

# MISSISSIPPI POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE BOARD



IHL Executive Offices, Room 218  
3825 Ridgewood Road, Jackson, MS 39211

July 1, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.

Teleconference: 1-888-822-7517, Access code: 2791682#

Zoom: <https://itsmsgov.zoom.us/j/3943806463>

## MINUTES

**BE IT REMEMBERED**, that the Mississippi Postsecondary Education Financial Assistance Board held a regular meeting on Wednesday, July 1, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. Due to recommendations from the Mississippi State Department of Health for social distancing due to the coronavirus, members of the Board participated in the meeting remotely via Zoom or teleconference. Members of the media and public were invited to attend the meeting in Room 218 of the Education and Research Center, 3825 Ridgewood Road, Jackson, Mississippi, 39211.

The following member(s) participated via Zoom or teleconference:

- Ben Burnett, MAICU appointee
- Lee Bush, MCCB appointee
- Mark Keenum, IHL Institutional appointee
- Ann Lamar, IHL Board appointee
- Louanne Langston, MCCB Institutional appointee
- Sharon Ross, Governor's appointee
- Jim Turcotte, Governor's appointee and Chairman

The following member(s) did not participate:

- Debbi Braswell, MAICU appointee

Also in attendance remotely were:

- Meg Harris, Assistant Director of Operations, Student Financial Aid
- Beverly Jackson, Database Administrator/Lead Analyst, Student Financial Aid
- Audra Kimble, Mississippi Community College Board
- Andrea Mayfield, Mississippi Community College Board
- Jennifer Rogers, Director of Student Financial Aid and Postsecondary Director
- Apryll Washington, Assistant Director of Policy and Planning, Student Financial Aid
- Jay Woods, Special Assistant Attorney General Universities Division

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Turcotte.

## MINUTES

### MINUTES

On motion by Mr. Bush and seconded by Dr. Keenum, all Board Members legally present and participating voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the board meeting held on May 21, 2020 as originally drafted.

### ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

**Item 1:** Ms. Rogers presented information about the FY 2020 deficit appropriation and the allocation of the deficit funds. No action was required of the Board.

**1. Presentation of Update to the FY 2020 Appropriation and Allocation**

Summary:

The Mississippi Office of Student Financial Aid presents an updated appropriation and appropriation allocation for Fiscal Year 2020 due to receipt of deficit appropriations during the 2020 Legislative Session. The 2020 Mississippi Legislature passed *HB 1591, Appropriation; additional for various state agencies for Fiscal Year 2020*. The original FY 2020 appropriation, shown below, was \$43,057,546. The deficit appropriation provides an additional \$2,500,000 in real dollars from the Capital Expense Fund and \$1,500,000 in Spending Authority for Student Financial Aid. The funds were allocated to support the undergraduate grants.

<b>FY 2020 Appropriation</b>			
<b>Source</b>	<b>Original Appropriation</b>	<b>Deficit HB 1591</b>	<b>Final Appropriation</b>
General Funds	\$ 41,721,546		\$ 41,721,546
Capital Expense Funds		\$ 2,500,000	\$ 2,500,000
Spending Authority	\$ 1,336,000	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 2,886,000
<b>TOTAL AVAILABLE</b>	<b>\$ 43,057,546</b>	<b>\$ 4,000,000</b>	<b>\$ 47,057,546</b>

Recommendation: No action is required.

**Item 2:** Ms. Rogers presented the FY 2021 appropriation and proposed plan of allocation. On motion by Dr. Keenum, seconded by Mr. Bush, all Board Members legally present and participating voted unanimously to approve the allocation of the FY 2021 Appropriation as proposed.

**2. Presentation of FY 2021 Appropriation and Approval of Appropriation Allocation**

Summary:

The Mississippi Office of Student Financial Aid presents the Fiscal Year 2021 Appropriation and requests approval of the appropriation allocation for the 2020-21 aid year.

The 2020 Mississippi Legislature passed *SB 2927, Appropriation; IHL – Student Financial Aid*. The FY 2021 appropriation is \$43,421,128, which represents an increase of \$363,582, or less than 1%, from the original FY 2020 appropriation, \$3.6 million or 7.7% below the final FY 2020 appropriation, and \$12.5 million or 22.3% below the amount requested in the Mississippi Budget Request (MBR) developed by the Office and approved by the Postsecondary Board in June 2019.

## MINUTES

### FY 2021 Appropriation

Source	Amount Requested (MBR)	Appropriation SB 2927	Difference
General Funds	\$ 54,549,011	\$ 42,085,128	(\$12,463,883)
Spending Authority	\$ 1,360,000	\$ 1,336,000	(\$ 24,000)
<b>TOTAL AVAILABLE</b>	<b>\$ 55,909,011</b>	<b>\$ 43,421,128</b>	<b>(\$12,487,883)</b>

-22.3%

*Miss. Code Ann. § 37-106-14 (2)* requires the Board to award grants first and limit loans to renewal applicants only on a first-come, first-served basis with preference for renewals. If grants are fully funded, the budget still faces a deficit. Therefore, no loans may be awarded, except in the programs that receive specific appropriation through the appropriation bill. In some specific appropriation cases, the appropriation bill *requires* funding, and in other cases, the appropriation bill *allows* funding. This past year, the Board elected to fund renewal applicants only in the programs for which funding is allowed. The appropriation bill provides specific appropriation for certain programs as follows:

- Required funding - SREB Regional Contract Program (SREB):  
*Section 4. It is the intention of the Legislature that...the Board...shall expend...an amount not exceeding the funding necessary, contingent upon the availability of qualified applicants, for nine (9) new entering optometry students and the number of returning optometry students who received funding under the program during the preceding school year.*
- Allowed funding - Speech-Language Pathologist Forgivable Loan (SLPL):  
*Section 10. Of the funds appropriated in Section 1, an amount not to exceed Seventy Thousand Dollars (\$70,000.00) is provided for the Speech-Language Pathologists Loan Forgiveness Program....*
- Allowed funding - Teacher Education Scholars Forgivable Loan (TES):  
*Section 11. Of the funds appropriated in Section 1, an amount not to exceed One Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,500,000.00) is provided for the Teacher Education Scholars Program....*
- Allowed funding – William Winter Teacher/Alternate Route Teacher Forgivable Loans (WWAR/WWTS) and Mississippi Teacher Loan Repayment (MTLR):  
*Section 13. Of the funds appropriated in Section 1, an amount not to exceed Five Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$550,000.00) is provided for the William F. Winter Teacher Forgivable Loan Program. Note: All programs are authorized by the same code section due to HB 150 (2019 Legislative Session).*

Exhibit 1 on page 8 shows the FY 2021 Proposed Allocation. The MBR Awards and Amounts are the original budget created for the MBR in June 2019. The Projected Awards and Amounts are the projections revised during the 2020 Legislative session to better reflect the projected need. The AOB Amount is the proposed allocation based on the appropriation, and the final column represents the deficit appropriation needed.

Exhibit 2 on page 9 shows the Allocation Comparisons. The table shows a comparison of the proposed award budget for 2019-20, the actual awards made during 2019-20, and the proposed award budget for 2020-21.

Recommendation: Board staff recommends approval of this item.

## MINUTES

Exhibit 1						
FY 2021 Allocation						
Allocation	MBR Awards	MBR Amount	Projected Awards	Projected Amount	AOB Amount	Def. Approp. Needed
Salaries, Wages and Fringes		\$ 724,248		\$ 697,978	\$ 697,978	\$ -
Travel		\$ 8,000		\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000	\$ -
Contractual Service		\$ 550,000		\$ 550,000	\$ 550,000	\$ -
Commodities		\$ 10,000		\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ -
Equipment		\$ 10,000		\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ -
<b>Total Administration</b>		<b>\$ 1,302,248</b>		<b>\$ 1,275,978</b>	<b>\$ 1,275,978</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
MTAG	19,126	\$11,093,295	19,140	\$ 10,718,120	\$ 9,339,057	\$ 1,379,063
MESG	3,166	\$ 7,597,884	3,412	\$ 7,848,497	\$ 6,838,658	\$ 1,009,839
HELP	4,626	\$31,087,984	4,519	\$ 28,919,104	\$ 25,198,184	\$ 3,720,920
<b>Total MTAG/MESG and HELP</b>	<b>26,918</b>	<b>\$49,779,163</b>	<b>27,071</b>	<b>\$ 47,485,721</b>	<b>\$ 41,375,900</b>	<b>\$ 6,109,821</b>
Teacher Programs:						
WWTS	190	\$ 760,000	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
WWAR	2	\$ 8,000	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
MLR	200	\$ 600,000	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
TES	35	\$ 525,000	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
GTS (Graduate)	60	\$ 120,000	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
CSA (Graduate)	18	\$ 43,200	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
CNDT (Graduate)	40	\$ 200,000	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Nursing Programs:						
NELB	190	\$ 760,000	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
NELR	52	\$ 208,000	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
NELM (Graduate)	80	\$ 320,000	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
NELP (Graduate)	18	\$ 90,000	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
NERM (Graduate)	12	\$ 48,000	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
NTSP (Graduate)	18	\$ 198,000	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Health-Related Programs:						
SLPL (Graduate)	5	\$ 70,000	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
SREB (Graduate)	33	\$ 653,400	31	\$ 595,200	\$ 595,200	\$ -
<b>Total Loan/Repayment Programs</b>	<b>953</b>	<b>\$ 4,603,600</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>\$ 595,200</b>	<b>\$ 595,200</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
LAW	16	\$ 184,000	10	\$ 144,050	\$ 144,050	\$ -
Nissan	4	\$ 40,000	3	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	\$ -
<b>Total Other</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>\$ 224,000</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>\$ 174,050</b>	<b>\$ 174,050</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>Total Loans, Schols &amp; Grants</b>	<b>27,891</b>	<b>\$54,606,763</b>	<b>27,115</b>	<b>\$ 48,254,971</b>	<b>\$ 42,145,150</b>	<b>\$ 6,109,821</b>
<b>TOTAL SFA ALLOCATION</b>	<b>27,891</b>	<b>\$55,909,011</b>	<b>27,115</b>	<b>\$ 49,530,949</b>	<b>\$ 43,421,128</b>	<b>\$ 6,109,821</b>
General Funds		\$54,549,011		\$ 48,194,949	\$ 42,085,128	\$ 5,609,821
<b>Total General Funds</b>		<b>\$54,549,011</b>		<b>\$ 48,194,949</b>	<b>\$ 42,085,128</b>	<b>\$ 5,609,821</b>
Special Funds/Spending Authority:						
SA - Investments		\$ 40,000		\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	\$ -
SA - Collections		\$ 1,300,000		\$ 1,171,000	\$ 1,171,000	\$ 500,000
SA - LAW funds		\$ 20,000		\$ 135,000	\$ 135,000	\$ -
SA - Other/GEAR UP		\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Total Special Funds</b>		<b>\$ 1,360,000</b>		<b>\$ 1,336,000</b>	<b>\$ 1,336,000</b>	<b>\$ 500,000</b>
<b>TOTAL SFA APPROPRIATION</b>		<b>\$55,909,011</b>		<b>\$ 49,530,949</b>	<b>\$ 43,421,128</b>	<b>\$ 6,109,821</b>

