

MISSISSIPPI EDUCATION PROGRESS BOARD

SECTION 1. (1) There is created the Mississippi Education Progress Board, the duties of which shall be to assess annually educational progress at all levels and specifically to determine whether the appropriate agencies, institutions or entities of the state:

(a) Launched a broad public campaign directed to all segments of the population underscoring the importance of high school completion, advanced education and adult lifelong learning;

(b) Developed ways to expand and improve prekindergarten programs for children in all areas of the state by establishing pilot projects in selected school districts, using college-student volunteers and creating partnerships among the state's schools, colleges, universities, social service agencies and providers;

(c) Made a comprehensive study of those school districts ranking lowest on the state's accreditation measures and created guidelines for enhancing partnerships between those school districts and the teaching programs in the colleges and universities;

(d) Developed a business plan to strengthen teacher supply and quality in all academic areas;

(e) Researched ways to obtain federal funds to help increase advanced placement course offerings throughout the state;

(f) Designed methods to develop better preservice and inservice training for school principals through a coordinated approach among the institutions of higher learning, the community colleges and the State Department of Education;

(g) Facilitated partnerships among college and university faculty and school administrators and teachers to develop a school-based strategic research plan to address real needs in the classroom;

(h) Developed a plan to promote the college prep curriculum and to encourage all high school students to complete it;

(i) Conducted a study of the state's human resource needs and reshaped educational offerings in adult lifelong learning, worker training and professional development; and

(j) Reviewed possibilities of creating proactive partnerships with business and industry that will enable the state's colleges and universities to become full partners in economic development.

(2) The Mississippi Education Progress Board shall be composed of nine (9) members as follows:

- (a) The Governor;
- (b) The Lieutenant Governor or his/her appointee;
- (c) The Speaker of the House of Representatives or his/her appointee;
- (d) The Commissioner of Higher Learning
- (e) The Executive Director of the State Board for Community and Junior Colleges
- (f) The State Superintendent of Education;
- (g) Three (3) members at large, appointed by the Governor.

(3) At its first meeting, the board shall elect a chairman and vice chairman from its membership and shall adopt rules for transacting its business and keeping records.

(4) Before December 1, 2002, and each year thereafter, the board shall make a report of its work and recommendations for action, and it shall submit a copy of the report to the Legislature.

(5) The board shall be assigned to the Governor's Office for administrative purposes only, and the Governor's Office shall designate staff to assist the board. The board may solicit grants, donations and other funds and may accept and expend any funds that are made available to the entity to carry out its purpose.

(6) All agencies, departments, offices and institutions of the state, including the state universities and the community and junior colleges, shall cooperate with the board with such assistance as requested by the board.