
2017
MISSISSIPPI BOARD OF EDUCATION
LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

MISSISSIPPI BOARD OF EDUCATION'S 2017 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Expansion of Early Childhood Education Pilot Programs (\$10,000,000—an increase of \$6,000,000 over the FY17 funding level) (Goals 1, 2, & 3)

- Research shows children who start school behind their peers have a very difficult time meeting grade-level expectations, continue to struggle throughout elementary, middle, and high school, and have lower graduation rates
- About two-third of students begin kindergarten without the necessary skills
- MDE will continue to emphasize collaboration with non-existing collaborative entities (with a greater emphasis in communities with low performing schools
- The MBE is committed to continued collaboration with the appropriate stakeholders and non-existing collaborative's, located in underperforming school districts to further expand “The Early Learning Collaborative Act of 2013” (SB 2395)

MISSISSIPPI BOARD OF EDUCATION'S 2017 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES *(continued)*

Literacy Based Promotion Act Initiative (\$16,216,679—an increase of \$1,216,679 over the FY17 funding level) **(Goals 1, 2, & 3)**

- More children in low-performing schools need support to increase reading proficiency
- Continued professional development of teachers and funding of literacy coaches is essential
- Additional professional development opportunities are needed for educators in our colleges and universities to teach future educators how to teach the foundations of reading
- Continued funding for screening assessments and literacy resources for pre-K through 3rd grade is needed
- Greater efforts needed to help reach children in underperforming schools

Mississippi Student Information System (MSIS) (\$2,500,000) (Goal 5)

- Funds to provide for the complete renovation of the current statewide student information system which is over 20 years old

MISSISSIPPI BOARD OF EDUCATION'S 2017 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES *(continued)*

Teacher/Principal Professional Development (\$1,830,751—an increase of \$926,681 over the FY17 funding level) **(Goals 2 & 4)**

- MBE continues to support the need to provide teachers and principals with expanded professional development opportunities for the implementation of more rigorous college and career ready standards and assessments, as well as the state's continued focus on literacy
- These more rigorous standards will support economic development in Mississippi and make Mississippi's workforce competitive with our surrounding neighbors

Superintendents'/Principal's Academy (\$500,000) (an increase of \$200,000 over FY17 funding level) **(Goal 4)**

- The MBE supports the need for a Principal's Academy which will provide support to principals much like the recently funded Superintendent's Academy
- The Principal's Academy would:
 - Provide professional development and training for new and aspiring principals
 - Enhance overall knowledge of instructional leadership, use of assessment data, building operations and finances

MISSISSIPPI BOARD OF EDUCATION'S 2017 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES *(continued)*

High School Innovations (\$2,865,000—an increase of \$1,982,000 over FY17 funding level) **(Goal 2)**

- The MBE is dedicated to ensuring that the high school model is redefined to provide more flexibility and pathway options for high school completion
- High School Innovations would support:
 - The *Excellence for All* Program
 - Early College High Schools
 - Dual enrollment and dual credit programs
 - Advanced placement courses
 - Career academies for students
 - Multiple pathways to exit high school
 - Dropout prevention initiatives

Full Funding of MAEP (\$2,442,297,384) ***(Preliminary Estimate)*** **(Goals 1-6)**

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

MISSISSIPPI BOARD OF EDUCATION'S 2017 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES *(continued)*

MS Schools for the Blind & the Deaf (MSBD) (\$12,067,258—an increase of \$1,242,037 over the FY17 funding level) (Goals 1 & 2)

- Provide flexibility to redefine, reclassify and establish professional PINS for comparability and competitiveness
- Provide for increasing operational costs

Increased Technology for Schools (\$3,000,000) (Goals 1, 2, 4, 5 & 6)

- Hardware/Device/Software enhancements and security controls must be addressed locally and statewide
- Schools need capacity to build a more robust technology infrastructure
- Connectivity interruptions and system crashes need to be reduced because of simultaneous users
- Broadband expansion is vital to teachers and students who are increasing the use of technology to teach and learn in real time

MISSISSIPPI BOARD OF EDUCATION'S 2017 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES *(continued)*

State Special Schools (\$7,748,191—an increase of \$588,191 over the FY17 funding level) **(Goals 1 & 2)**

Mississippi Schools in General Education:

- The Mississippi School for the Arts (\$3,103,915)
- The Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science (\$4,644,276)

Test Integrity (\$1,000,000) (Goals 1, 2, & 4)

- The MBE takes its role in school and district accountability very seriously. When there is a suspicion of test irregularities or cheating, it must be investigated immediately and aggressively. These funds would pay for the cost of these investigations

Achievement School District Funding (\$250,000) (Goals 1, 2, 4 & 6)

- The MBE will develop a model to create systemic change in our chronically underperforming schools and districts
- The current conservator model does not adequately address improving academic performance
- Funds are needed for start-up cost as a result of the passage of HB 989