## MINUTES

Exhibit 2								
Comparison of FY21 Allocation to FY20 Projections and Actuals								
Allocation	Projected Awards 2019-20	Projected Budget 2019-20	Actual Awards 2019-20	Actual Budget 2019-20	Projected Awards 2020-21	Projected Budget 2020-21	Projected CY to Actual PY	Projected CY to Actual PY Budget
<b>1- Administration</b>								
Salaries, Wages & Fringes		\$ 711,657		\$ 711,657		\$ 697,978		\$ (13,679)
Travel		\$ 8,000		\$ 8,000		\$ 8,000		\$ -
Contractual Service		\$ 550,000		\$ 550,000		\$ 550,000		\$ -
Commodities		\$ 10,000		\$ 10,000		\$ 10,000		\$ -
Equipment		\$ 10,000		\$ 10,000		\$ 10,000		\$ -
<b>Total Administration</b>		<b>\$ 1,289,657</b>		<b>\$ 1,289,657</b>		<b>\$ 1,275,978</b>		<b>\$ (13,679)</b>
<b>2- MTAG/MESG and HELP</b>								
MTAG	18,937	\$ 10,888,692	18,950	\$ 10,554,116	19,140	\$ 10,718,120	190	\$ 164,004
MESG	3,119	\$ 7,330,026	3,313	\$ 7,431,639	3,412	\$ 7,848,497	99	\$ 416,858
HELP	4,323	\$ 27,670,658	4,387	\$ 27,082,452	4,519	\$ 28,919,104	132	\$ 1,836,652
<b>Total MTAG, MESG &amp; HEL</b>	<b>26,379</b>	<b>\$ 45,889,376</b>	<b>26,650</b>	<b>\$ 45,068,207</b>	<b>27,071</b>	<b>\$ 47,485,721</b>	<b>421</b>	<b>\$ 2,417,514</b>
<b>3 - Loan/Repayment Programs</b>								
Teacher Programs:								
WWTS	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	0	\$ -
WWAR	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	0	\$ -
MTLR	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	0	\$ -
TES	2	\$ 30,000	1	\$ 7,500	0	\$ -	-1	\$ (7,500)
GTS (Graduate)	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	0	\$ -
CSA (Graduate)	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	0	\$ -
CNDT (Graduate)	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	0	\$ -
Nursing Programs:								
NELB	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	0	\$ -
NELR	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	0	\$ -
NELM (Graduate)	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	0	\$ -
NELP (Graduate)	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	0	\$ -
NERM (Graduate)	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	0	\$ -
NTSP (Graduate)	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	0	\$ -
Health-Related Programs:								
SLPL (Graduate)	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	0	\$ -
SREB (Graduate)	34	\$ 652,800	31	\$ 585,600	31	\$ 595,200	0	\$ 9,600
<b>Total Loan/Repayment</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>\$ 682,800</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>\$ 593,100</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>\$ 595,200</b>	<b>-1</b>	<b>\$ 2,100</b>
<b>Other</b>								
LAW	14	\$ 161,000	8	\$ 65,846	10	\$ 144,050	2	\$ 78,204
GEAR UP	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	0	\$ -
Nissan	4	\$ 36,000	4	\$ 32,921	3	\$ 30,000	-1	\$ (2,921)
<b>Total Other</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>\$ 197,000</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>\$ 98,767</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>\$ 174,050</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>\$ 75,283</b>
<b>Total Lns, Schols &amp; Grants</b>	<b>26,433</b>	<b>\$ 46,769,176</b>	<b>26,694</b>	<b>\$ 45,760,074</b>	<b>27,115</b>	<b>\$ 48,254,971</b>	<b>421</b>	<b>\$ 2,494,897</b>
<b>TOTAL SFA ALLOCATION</b>	<b>26,433</b>	<b>\$ 48,058,833</b>	<b>26,694</b>	<b>\$ 47,049,731</b>	<b>27,115</b>	<b>\$ 49,530,949</b>	<b>421</b>	<b>\$ 2,481,218</b>

## MINUTES

**Item 3:** On motion by Mr. Bush, seconded by Dr. Burnett, all Board Members legally present and participating voted unanimously to approve the FY 2022 Budget Request and Narrative. Ms. Rogers noted that the request may be reduced prior to the 2021 Legislative Session based on application rates, tuition rates, and other factors. Ms. Rogers will update the Board throughout the year.

### **3. Approval of the FY 2022 Budget Request**

The Mississippi Office of Student Financial Aid requests approval of the FY 2022 Legislative Budget Request. Board policy Part 601, Chapter 9, Rule 9.1 (IV) states, “Annually, the Board will review the annual legislative budget request for the Mississippi Office of Student Financial Aid and make a budget recommendation to the Agency.”

Exhibit 3 – FY 2022 Budget Request

Exhibit 4 – FY 2022 Budget Narrative

Recommendation: Board staff recommends approval of this item.

# MINUTES

## Exhibit 3

MBR - FY 2022	FY 2020 Awards	FY 2020 Amount	FY 2021 Awards	FY 2021 Amount	FY 2022 Awards	FY 2022 Amount	Add'l Awards	Additional Needs	Change
<b>1- Administration</b>									
Salaries, Wages and Fringes		\$ 711,657		\$ 697,978		\$ 718,917		\$ 20,939	
Travel		\$ 8,000		\$ 8,000		\$ 8,000		\$ -	
Contractual Service		\$ 550,000		\$ 550,000		\$ 550,000		\$ -	
Commodities		\$ 10,000		\$ 10,000		\$ 10,000		\$ -	
Equipment		\$ 10,000		\$ 10,000		\$ 10,000		\$ -	
<b>Total Administration</b>		<b>\$ 1,289,657</b>		<b>\$ 1,275,978</b>		<b>\$ 1,296,917</b>		<b>\$ 20,939</b>	<b>1.6%</b>
<b>2- MTAG/MESG and HELP</b>									
MTAG	18,950	\$ 10,554,116	19,140	\$ 10,718,120	19,331	\$ 11,211,919	191	\$ 493,799	
MESG	3,313	\$ 7,431,639	3,412	\$ 7,848,497	3,814	\$ 9,152,582	401	\$ 1,304,085	
HELP	4,387	\$ 27,082,452	4,519	\$ 28,919,104	5,295	\$ 34,901,611	776	\$ 5,982,507	
<b>Total MTAG/MESG/HELP</b>	<b>26,650</b>	<b>\$ 45,068,207</b>	<b>27,071</b>	<b>\$ 47,485,721</b>	<b>28,439</b>	<b>\$ 55,266,112</b>	<b>1,369</b>	<b>\$ 7,780,391</b>	<b>16.4%</b>
<b>3 - Forgivable Loan and Repayment Programs</b>									
Teacher Programs:									
WWTS	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	
WWAR	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	
TES	1	\$ 7,500	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	
GTS (Graduate)	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	
CSA (Graduate)	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	
CNDT (Graduate)	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	
MLR (Loan Repayment)	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	
Nursing Programs:									
NELB	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	
NELR	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	
NELM (Graduate)	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	
NERM (Graduate)	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	
NELP (Graduate)	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	
NTSP (Graduate)	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	
Health/Science Programs:									
SLPL (Graduate)	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	
SREB (Graduate)	31	\$ 585,600	31	\$ 595,200	26	\$ 499,200	-5	\$ (96,000)	
Discontinued Programs:									
<b>Total Loan/Repay Programs</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>\$ 593,100</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>\$ 595,200</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>\$ 499,200</b>	<b>-5</b>	<b>\$ (96,000)</b>	<b>-16.1%</b>
<b>4 - Other</b>									
LAW	8	\$ 65,846	10	\$ 144,050	16	\$ 184,000	6	\$ 39,950	
Nissan	4	\$ 32,921	3	\$ 30,000	4	\$ 40,000	1	\$ 10,000	
<b>Total Other</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>\$ 98,767</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>\$ 174,050</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>\$ 224,000</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>\$ 49,950</b>	<b>28.7%</b>
<b>TOTAL Loans, Schols, Grants</b>	<b>26,694</b>	<b>\$ 45,760,074</b>	<b>27,115</b>	<b>\$ 48,254,971</b>	<b>28,485</b>	<b>\$ 55,989,312</b>	<b>1,371</b>	<b>\$ 7,734,341</b>	<b>16.0%</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>26,694</b>	<b>\$ 47,049,731</b>	<b>27,115</b>	<b>\$ 49,530,949</b>	<b>28,485</b>	<b>\$ 57,286,230</b>	<b>1,371</b>	<b>\$ 7,755,280</b>	<b>15.7%</b>
<b>General Funds</b>									
		\$ 41,721,546		\$ 42,085,128		\$ 56,026,230		\$ 13,941,102	33.1%
<b>Total General Funds</b>		<b>\$ 41,721,546</b>		<b>\$ 42,085,128</b>		<b>\$ 56,026,230</b>		<b>\$ 13,941,102</b>	<b>33.1%</b>
<b>Special Funds</b>									
Spend Auth - Investments		\$ 32,921		\$ 30,000		\$ 40,000		\$ 10,000	
Spend Auth - Collections		\$ 1,238,062		\$ 1,171,000		\$ 1,200,000		\$ 29,000	
Spend Auth - LAW funds		\$ 65,017		\$ 135,000		\$ 20,000		\$ (115,000)	
Spend Auth - Other		\$ -		\$ -		\$ -		\$ -	
<b>Total Special Funds</b>		<b>\$ 1,336,000</b>		<b>\$ 1,336,000</b>		<b>\$ 1,260,000</b>		<b>\$ (76,000)</b>	<b>-5.7%</b>
<b>ORIGINAL SFA BUDGET</b>		<b>\$ 43,057,546</b>		<b>\$ 43,421,128</b>		<b>\$ 57,286,230</b>		<b>\$ 13,865,102</b>	<b>31.9%</b>
<b>Deficit General Funds</b>		<b>\$ 2,500,000</b>		<b>\$ 5,609,821</b>		<b>\$ -</b>		<b>\$ (5,609,821)</b>	
<b>Def. Spend Auth - Collections</b>		<b>\$ 1,500,000</b>		<b>\$ 500,000</b>		<b>\$ -</b>		<b>\$ (500,000)</b>	
<b>FINAL SFA BUDGET</b>		<b>\$ 47,057,546</b>		<b>\$ 49,530,949</b>		<b>\$ 57,286,230</b>		<b>\$ 7,755,280</b>	
Carryover/Ret. to Collections		\$ 7,815		\$ -					

