teachers into hard to staff schools and to equip them with the ongoing support and professional development necessary to ensure they succeed in the classroom.

If approved, the grantee will perform, but is not limited to, the following duties:

1. Recruit and select applicants who meet the Teach For America (TFA) high bar of acceptance.
2. Select individuals for hiring and placement who meet state certification requirements and federal guidelines for the “Highly Qualified” teacher.
3. Require all TFA teachers to participate in an intensive five-week summer institute designed to prepare new teachers to enter the classroom.
4. Provide ongoing professional development for all TFA teachers throughout the school year.
5. Induct teachers assigned to Mississippi to orient them to the state/district.
6. Work with hard-to-staff schools to identify teacher vacancies for the upcoming school year.

Scope of Grant:

- Grant Period: October 21, 2011 – June 30, 2012
- Award Amount: \$600,000
- Method of Award: Discretionary

Funding Source: Federal (Title II, Part A, Improving Teacher Quality)

Recommendation: Approval