

## **Title 7: Education K-12**

### **Part 2: Establishment**

#### 100 Organization of State Department

There shall be a state department of education which shall be under the direction and supervision of the state superintendent of public education. The state department of education shall be organized into functional divisions as established by the state board of education, including any divisions established by law and prescribing the duties of the directors of such divisions. [Miss. Code Ann. § 37-3-1(3)]

#### Seal

The state superintendent of public education shall provide and keep a seal having around the margin thereof the words "State Department of Education" with the coat of arms of the state in the center. All official acts of the department shall be certified under said seal. [Miss. Code Ann. § 37-3-3]

#### 100.1 Responsibilities

The State Department of Education is hereby charged with the execution of all laws relating to the administrative, supervisory and consultative services to the public schools and agricultural high schools of the State of Mississippi. The State Department of Education is also authorized to grant property to public schools and agricultural high schools of the State of Mississippi.

Subject to the direction of the State Board of Education as provided by law, the administration, management and control of the department is hereby vested in the State Superintendent of Public Education, who shall be directly responsible for the rightful functioning thereof. [Miss. Code Ann. § 37-3-5]

#### 101 Organization of State Board

There shall be a state board of education which shall manage and invest school funds according to law, formulate policies according to law for implementation by the State Department of Education and perform such other duties as may be prescribed by law. The board shall consist of nine (9) members of whom none shall be an elected official. The board shall elect a chairman from its membership at the first meeting of the original board members and every year thereafter. A majority of the membership of the board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of any business. The board shall meet regularly once a month at such time as shall be designated by an order entered upon the minutes thereof. Special meetings of the board shall be held upon call of the chairman or upon the call of a majority of the members thereof. The State Superintendent of Public Education shall be the secretary of the board. The board shall hold its sessions at the seat of government, or at such

location in the State of Mississippi as shall be designated by an order entered upon the minutes thereof. [Miss Code Ann. § 37-1-1]

#### 101.1 Responsibilities of State Board

The State Board of Education shall adopt rules and regulations and set standards and policies for the organization, operation, management, planning, budgeting and programs of the State Department of Education.

(a) The board is directed to identify all functions of the department that contribute to or comprise a part of the state system of educational accountability and to establish and maintain within the department the necessary organizational structure, policies and procedures for effectively coordinating such functions. Such policies and procedures shall clearly fix and delineate responsibilities for various aspects of the system and for overall coordination of the total system and its effective management.

(b) The board shall establish and maintain a system-wide plan of performance, policy and directions of public education not otherwise provided for.

(c) The board shall effectively use the personnel and resources of the department to enhance technical assistance to school districts in instruction and management therein.

(d) The board shall establish and maintain a central budget policy.

(e) The board shall establish and maintain within the State Department of Education a central management capacity under the direction of the State Superintendent of Public Education.

(f) The board, with recommendations from the superintendent, shall design and maintain a five-year plan and program for educational improvement that shall set forth objectives for system performance and development and be the basis for budget requests and legislative initiatives.

(2) (a) The State Board of Education shall adopt and maintain a curriculum and a course of study to be used in the public schools that is designed to prepare the state's children and youth to be productive, informed, creative citizens, workers and leaders, and it shall regulate all matters arising in the practical administration of the school system not otherwise provided for.

(b) Before the 1999-2000 school year, the State Board of Education shall develop personal living and finances objectives that focus on money management skills for individuals and families for appropriate, existing courses at the secondary level. The objectives must require the teaching of those skills necessary to handle personal business and finances and must include instruction in the following:

- (i) Opening a bank account and assessing the quality of a bank's services;
  - (ii) Balancing a checkbook;
  - (iii) Managing debt, including retail and credit card debt;
  - (iv) Completing a loan application;
  - (v) The implications of an inheritance;
  - (vi) The basics of personal insurance policies;
  - (vii) Consumer rights and responsibilities;
  - (viii) Dealing with salesmen and merchants;
  - (ix) Computing state and federal income taxes;
  - (x) Local tax assessments;
  - (xi) Computing interest rates by various mechanisms;
  - (xii) Understanding simple contracts; and
  - (xiii) Contesting an incorrect billing statement.
- (3) The State Board of Education shall have authority to expend any available federal funds, or any other funds expressly designated, to pay training, educational expenses, salary incentives and salary supplements to licensed teachers employed in local school districts or schools administered by the State Board of Education. Such incentive payments shall not be considered part of a school district's local supplement as defined in Section 37-151-5(o), nor shall the incentives be considered part of the local supplement paid to an individual teacher for the purposes of Section 37-19-7(1). MAEP funds or any other state funds shall not be used to provide such incentives unless specifically authorized by law.
- (4) The State Board of Education shall through its actions seek to implement the policies set forth in Section 37-1-2. [Miss. Code Ann. § 37-1-3]