# MINUTES

## Exhibit 4

### NARRATIVE FY 2022 BUDGET REQUEST

#### State Student Financial Aid

The Mississippi Office of Student Financial Aid (SFA) is the administering agency for all state-funded student financial aid programs. The office is guided by a two-fold public service mission to provide financial assistance to students in pursuit of educational and professional goals and to help the state fulfill workforce needs in specific service areas and achieve the goal of a more educated citizenry. The office seeks to build public awareness of the diverse financial resources available through ongoing communication with individuals, colleges and universities, secondary schools, governing boards, legislators, communities, and other constituency groups.

SFA works independently and in partnership with other college prep and planning organizations to build public awareness of the financial resources offered by the state. The office provides information through high school counselors, college nights, parent association meetings, college fairs, and publications. Due in part to these ongoing efforts, the ever-increasing cost of attendance, and the college readiness efforts at the K-12 level, more students than ever before are expected to pursue postsecondary education, and their families are expected to seek financial assistance.

#### **FY 2021 Deficit Appropriation Request**

On behalf of the students and the state of Mississippi, SFA requests a **deficit appropriation of \$6,109,821 for FY21**, which represents an **increase of 14.1%** over the original FY21 appropriation. The deficit request includes an additional **\$5,609,821 in General Funds**, which represents an **increase of 13.3%** over the original FY21 General Fund appropriation, and an additional **\$500,000 in Special Funds**, which represents an **increase of 37.4%** over the original FY21 Special Funds appropriation.

#### **FY 2022 Appropriation Request**

On behalf of the students and the state of Mississippi, SFA requests **\$57,286,230 for FY22**, which represents an **increase of \$13,865,102 or 31.9%** over the original FY21 appropriated dollars. The FY22 request includes a request for **\$56,026,230 in General Funds**, which represents an **increase of \$13,941,102 or 33.1%** over the original FY21 appropriation and a request for **\$1,260,000 in Special Funds**, which represents a **decrease of \$76,000 or 5.7%** from the original FY21 appropriation.

#### 1-Administration

- I. Program Description: SFA is responsible for the comprehensive planning, management and evaluation processes required to administer the state's many, diverse financial assistance programs. The office assesses and allocates resources, implements fiscal accountability measures, and annually evaluates all program components for compliance with statutes and legislative intent as well as for effectiveness in recruiting and retaining students in higher education in Mississippi.
- II. Program Objective: SFA seeks to communicate the accomplishments, needs, and value of the state's financial assistance programs to numerous and varied constituency groups; to implement effective management strategies; to be wise stewards of state resources; and to provide prompt, quality service.
- III. Current program activities as supported by the funding in Columns 5-12 (FY21 Estimated and FY22 Increase/Decrease for continuations) of MBR-1-03 and designated Budget Unit Decisions columns of MBR-1-03-A:  
(D) Additional Needs – **(\$20,939)**: Funds are requested to provide cost of living salary increases for all employees.



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### 2-MTAG/MESG and HELP

- I. Program Description: SFA is responsible for the comprehensive management, including budgeting, disbursement of funds and evaluation, of three (3) grant programs. In March of 1995, two (2) grant programs, the Mississippi Tuition Assistance Grant (MTAG) and the Mississippi Eminent Scholars Grant (MESG), were created to assist Mississippi students who do not qualify for full Pell grants. In April of 1997, an additional grant program, the Higher Education Legislative Plan for Needy Students (HELP), was created to provide need-based financial assistance, as determined by parental adjusted gross income.
- II. Program Objective: Provide adequate resources to support the delivery of the three (3) grant programs and to ensure compliance with the appropriate state laws in delivering financial aid.
- III. Current program activities as supported by the funding in Columns 5-12 (FY21 Estimated and FY22 Increase/Decrease for continuations) of MBR-1-03 and designated Budget Unit Decisions columns of MBR-1-03-A:  
(D) Additional Needs - **\$7,780,391**: The cost of MTAG decreased during FY17 because the state transitioned from a definition of full-time enrollment as 12 hours per term to 15 hours per term. The 2017 Legislature then passed a rule to eliminate the “stacking” of state aid that further impacted program participation rates and projections. MTAG expenditures dropped again FY18. Nevertheless, the program has seen modest growth of about 1% in recent years, and additional modest growth is expected to continue. ACT will begin publishing Superscores in September 2020, and the Mississippi Postsecondary Education Financial Assistance Board has voted to accept ACT Superscores for the purposes of state aid. Therefore, SFA expects the average annual participation growth of 1.5%, plus an additional 350 students in MESG. SFA also expects the annual participation growth of about 3%, plus an additional 550 students in HELP. The income threshold for HELP eligibility was scheduled to increase to \$42,500 in the 2016-17 academic year, but the threshold has been frozen at \$39,500 since the FY17 SFA appropriation bills. This budget anticipates that the freeze will continue in future years. The **MTAG request is \$11,211,919**, which represents an **increase of \$493,799 over FY21 projections**. The **MESG request is \$9,152,582**, which represents an **increase of \$1,304,085 over FY21 projections**. The **HELP request is \$34,901,611**, which represents an **increase of \$5,982,507 over FY21**.

### 3-FORGIVABLE LOAN AND REPAYMENT PROGRAMS

- I. Program Description: SFA operates the following student financial aid teacher programs: Graduate Teacher Forgivable Loan Program (GTS), Counselor and School Administrator Forgivable Loan Program (CSA); William F. Winter Teacher Forgivable Loan Program (WWTS) and William Winter Alternate Route Teacher Forgivable Loan Program (WWAR); Critical Needs Dyslexia Therapy Teacher Forgivable Loan Program (CNDT); Mississippi Teacher Loan Repayment Program (MLR); and the Teacher Education Scholars Forgivable Loan (TES) Program. SFA operates the following student financial aid nursing programs: Nursing Education Forgivable Loan Programs for baccalaureate, masters, and Ph.D. study (NELB, NELR, NELM, NERM, and NELP) and Nursing Teacher Stipends (NTSP). SFA operates the following student financial aid health/science related programs: Speech-Language Pathologist Forgivable Loan Program (SLPL) and the Southern Regional Education Board Forgivable Loan Program for optometry (SREB). Funding for the Graduate and Professional Degree Forgivable Loan Program for study in chiropractic medicine, orthotics, prosthetics, or podiatrics (STSC); Medical and Dental Education Forgivable Loan Programs (MED and DENT); and Health Care Professions Forgivable Loan Program (HCP) has been discontinued by the Mississippi Legislature.
- II. Program Objective: Student Financial aid programs have been developed:
  - a. To meet demonstrated critical shortages in the fields of medicine, nursing, nursing education, physical and natural sciences, and teacher education;

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- b. To attract, educate, and retain qualified teachers and medical personnel to serve the people of Mississippi;
- c. To insure that the best interest of Mississippi is served by providing students with financial assistance for programs of study not offered in regularly supported Mississippi institutions; and
- d. To manifest the belief that the continued growth and development of Mississippi requires improved levels of postsecondary educational attainment; and
- e. To meet the needs of specific student groups.

III. Current program activities as supported by the funding in Columns 5-12 (FY21 Estimated and FY22 Increase/Decrease for continuations) of MBR-1-03 and designated Budget Unit Decisions columns of MBR-1-03-A:

(D) Additional Needs – (**\$96,000**): A decrease in expenditures for the Forgivable Loan and Loan Repayment Programs is requested. SFA, under advisement from the Mississippi Postsecondary Education Financial Assistance Board (Postsecondary Board or Board), requests the Legislature target available funds to ensure full funding of the undergraduate grant programs. *Miss. Code Ann.* § 37-106-14 (2) requires the Board to award grants first and limit loans to renewal applicants only on a first-come, first-served basis with preference for renewals. Therefore, funds have been unavailable for these programs in several years.

