Descriptor Term:	Code:
Determination of "inordinately large number of absentees"	4907
Adoption Date:	Revision:

STATE BOARD POLICY

To determine "inordinately large" as that term is used in 37-151-103(3) a school district must notify the State Superintendent of Education in writing by December 1 of the current school year of a decrease in attendance and the reason for the decrease in attendance. If the State Superintendent determines that the reason for the decrease in attendance is a result of epidemic, natural disaster, or any concerted activity discouraging school attendance then the following process will be used to determine if there is "an inordinately large number of absentees".

1. The State Department of Education shall divide the school district's months two and three average daily attendance (ADA) by the school district's months two and three average daily enrollment (ADM) for grades kindergarten through 12th grade (exclusive of self contained special education grades) for the current school year to determine the percentage of attendance to enrollment for the current school year.
2. The State Department of Education shall determine the school district's five-year average of the percentage of months two and three average daily attendance to the school district's months two and three average daily enrollment (ADM) for the same grades defined in step 1 above using the last five years of attendance and enrollment data as reported through the Mississippi Student Information System (MSIS). Current year's enrollment and attendance data are excluded from the five-year average calculation.
3. Subtract the result of Step 1 from the result of Step 2. If the resulting percentage is two percent (2%) or greater the district will be considered to have an inordinately large number of absentees.

§ 37-151-103. Payment of funds

(1) Funds due each school district under the terms of this chapter from the Adequate Education Program Fund shall be paid in the following manner: On the twenty-fifth day of each month, or the next business date after that date, there shall be paid to each school district by electronic funds transfer one-twelfth (1/12) of the funds to which the district is entitled from funds appropriated for the Adequate Education Program Fund. However, in December those payments shall be made on December 15th or the next business day after that date. In addition, the State Department of Education may pay school districts from the common school fund and the Adequate Education Program Fund on a date earlier than provided for by this section if it is determined that it is in the best interest of school districts to do so.

Provided, however, that if the cash balance in the State General Fund is not adequate on the due date to pay the amounts due to all school districts in the state as determined by the State Superintendent of Education, the State Fiscal Officer shall not transfer said funds payable to any school district or districts until money is available to pay the amount due to all districts.

(2) Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter or any other law requiring the number of children in average daily attendance or the average daily attendance of transported children to be determined on the basis of the preceding year, the State Board of Education is hereby authorized and empowered to make proper adjustments in allotments in cases where major changes in the number of children in average daily attendance or the average daily attendance of transported children occurs from one (1) year to another as a result of changes or alterations in the boundaries of school districts, the sending of children from one (1) county or district to another upon a contract basis, the termination or discontinuance of a contract for the sending of children from one (1) county or district to another, a change in or relocation of attendance centers, or for any other reason which would result in a major decrease or increase in the number of children in average daily attendance or the average daily attendance of transported children during the current school year as compared with the preceding year.

(3) In the event of an inordinately large number of absentees in any school district as a result of epidemic, natural disaster, or any concerted activity discouraging school attendance, then in such event school attendance for the purposes of determining average daily attendance under the adequate education program shall be based upon the average daily attendance for the preceding school year for such school district.

Sources: Laws, 1997, ch. 612, § 17; Laws, 2002, ch. 551, § 3; Laws, 2003, ch. 546, § 2, eff from and after passage (approved Apr. 22, 2003.)