### TEACHER PROGRAMS:

The Graduate Teacher Forgivable Loan (GTS) and Counselor and School Administrator Forgivable Loan (CSA) Programs support classroom teachers and administrators who seek graduate level education to improve their skills and abilities, desperately needed in Mississippi's public schools. The **GTS request is \$0**, which represents **no change from FY21**. The **CSA request is \$0**, which represents **no change from FY21**. The programs were not funded in FY21 due to insufficient funds.

The William Winter Teacher Forgivable Loan (WWTS) and William Winter Alternate Route Teacher Forgivable Loan (WWAR) Programs seek to relieve the state's teacher shortage. The **WWTS request is \$0**, which represents **no change from FY21**. The **WWAR request is \$0**, which represents **no change from FY21**. The programs were not funded in FY21 due to insufficient funds.

The Critical Needs Dyslexia Therapy Teacher Forgivable Loan (CNDT) funds are available to Mississippi teachers who are seeking a Class AA Educator's License with a 203 Endorsement for Dyslexia Therapy. Due to budget constraints, no applicants were awarded during FY21. The **CNDT request is \$0**, which represents **no change from FY21**.

The Mississippi Teacher Loan Repayment Program (MLR) funds are used to repay a portion of the undergraduate loans of eligible Mississippi teachers in exchange for their service or continued teaching service in Mississippi's public schools. Due to budget constraints, no applicants were awarded during FY21. The **MLR request is \$0**, which represents **no change from FY21**.

The Teacher Education Scholars Forgivable Loan Program (TES) was established by the 2013 Legislature to make awards of up to \$15,000 to students with a 28 ACT who commit to teach in a public school for five years following degree completion and licensure. Due to budget constraints, no applicants were awarded TES during FY21. The **TES request is \$0**, which represents **no change from FY21**.

### NURSING PROGRAMS:

The Nursing Education Forgivable Loan Programs – Bachelor's (NELB); Master's (NELM); Ph.D./DNP (NELP); RN to BSN (NELR); and RN to MSN (NERM) funds assist the state's

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efforts to recruit and retain nurses. Master's and Ph.D. level nursing students will also have the education required to teach in nursing education programs. Due to budget constraints, no applicants were awarded during FY21. The **NELB request is \$0**, which represents **no change from FY21**. The **NELM request is \$0**, which represents **no change from FY21**. The **NELP request is \$0**, which represents **no change from FY21**. The **NELR request is \$0**, which represents **no change from FY21**. The **NERM request is \$0**, which represents **no change from FY21**. The programs were not funded in FY21 due to insufficient funds.

The Nursing Teacher Stipend Forgivable Loan Program (NTSP) funds eligible Master's and Ph.D. level nursing students in nursing education tracks who commit to serve as nurse educators upon completion of their education. The **NTSP request is \$0**, which represents **no change from FY21**. The program was not funded in FY21 due to insufficient funds.

### HEALTH/SCIENCE RELATED PROGRAMS:

The Speech-Language Pathologist Forgivable Loan Program (SLPL) was first created by the 2012 Legislature for students seeking a first master's degree in Speech-Language Pathology, Communicative Disorders, or Communication Sciences and Disorders. The loan will be forgiven for recipients who serve as licensed speech-language pathologists in a Mississippi public or charter school for one year for each year of funding received. The **SLPL request is \$0**, which represents **no change from FY21**. The program was not funded in FY21 due to insufficient funds.

The Southern Regional Education Board Forgivable Loan Programs (SREB) awards students in out-of-state optometry programs contracted through the SREB Regional Contract Program. Mississippi contracts 9 seats per entering class, for a total of 36 contract seats each year. The cost of each contract seat typically increases annually; however, SREB has committed to retain the 2019-20 rate of \$19,200 through FY 2023 to help states and institutions recover from revenue losses caused by COVID-19. Nevertheless, because no other Forgivable Loan programs have been funded in recent years, SFA, under direction of the Postsecondary Board, request the Legislature phase out the SREB program in order to target all available funds for the undergraduate grant programs. To phase out the program, SFA would award renewal students only. The **SREB request is \$499,200 for 26 seats**, which represents a **decrease of \$96,000 from FY21**.

#### 4. OTHER

- I. Program Description: SFA operates the Law Enforcement Officers and Firemen Scholarship Program (LAW), which is funded by the Mississippi Legislature as well as the Nissan Scholarship, which is funded through special source funds for which SFA must request spending authority.
- II. Program Objective: Student Financial aid programs have been developed:
  - a. To manifest the belief that the continued growth and development of Mississippi requires improved levels of postsecondary educational attainment and
  - b. To meet the needs of specific student groups.
- III. Current program activities as supported by the funding in Columns 5-12 (FY21 Estimated and FY 22 Increase/Decrease for continuations) of MBR-1-03 and designated Budget Unit Decisions columns of MBR-1-03-A: (D) Additional Needs – **\$49,950**: An overall increase in expenditures for the Other programs is expected. Increases and decreases are requested as follows for the following programs based on increases and decreases in demand and eligibility.

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The Law Enforcement Officers and Firemen Scholarship Program (LAW) provides education to the dependents of deceased or disabled service men and women. The **LAW request is \$184,000**, which represents an **increase of \$39,950 over FY21**.

The Nissan Scholarship Program (NISS) provides aid to students at public institutions who major in a field that will advance the automotive industry in Mississippi. The **NISS request is \$40,000**, which represents an **increase of \$10,000 over FY21**.

**Item 4:** On motion by Ms. Langston, seconded by Mr. Bush, all Board Members legally present and participating voted unanimously to approve the FY 2022-26 Five-Year Strategic Plan.

**4. Approval of the Five-Year Strategic Plan**

The Mississippi Office of Student Financial Aid requests approval of the FY 2022-26 Five-Year Strategic Plan. Board policy does not currently require approval of the Five-Year Strategic Plan, but the Plan is required annually by the Legislative Budget Office

Exhibit 5 – FY 2022-26 Five-Year Strategic Plan

Exhibit 6 – FY 2022-26 Five-Year Strategic Plan Narrative

Recommendation: Board staff recommends approval of this item.

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### Exhibit 5

<b>MBR - FY2022-2026</b>	<b>FY 2022</b>	<b>FY 2023</b>	<b>FY 2024</b>	<b>FY 2025</b>	<b>FY 2026</b>
<b>1- Administration</b>					
Salaries, Wages and Fringes	\$ 718,917	\$ 740,485	\$ 762,699	\$ 785,580	\$ 809,148
Travel	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000
Contractual Service	\$ 550,000	\$ 550,000	\$ 550,000	\$ 550,000	\$ 550,000
Commodities	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
Equipment	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
<b>Total Administration</b>	<b>\$ 1,296,917</b>	<b>\$ 1,318,485</b>	<b>\$ 1,340,699</b>	<b>\$ 1,363,580</b>	<b>\$ 1,387,148</b>
<b>2- MTAG/MESG and HELP</b>					
MTAG	\$ 11,211,919	\$ 11,324,038	\$ 11,437,279	\$ 11,551,651	\$ 11,667,168
MESG	\$ 9,152,582	\$ 9,965,136	\$ 10,664,787	\$ 11,251,435	\$ 11,420,207
HELP	\$ 34,901,611	\$ 39,343,245	\$ 43,670,323	\$ 47,861,485	\$ 49,297,329
<b>Total MTAG/MESG and HELP</b>	<b>\$ 55,266,112</b>	<b>\$ 60,632,419</b>	<b>\$ 65,772,389</b>	<b>\$ 70,664,572</b>	<b>\$ 72,384,704</b>
<b>3 - Forgivable Loan/Repay Programs</b>					
Teacher Programs:					
WWTS	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
WWAR	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
TES	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
GTS (Graduate)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
CSA (Graduate)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
CNDT (Graduate)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
MLR (Loan Repayment)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Nursing Programs:					
NELB	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
NELR	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
NELM (Graduate)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
NERM (Graduate)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
NELP (Graduate)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
NTSP (Graduate)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Health/Science Related Programs:					
SLPL	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
SREB	\$ 499,200	\$ 307,200	\$ 178,200	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Total Forgive Ln/Repay Programs</b>	<b>\$ 499,200</b>	<b>\$ 307,200</b>	<b>\$ 178,200</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>4 - Other</b>					
LAW	\$ 184,000	\$ 187,680	\$ 191,434	\$ 195,262	\$ 199,168
Nissan	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000
<b>Total Other</b>	<b>\$ 224,000</b>	<b>\$ 227,680</b>	<b>\$ 231,434</b>	<b>\$ 235,262</b>	<b>\$ 239,168</b>
<b>TOTAL Lns, Schols, Grants</b>	<b>\$ 55,989,312</b>	<b>\$ 61,167,299</b>	<b>\$ 66,182,022</b>	<b>\$ 70,899,834</b>	<b>\$ 72,623,872</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 57,286,230</b>	<b>\$ 62,485,784</b>	<b>\$ 67,522,722</b>	<b>\$ 72,263,414</b>	<b>\$ 74,011,020</b>
<b>General Funds</b>					
General Funds	\$ 56,026,230	\$ 61,275,784	\$ 66,362,722	\$ 71,153,414	\$ 72,951,020
<b>Total General Funds</b>	<b>\$ 56,026,230</b>	<b>\$ 61,275,784</b>	<b>\$ 66,362,722</b>	<b>\$ 71,153,414</b>	<b>\$ 72,951,020</b>
<b>Special Funds</b>					
Spending Authority - Investments	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000
Spending Authority - Collections	\$ 1,200,000	\$ 1,150,000	\$ 1,100,000	\$ 1,050,000	\$ 1,000,000
Spending Authority - LAW funds	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000
Spending Authority - Other	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Total Special Funds</b>	<b>\$ 1,260,000</b>	<b>\$ 1,210,000</b>	<b>\$ 1,160,000</b>	<b>\$ 1,110,000</b>	<b>\$ 1,060,000</b>
<b>TOTAL SFA BUDGET</b>	<b>\$ 57,286,230</b>	<b>\$ 62,485,784</b>	<b>\$ 67,522,722</b>	<b>\$ 72,263,414</b>	<b>\$ 74,011,020</b>

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## **Exhibit 6**

### **The Mississippi Office of Student Financial Aid 157-00**

#### **2022-2026 Five-Year Strategic Plan**

#### **1. Comprehensive Mission Statement**

The two-fold public service mission of the Mississippi Office of Student Financial Aid is to provide financial assistance to students in pursuit of educational and professional goals and to help the state achieve the goal of a more educated citizenry while alleviating critical workforce needs in specific service areas.

#### **2. Philosophy**

The Mississippi Office of Student Financial Aid is committed to the advancement of our state through education and workforce development. It is our belief that student financial assistance benefits not only the individual but also the general public. The philosophy of the Office is to alleviate the familial burden of paying for college, while being good stewards of the state's limited resources. The Office strives to operate efficiently by utilizing technology and leveraging partnerships; transparently by reporting on our operations and being accessible to the public; and safely by complying with all state and federal laws enacted for the protection of privacy.

#### **3. Relevant Statewide Goals and Benchmarks**

Statewide Goal #1: Economic Development – To develop a robust state economy that provides the opportunity of productive employment for all Mississippians

Relevant Benchmarks #1:

- Percentage of the civilian non-institutional population 16 years and over employed
- Job vacancy rate, by industry and occupation
- Wage and salary disbursements (total earnings)
- Average annual pay
- Median household income
- Percentage of workers whose family income falls above 150% of the federal poverty guidelines

Statewide Goal #2: Public Schools - To make available a quality K-12 public education for all Mississippians that prepares them, upon high school graduation, to either enter the labor force with an employable skill or to successfully complete a higher education program

Relevant Benchmarks #2:

- Percentage of public school core academic subject classes staffed with teachers who are highly qualified
- Percentage of public school teachers certified through alternative programs

Statewide Goal #3: Higher Education - To make available an accessible, quality public higher education at an affordable cost that prepares Mississippians to become productive, financially self-sufficient members of society while meeting the human resource needs of Mississippi and its employers, including the creation of new jobs through the commercialization of university-based research

Relevant Benchmarks #3:

- Percentage of full-time, first-time enrollment cohort who earns half of total required credit hours for graduation by the end of the first year at a community college or by the end of the second year at a university

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- Percentage of full-time, first-time enrollment cohort who graduate with a college credential in the appropriate time-frame
- Percentage of state's population age 25 years and over with a bachelor's degree or higher
- Number of graduates in high-need disciplines (i.e., science, technology, engineering, math, education, including non-teaching areas and nursing), by discipline
- Number of graduates in teaching from Mississippi public higher educational institutions
- Percentage of teacher candidates from Mississippi public higher educational institutions who become Mississippi public school teachers following graduation
- Percentage of graduates in high-need disciplines practicing in Mississippi, by discipline
- Percentage of Mississippi median family income required to cover tuition and fees at Mississippi community colleges and at Mississippi public four-year higher educational institutions
- Average student debt upon graduation

Statewide Goal #4: Health – To protect Mississippians from risks to public health and to provide them with the health- related information and access to quality healthcare necessary to increase the length and quality of their lives

Relevant Benchmarks #4:

- Number of health professional shortage areas
- Number of practitioners needed to remove health professional shortage area designations, by type of practitioner

Statewide Goal # 5: To create an efficient government and an informed and engaged citizenry that helps to address social problems through the payment of taxes, the election of capable leaders at all levels of government, and participation in charitable organizations through contributions and volunteerism

Relevant Benchmarks #5:

- Administrative efficiency: Expenditures on state government administrative activities as a percentage of total operational expenditures
- Average wait time for state government services
- Number and average cost of regulatory actions taken, by regulatory body and type of action
- State dollars saved by providing government services online (e.g., document retrieval, issuance of new business permits, license renewal)

#### **4. Overview of the Agency 5-Year Strategic Plan:**

The Mississippi Office of Student Financial Aid will continue to administer effectively and efficiently the state's many, diverse financial assistance programs. The Office will budget responsibly and provide meaningful support to the Postsecondary Education Financial Assistance Board. The Office seeks to make college more accessible to and affordable for Mississippi students through the timely, simple disbursement of financial aid.

The Office will continue efforts to improve communication with students, parents, and high school counselors about the state-supported financial aid programs available. The Office partners closely with the staff of Get2College, a program of the Woodward Hines Education Foundation (WHEF). Get2College offers free college planning and financial aid help to students statewide. The staff of Get2College is highly knowledgeable of college access and is cross-trained on state financial aid. The Office will continue to utilize social media and conduct workshops for high school counselors, but the Office will rely more heavily on partners like Get2College to represent state aid at college fairs, College Nights/Parent Nights, and other outreach initiatives. The Office will also coordinate its efforts with the Mississippi Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators, the ACT Council and State Organization, College Countdown, and the Mississippi Counselors Association, among others.

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The accessibility of all state-funded financial aid programs will be evaluated annually through careful monitoring of program rules and regulations and the application process to determine if any such rules and regulations and/or the application process have consistently limited student access to a program or created an undue hardship to eligible applicants.

The Office will maximize its use of technology to provide efficient delivery of financial resources to students, accurate assessment of program development, and increased personnel productivity.

The Office will implement management strategies that ensure all authorized programs grow and develop in an orderly and rational manner, that the resources entrusted to the office are used effectively and efficiently, and that the programs and services of the system are of the highest quality.

The Office will administer the residency-based Mississippi Resident Tuition Assistance Grant (MTAG) and the merit-based Mississippi Eminent Scholars Grant (MESG) according to law to make college more accessible and affordable for some Mississippi students. The number of MTAG recipients grows by about 1% each year. The number of MESG recipients grows by about 1.5% each year, but the number of recipients is expected to increase by an additional 350 per year between FY 2022 and FY 2025 due to the Postsecondary Board's decision to accept ACT Superscores.

The Office will continue to advocate for more need-based aid programs to ensure that low- and moderate-income Mississippi students have access to affordable higher education opportunities. Currently, low-income students (full Pell-eligible) cannot by law qualify for MTAG, but can qualify for the Higher Education Legislative Plan for Needy Students (HELP) by also meeting certain academic requirements. The HELP program provides full tuition scholarships to students with demonstrated financial need who are college ready upon graduating from high school. The program has grown rapidly in recent years, but the rapid annual growth is expected to stabilize over the new few years. The number of HELP recipients is expected to grow by about 3% each year, plus an additional 550 recipients per year between FY 2022 and FY 2025 due to the Postsecondary Board's decision to accept ACT Superscores. Some additional cost increases will still occur every year based on rising tuition.

The Office will administer the state's forgivable loan programs according to law to help the state achieve the goal of a more educated citizenry while alleviating critical workforce needs in specific service areas. As a part of these efforts, the Office will work with the State Department of Education to monitor the teacher shortage issue to effectively project needed resources and to propose necessary program enhancements which promote teacher education, specifically at the undergraduate level. While certain forgivable loan programs are considered to be effective, others are not. The Office will continue to work with the Postsecondary Board and legislators to make data-driven recommendations for the elimination, consolidation, and/or conversion to loan repayment programs of the state's many forgivable loan programs.

### **5. Agency's External/Internal Assessment:**

#### **External Assessment:**

- a) Funding - Funding instability is an ongoing threat to the effective and efficient administration of student financial aid. Annually, the Office requests the funds needed to fully award all students who demonstrate eligibility for the programs as established by state law. When the amount appropriated is less than the amount needed, the Office must work with the Postsecondary Board to make difficult decisions regarding who will be awarded and who will not in order to balance the budget as required by law. Mississippi law requires that awards be made first to all undergraduate grant applicants, then to loan applicants on a first-come, first-served basis. If funds are still inadequate, then grant funds must be pro-rated. In both FY2016 and FY2020, the uncertainty of receiving a deficit appropriation resulted in late awards and student frustration and fear. Programs have been underfunded since FY2016, and since FY2017 awards in all forgivable loan programs have been severely reduced or eliminated.



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- b) Newly Created Programs - The creation of new state student financial aid programs places an increased administrative burden on the Office. Although funding is often appropriated for the purpose of making awards through newly created programs, additional funding for administration is typically not provided.
- c) Need-Based Aid – Despite the growth of the HELP grant, additional need-based aid is needed to improve college access and affordability for the state’s most vulnerable populations.
- d) Program Changes - Legislative changes to existing programs will impact student eligibility rates, award rates, and the amount of money needed to award eligible students.
- e) Student Choice - Student choice and performance continuously impacts award rates and award amounts. College of enrollment and major can impact whether or not a student is eligible for some state aid as well as the amount of aid for which the student is eligible. Academic performance, such as hours completed and GPA, can also impact whether or not a student establishes and/or maintains aid eligibility.
- f) Federal EFC - Changes to the auto-zero EFC income threshold for federal aid eligibility impacts eligibility for the Mississippi Resident Tuition Assistance Grant. An increase to the threshold will decrease eligibility for MTAG. A decrease to the threshold will increase eligibility for MTAG.
- g) Federal Rules - Reauthorization of the Higher Education Act is overdue. It is believed that the reauthorization legislation will likely provide for a new Federal-State Partnership program to provide additional need-based financial aid in the states. In order for the state to participate, such a program would require an increased investment in need-based aid to meet the matching requirements for the state to participate.
- h) Interest Rate - The interest rate charged on state forgivable loans is equal to the unsubsidized federal student loan rate at the time a student enters repayment. As the federal rate increases and decreases, so does the state rate. The federal rate changes annually with the 10-Year Treasury Note. Due to the future variability of federal student loan interest rates, it is difficult to estimate the future revenue stream from interest income collected on the repayment of state forgivable loans.
- i) Collections - As a result of past efforts to improve default prevention practices, more students are completing the service obligation and fewer are defaulting or entering repayment. Also, fewer loans have been issued in recent years due to the budget shortfalls. Therefore, the revenue collected on the repayment of loans will decline in future years as fewer students enter monetary repayment, leaving the Office more dependent upon General Fund appropriations to meet budgetary demands.
- j) Administrative Burden - Federal regulations can impact the administration of state financial aid, particularly the administration of loans. In recent years, the Office has responded to new regulations requiring multiple disclosures on all non-federal loans (even state loans); intensified identity theft protection rules; changes to allowable collection costs; and restrictions on the use of telephone technology to contact borrowers. The Office incurs costs to comply with new federal and state regulations.

### **Internal Assessment:**

- a) All funds administered by the Board shall be accounted for in an annual report that shall be submitted to the Legislature within ten (10) days after the convening of each new legislative session. The report should detail for each grant, scholarship, or forgivable loan program the number of recipients, the total amount of awards made, and the average award amount. The report shall include the number of students at each institution receiving financial assistance and the amount of such assistance. For forgivable loan programs, the report shall also include a summary of the repayment status and method of repayment for student cohorts as well as an accounting of the receipt of funds in repayment. Furthermore, all funds received and expended shall be reported and otherwise accounted for in accordance with the provisions of Section 37-106-11, Mississippi Code of 1972, except where individual identifying information must be withheld pursuant to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), 20 U.S.C. § 1232g; 34 CFR Part 99.

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- b) The Office continuously assesses the state's financial aid programs.
1. In 2015, the Office worked with the Harvard University Kennedy School of Government on a project using Regression Discontinuity Design Method to evaluate the Mississippi Eminent Scholars Grant (MESG) and the Mississippi Resident Tuition Assistance Grant (MTAG) on their impact on in-state enrollment and degree completion.
  2. The Office applied for and received "Technical Assistance" from the Education Commission of the States as part of its Redesigning State Financial Aid project. ECS reviewed Mississippi's state aid programs through the lens of four principles of redesign. These four principles maintain that 1) aid programs should be student centered; 2) aid programs should be goal driven and data informed; 3) aid programs should be timely and flexible; and 4) aid programs should be broadly inclusive.
  3. Lifetracks has been expanded to include data from Student Financial Aid. NSPARC published a report on October 8, 2018 regarding the effectiveness of state aid programs. The report found:
    - a. First-year retention rates and six-year graduation rates are higher for state aid recipients in every program (MTAG, MESG, and HELP) than for similar (racially, socio-economically, academically, etc.) non-recipients. The study addresses questions of academic success and suggests that each program promotes improved outcomes for enrolled students.
    - b. The study does not address questions related to access for MTAG and HELP. For example, the study cannot tell us whether low-income students are more likely to pursue a college degree because of state grant availability.
    - c. The study indicates that MESG does not increase or impact in-state enrollment rates but does increase enrollment in four-year colleges over two-year colleges.
    - d. The forgivable loan data show that forgivable loan recipients remain employed in the appropriate field at high rates up to five years after completion of the service obligation. The results are particularly important and encouraging for fields like education that have experienced high turnover. The results are less meaningful in fields, like nursing, that experience lower rates of attrition.
  4. The Office will continue to work with the Postsecondary Board to develop and make recommendations to the Mississippi Legislature for redesigning the state student financial aid programs to be more effective and efficient.

### **Internal Management System**

The Office operates under the auspices of the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning, which oversees the daily administration of state student financial aid. The Office works closely with the Mississippi Postsecondary Education Financial Assistance Board, which bears authority for all aspects of the state financial aid programs and the administrative rules governing those programs. The Postsecondary Board meets about four times a year to address program and budget-related issues.

### **6. Agency Goals, Objectives, Strategies and Measures for FY 2022 through FY 2026:**

#### **BUDGET PROGRAM 1: Administration**

**GOAL A: Effectively and efficiently administer the state's many, diverse financial assistance programs.**

**OBJECTIVE A.1.:** Assess the availability of resources and budget available resources in a responsible manner.

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*Outcome:* Percentage of eligible applicants receiving state financial aid.

**STRATEGY A.1.1.:** Use applicable trend data (related to high school graduation, college-going, outmigration/inmigration, tuition/Cost of Attendance, etc.) to predict future take-up rates for various financial aid programs.

*Output:* Accurate projection model to determine future budget needs as indicated by minimal difference between projected award amounts on the MBR (budget request) and actual expenditures on awards.

*Explanatory:* The accuracy of the projection model is greatly impacted by the factors identified in the external assessment in section 5, particularly the creation of new programs and changes to existing programs.

**STRATEGY A.1.2.:** Allocate appropriated funds in compliance with statute.

*Output:* Total amount of Annual Operating Budget

*Output:* Number of Financial Aid Programs administered

*Output:* Eligible applicants receiving student financial aid through programs administered by the Office

*Output:* Total amount of aid awarded to students through programs administered by the Office

*Efficiency:* Annual cost to administer the state's financial aid programs.

*Efficiency:* Administrative cost per eligible financial aid recipient.

*Efficiency:* Administrative cost as a percentage of the Annual Operating Budget.

**OBJECTIVE A.2.:** Provide support and guidance to the Postsecondary Education Financial Assistance Board.

*Outcome:* The Postsecondary Board responds in a timely manner to questions related to the administration of state financial aid programs as indicated by the average response time in days.

*Outcome:* Compliance with all statutes, policies, and rules governing the state's student financial aid programs.

*Outcome:* Compliance with the APA guidelines for changing program Rules and Regulations.

*Outcome:* Compliance with all federal laws related to financial aid, privacy, lending, collection of debt, etc.

**STRATEGY A.2.1.:** Annually review the Board-approved Rules and Regulations for each program and the General Administration Rules and Regulations

*Output:* Agenda items to address issues and concerns related to program and administration rules

## MINUTES

*Output:* Number of Postsecondary Board meetings

**OBJECTIVE A.3.:** Effectively and efficiently manage the annual State Aid application, award, and disbursement process.

*Outcome:* Provide access to all State Aid related information online.

*Outcome:* Limit the wait time for receipt of government services by communicating electronically, as evidenced by the availability of all communication in electronic format.

*Outcome:* Minimize the cost of human capital required to process the ever-increasing number of applications by utilizing technology, as evidenced by the number of full-time employees.

*Outcome:* Effective and efficient delivery of student financial aid dollars to the colleges and universities for distribution to students

**STRATEGY A.3.1.:** Annually update the online application for State Aid.

*Output:* Number of applications processed annually.

*Output:* Number of documents processed annually.

**GOAL B: Maximize the role State Aid plays in recruiting and retaining students in higher education.**

**OBJECTIVE B.1.:** Promote awareness of the available state-supported financial aid programs among students, parents, and school counselors.

*Outcome:* Increase the number of state applications completed, as evidenced by the percent increase over the previous year.

*Outcome:* Increase the number of students receiving aid, as evidenced by the percent increase over the previous year.

*Outcome:* Effective and efficient communication with counselors, students, and parents regarding financial aid opportunities

**STRATEGY B.1.1.:** Conduct workshops for high school counselors, attend college fairs, and present at college nights/parent nights.

*Output:* Number of workshops conducted, college fairs attended, and/or presentations at college nights/parents nights

**STRATEGY B.1.2.:** Contribute to student-focused publications.

*Output:* Number of ads and/or articles in publications.

**STRATEGY B.1.3.:** Utilize technology and social media to meet students where they are.

*Output:* Number of unique pageviews for [www.mississippi.edu/financialaid](http://www.mississippi.edu/financialaid) and [www.msfinancialaid.org](http://www.msfinancialaid.org)

## MINUTES

*Output:* Bounce rate for [www.mississippi.edu/financialaid](http://www.mississippi.edu/financialaid) and [www.msfinancialaid.org](http://www.msfinancialaid.org)

*Output:* Number of Facebook followers

*Output:* Number of Twitter followers

**OBJECTIVE B.2.:** Communicate the accomplishments, needs, and value of the state's financial assistance programs to various constituency groups.

*Outcome:* Public high school counselors are knowledgeable of state aid programs and capable of helping students, as evidenced by the rate of participation in the counselor web portal.

*Outcome:* Private high school counselors are knowledgeable of state aid programs and capable of helping students, as evidenced by the rate of participation in the counselor web portal.

*Outcome:* Legislators continue to invest in state aid programs to make college more accessible and affordable for Mississippi students, as evidenced by the percent of need met by appropriations.

**STRATEGY B.2.1.:** Develop an understanding of program rules, general administration policies, and procedures among institutional financial aid administrators, college access organizations, and aid recipients.

*Output:* Updates delivered at MASFAA, Counselor workshops (MCA, MDE Counselor Institute, SACAC Drive-in, ESF New Counselor Workshops, etc.)

*Output:* Emails delivered to State Aid recipients.

*Output:* Letters delivered to State Aid recipients.

**STRATEGY B.2.2.:** Promote program values and needs to policymakers and other change agents.

*Output:* Updates to the Education Achievement Council, education leaders, and State Legislators at JLBC Hearings, etc.

**GOAL C: To reduce the rate of default on the state's forgivable loan programs and increase the percentage of forgivable loan recipients who repay with service rather than money.**

**OBJECTIVE C.1.:** Implement default prevention programs for all forgivable loans.

*Outcome:* Anticipated overall rate of default on all state forgivable loan programs for all cohorts.

*Outcome:* Anticipated rate of on-time repayment through service on all state forgivable loan programs for all cohorts.

**STRATEGY C.1.1.:** Maintain a Loan Repayment Specialist on staff to address all issues related to loan repayment or forgiveness.

*Output:* Separation, grace-ending, service deferment/cancellation, and past due notices mailed/mailed

## MINUTES

*Output:* Funds collected in repayment of forgivable loans

*Output:* Tax offset funds collected

### **BUDGET PROGRAM 2: MTAG/MESG and HELP**

#### **GOAL A: To increase college access and improve affordability for Mississippi families.**

**OBJECTIVE A.1.:** Make financial aid awards to Mississippi residents who qualify for one or more of the state's primary undergraduate grant programs (MTAG, MESG, and HELP) in compliance with appropriate state laws and rules.

*Outcome:* Mississippi residents receive financial aid to attend college in Mississippi, making college more accessible and affordable.

**STRATEGY A.1.1.:** Administer the primary undergraduate grant programs.

*Output:* Total number of students receiving financial aid through the primary undergraduate grant programs (MTAG, MESG, and HELP)

*Output:* Total amount of funds awarded through the primary undergraduate grant programs (MTAG, MESG, and HELP)

*Output:* Total number of primary undergraduate grant programs

*Efficiency:* Average student award through the primary undergraduate grant programs

**STRATEGY A.1.2.:** Administer the Mississippi Resident Tuition Grant Program (MTAG), created in 1995 to assist with the cost of tuition for Mississippi students with a 15 ACT and/or 2.5 GPA who are not eligible for a full federal Pell grant.

*Output:* Number of MTAG recipients

*Output:* Amount of MTAG awarded

*Efficiency:* Average student award through the MTAG program

**STRATEGY A.1.3.:** Administer the Mississippi Eminent Scholars Grant Program (MESG), created in 1995 to reward Mississippi students for excellent academic achievement (29 ACT and 3.5 GPA) in high school and to encourage high achieving students to stay in-state for college.

*Output:* Number of MESG recipients

*Output:* Amount of MESG awarded

*Efficiency:* Average student award through the MESG program

**STRATEGY A.1.4.:** Administer the Higher Education Legislative Plan for Needy Students (HELP) scholarship, created in 1997 to provide financial assistance for needy students who demonstrate college readiness with a 20 ACT, 2.5 GPA, and completion of a rigorous high school curriculum.

*Output:* Number of HELP recipients

## MINUTES

*Output:* Amount of HELP awarded

*Efficiency:* Average student award through the HELP program

*Explanatory Note:* The cost of HELP has increased dramatically over recent years as the Office has reached out to middle and high school counselors to make more students aware of the program. In addition, changes to HELP were enacted by the 2014 Legislature to simplify the application process and to raise the maximum income eligibility threshold. Continued growth is expected. Increased demand is anticipated for each fiscal year through FY 2021. After demand stabilizes, the annual cost of the program will continue to increase at the same rate tuition increases.

### **BUDGET PROGRAM 3: Forgivable Loan and Repayment Programs**

**GOAL A: To help the state achieve the goal of a more educated citizenry while alleviating critical workforce needs in specific service areas.**

**OBJECTIVE A.1.:** Make financial aid awards to students who qualify for one of the state's forgivable loan or repayment programs.

*Outcome:* Meet demonstrated critical shortages in the fields of medicine, nursing, nursing education, physical and natural sciences, and teacher education.

*Outcome:* Attract, educate and retain qualified teachers and medical personnel to serve the people of Mississippi.

*Outcome:* Ensure that the best interest of Mississippi is served by providing students with financial assistance for programs of study not offered in regularly supported Mississippi institutions.

*Outcome:* To manifest the belief that the continued growth and development of Mississippi requires improved levels of postsecondary educational attainment.

**STRATEGY A.1.1.:** Administer the state forgivable loan and repayment programs.

*Output:* Total number of students receiving financial aid through the forgivable loan and repayment programs

*Output:* Total amount of funds expended on the forgivable loan and repayment programs

*Output:* Total number of forgivable loan and repayment programs

*Efficiency:* Average student award through the state forgivable loan and repayment programs

**STRATEGY A.1.2.:** Administer forgivable loan programs for undergraduate teacher education, including the William Winter Teacher Forgivable Loan (WWTS) and William Winter Alternate Route Teacher Forgivable Loan (WWAR) Programs, which seek to relieve the state's teacher shortage.

*Output:* Number of WWTS awards

*Output:* Amount of WWTS awards

## MINUTES

*Output:* Number of WWAR awards

*Output:* Amount of WWAR awards

*Efficiency:* Average student award through the WWTS program

*Efficiency:* Average student award through the WWAR program

*Explanatory Note:* Due to budget constraints, only renewal applicants were awarded during FY17 through FY20. Demand will be down following years without full funding.

**STRATEGY A.1.3.:** Administer forgivable loan programs for undergraduate teacher education, including the Critical Needs Teacher Forgivable Loan (CNTF) and Critical Needs Alternate Route Forgivable Loan (CNAR) Programs. Both programs have been phased out. The last new awards were made in 2014-15, and the final renewal awards were made in 2016-17. No funds are requested in future years for CNTF or CNAR.

**STRATEGY A.1.4.:** Administer forgivable loan programs for undergraduate teacher education, including the Teacher Education Scholars Forgivable Loan Program (TES) and the Alternate Route Teacher Education Scholars Forgivable Loan (TESA) program as an expansion of the existing TES program. Funding has not been appropriated for TESA and is not requested.

*Output:* Number of TES awards

*Efficiency:* Average student award through the TES program

**STRATEGY A.1.5.:** Administer forgivable loan programs for undergraduate teacher education, including the Mississippi Teaching Fellows Program, created in 2014 to recruit high quality teachers into teacher prep programs in our state's colleges and universities. Funding has not been appropriated for MTFP and is not requested.

**STRATEGY A.1.6.:** Administer forgivable loan programs for graduate teacher education, including the Graduate Teacher Forgivable Loan (GTS) and Counselor and School Administrator Forgivable Loan (CSA) Programs, which support classroom teachers and administrators who seek graduate level education to improve their skills and abilities, desperately needed in Mississippi's public schools.

*Output:* Number of GTS awards

*Output:* Amount of GTS awards

*Output:* Number of CSA awards

*Output:* Amount of CSA awards

*Efficiency:* Average student award through the GTS program

*Efficiency:* Average student award through the CSA program

*Explanatory Note:* Due to budget constraints, full funding hasn't been available for GTS or CSA for FY17 through FY20. Demand will be down following years without full funding.



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**STRATEGY A.1.7.:** Administer forgivable loan programs for graduate teacher education, including the Critical Needs Dyslexia Therapy Teacher Forgivable Loan (CNDT), which is available to Mississippi teachers who are seeking a Class AA Educator's License with a 203 Endorsement for Dyslexia Therapy.

*Output:* Number of CNDT awards

*Output:* Amount of CNDT awards

*Efficiency:* Average student award through the CNDT program

*Explanatory Note:* Due to budget constraints, full funding hasn't been available from FY17 through FY20. The funding request for future years anticipates full funding of two cohorts with 20 students per cohort.

**STRATEGY A.1.8.:** Administer forgivable loan programs for graduate teacher education, including the Southern Regional Education Board Doctoral Scholars Forgivable Loan Program (SDSP), which seeks to improve the success of minority students in Mississippi's postsecondary institutions. The program was created by the IHL Board, not the Legislature, thus funding is not required. After evaluating its effectiveness, the Office has discontinued the SDSP program.

**STRATEGY A.1.9.:** Administer a loan repayment program for teacher education, called the Mississippi Teacher Loan Repayment Program (MTLR), which provides funds to repay a portion of the undergraduate loans of eligible Mississippi teachers in exchange for their service or continued teaching service in Mississippi's public schools.

*Output:* Number of MTLR awards

*Output:* Amount of MTLR awards

*Efficiency:* Average student award through the MTLR program

*Explanatory Note:* Due to budget constraints, only renewal applicants were awarded during FY18 through FY20. The funding request for future years anticipates full funding.

**STRATEGY A.1.10.:** Administer forgivable loan programs for undergraduate nursing education, including the Nursing Education Forgivable Loan Programs – Bachelor's (NELB) and RN to BSN (NELR), which assist the state's efforts to recruit and retain nurses to fill the nursing shortage.

*Output:* Number of NELB awards

*Output:* Amount of NELB awards

*Output:* Number of NELR awards

*Output:* Amount of NELR awards

*Efficiency:* Average student award through the NELB program

*Efficiency:* Average student award through the NELR program

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*Explanatory Note:* Due to budget constraints, only renewal applicants were awarded during FY17 through FY20. Demand will be down following years without full funding.

**STRATEGY A.1.11.:** Administer forgivable loan programs for graduate nursing education, including the Nursing Education Forgivable Loan Programs – Masters (NELM), RN to MSN (NERM) and Ph.D./DNP (NELP), which assist the state’s efforts to recruit and retain nurses to fill the nursing shortage. Master’s and Ph.D. level nursing students will also have the education required to teach in nursing education programs, when current nurse educators leave the profession in mass, as anticipated over the coming years.

*Output:* Number of NELM awards

*Output:* Amount of NELM awards

*Output:* Number of NERM awards

*Output:* Amount of NERM awards

*Output:* Number of NELP awards

*Output:* Amount of NELP awards

*Efficiency:* Average student award through the NELM program

*Efficiency:* Average student award through the NERM program

*Efficiency:* Average student award through the NELP program

*Explanatory Note:* Due to budget constraints, only renewal applicants were awarded during FY17 through FY20. Demand will be down following years without full funding.

**STRATEGY A.1.12.:** Administer forgivable loan programs for graduate nursing education, including the Nursing Teacher Stipend Forgivable Loan Program (NTSP), which funds eligible Masters and Ph.D. level nursing students who commit to serve as nurse educators upon completion of their education.

*Output:* Number of NTSP awards

*Output:* Amount of NTSP awards

*Efficiency:* Average student award through the NTSP program

*Explanatory Note:* Due to budget constraints, full funding wasn’t available for NTSP during FY17 through FY20. Demand will be down following years without full funding.

**STRATEGY A.1.13.:** Administer forgivable loan programs for graduate health-related education, including the Speech-Language Pathologist Forgivable Loan Program (SLPL), which awards master’s degree students in Speech-Language Pathology, Communicative Disorders, or Communication Sciences and Disorders who plan to serve as licensed speech-language pathologists in a Mississippi public or charter school.

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*Output:* Number of SLPL awards

*Output:* Amount of SLPL awards

*Efficiency:* Average student award through the SLPL program

*Explanatory Note:* The Legislature sets aside \$70,000 to make awards. The specific appropriation is not expected to increase.

**STRATEGY A.1.14.:** Administer forgivable loan programs for graduate health-related education, including the Southern Regional Education Board Forgivable Loan Program (SREB), which awards Mississippi students in out-of-state optometry programs contracted through the SREB Regional Contract Program.

*Output:* Number of SREB awards

*Output:* Amount of SREB awards

*Efficiency:* Average student award through the SREB program

*Explanatory Note:* Mississippi currently contracts 9 seats per entering class, for a total of 36 contract seats each year. The cost of each contract seat increases annually. Therefore, the program cost is expected to increase annually.

**STRATEGY A.1.15.:** Administer forgivable loan programs for graduate health-related education, including the Graduate and Professional Degree Forgivable Loan Program (STSC), which places students in out-of-state programs in chiropractic, orthotic, prosthetic, or podiatric programs that are not offered in Mississippi. The 2017 Legislature stopped funding for new awards and renewal awards were anticipated through 2018-19. Funding is not requested for future years.

**STRATEGY A.1.16.:** Administer forgivable loan programs for graduate health-related education, including the State Medical Education Forgivable Loan (MED) and State Dental Education Forgivable Loan (DENT) Programs, which award family doctors and dentists who commit to practice in Mississippi after becoming licensed. The 2017 Legislature stopped funding for new awards and renewal awards were anticipated through 2018-19. Funding is not requested for future years.

**STRATEGY A.1.17.:** Administer forgivable loan programs for undergraduate and graduate health-related education, including the Health Care Professions Forgivable Loan Program (HCP), which provides funds to students who agree to work in speech, physical, or occupational therapy at the state's hospitals and medical facilities. The 2017 Legislature stopped funding for new awards, and renewal awards were anticipated through 2017-18. Funding is not requested for future years.

**STRATEGY A.1.18.:** Administer forgivable loan programs for graduate health-related education, including the Veterinary Medicine Minority Forgivable Loan Program (VMMP), which awards minorities who commit to practice veterinary medicine in Mississippi after becoming licensed. The program was created by the IHL Board, not the Legislature, thus funding is not required and is not requested for future years.

**STRATEGY A.1.19.:** Administer other forgivable loan programs for undergraduate and graduate education, including the Family Protection Specialist Social Worker Forgivable Loan Program (SWOR), which makes awards to Department of Human

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Services employees who commit to work as Family Protection Specialists for three years after becoming licensed social workers. The 2017 Legislature stopped funding for new awards, and there are currently no renewal applicants on the program. Funding is not requested for future years.

### **BUDGET PROGRAM 4: Other Programs**

**GOAL A: To improve college access and affordability for students with special circumstances and interests.**

**OBJECTIVE A.1.:** Make financial aid awards to students who qualify for one of the state's other programs.

*Outcome:* To manifest the belief that the continued growth and development of Mississippi requires improved levels of postsecondary educational attainment.

**STRATEGY A.1.1.:** Administer the state's other programs.

*Output:* Total number of students receiving financial aid through other programs

*Output:* Total amount of funds expended on the other programs

*Output:* Total number of programs

*Efficiency:* Average student award through the other state programs

**STRATEGY A.1.2.:** Administer other programs for graduate education, such as the Public Management Graduate Internship Program (PMGT), which provides internships in public management in the state. The 2017 Legislature stopped funding for new awards. Funding is not requested for future years.

**STRATEGY A.1.3.:** Administer other programs for undergraduate education, including the Law Enforcement Officers and Firemen Scholarship Program (LAW), which provides education to the dependents of deceased or disabled service men and women.

*Output:* Number of LAW awards

*Output:* Amount of LAW awards

*Efficiency:* Average student award through the LAW program

*Explanatory Note:* A slight increase in award cost is anticipated in future years as tuition costs increase.

**STRATEGY A.1.4.:** Administer other programs for undergraduate education, including the GEAR UP Scholarship Program (GUMS), which provides scholarships to Mississippi students who participated in the state GEAR UP program during the 7th through 12th grades. FY 2018 represented the fourth and final year of awards to the second cohort of GEAR UP students, but a few students who did not receive four years of funding may receive their final award in 2018-19. Awards were made from investment dollars set aside for this purpose, and funding isn't requested for future years.

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**STRATEGY A.1.5.:** Administer other programs for undergraduate education, including the Nissan Scholarship Program (NISS), which provides aid to students at public institutions who major in a field that will advance the automotive industry in Mississippi.

*Output:* Number of NISS awards

*Output:* Amount of NISS awards

*Efficiency:* Average student award through the NISS program

*Explanatory Note:* Awards are made from investment dollars set aside for this purpose. Costs are expected to remain around the same amount each year.

**Item 5:** On motion by Mr. Bush and second by Dr. Keenum, the Board voted unanimously to change the following administrative and program rules and regulations to accept ACT Superscores for the purpose of establishing eligibility for state aid: APA Part 605: General Administration Rules and Regulations; APA Part 611: Mississippi Resident Tuition Assistance Grant (MTAG) Rules and Regulations; APA Part 613: Mississippi Eminent Scholars Grant (MESG) Rules and Regulations; APA Part 615: Higher Education Legislative Plan for Needy Students Grant (HELP) Rules and Regulations; APA Part 635: Teacher Education Scholars Forgivable Loan (TES) Rules and Regulations; and APA Part 639: William Winter Teacher Forgivable Loan (WWTS) Rules and Regulations.

### 5. **Approval of Updates to Rules and Regulations to Accept ACT Superscores**

Summary:

In September 2020 ACT will begin reporting Superscores for test takers who have taken more than one administration of the ACT or have retaken subject sections of the ACT. The IHL Office of Strategic Research conducted an analysis of ACT score data from more than 150,000 students attending a Mississippi public or private high school who took the ACT between February 2012 and November 2019. Based on this information, the IHL Board changed the IHL Admission Policy from using ACT Composite scores to ACT Superscores. Other institutions are expected to follow suit.

The Postsecondary Board is asked to vote on whether or not to change the state aid program rules to accept ACT Superscores in lieu of ACT Composite scores from a single test date.

*What is ACT Superscoring?*

ACT Superscoring takes the highest ACT subject test score (English, reading, math, and science) across all administrations, and recalculates a composite score based on the highest subtest scores:

<b>Test Date</b>	<b>English</b>	<b>Math</b>	<b>Reading</b>	<b>Science</b>	<b>Composite</b>
February	17	18	19	21	19
April	19	19	20	22	20
June	19	18	22	22	20
<b>Superscore</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>21</b>

*Who benefits from ACT Superscoring?*

- Data shows that students who have the opportunity to take the ACT multiple times benefit the most from ACT superscoring.

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- Students who take the ACT twice generally experience a half-point (+0.45) increase in their superscored composite score.
- Students who take the ACT five times generally experience a one point (+0.97) increase in their superscored composite score.
- Of the students who take the ACT five times, White (62.9%) outnumber African-American (27.9%) students by a 2:1 ratio.

*How will ACT Superscoring impact state aid?*

SFA conducted additional analysis on the data analyzed by the Office of Strategic Research to determine how many of the students who met the ACT requirement using Superscoring also met the other eligibility requirements for MESH or HELP. To qualify for MESH, SFA looked for students with an ACT Superscore of 29, a high school GPA of 3.5, and enrollment in a Mississippi institution. To qualify for HELP, SFA looked for students with an ACT Superscore of 20, a 2.5 high school GPA, a Pell-eligible EFC, and enrollment in a Mississippi institution.

ACT Superscoring will result in about 350 additional high school graduates establishing eligibility for MESH each year. The average annual cost increase will be about \$770,000. ACT Superscoring will result in about 550 additional high school graduates establishing eligibility for HELP each year. The average annual cost increase will be \$3.4 million. On average, an additional 900 students will qualify for state aid each year, and the average annual cost to award these students will be an additional \$4.1 million.

Graduation Year	MESH-Eligible 29 ACT Superscore		HELP-Eligible 20 ACT Superscore	
	2017	291	\$ 647,766	524
2018	372	\$ 828,072	556	\$ 3,409,392
2019	374	\$ 832,524	566	\$ 3,470,712
<b>Average</b>	<b>346</b>	<b>\$ 769,454</b>	<b>549</b>	<b>\$ 3,364,424</b>

**A. APA Part 605: General Administration Rules and Regulations**

To accept ACT Superscores, APA Part 605: General Administration Rules and Regulations should be updated as follows:

**Title 10: Education Institutions and Agencies**

**Part 605: General Administration Rules and Regulations**

**Part 605 Chapter 1: General Administration Rules and Regulations**

*Rule 1.1 General Administration Rules and Regulations.*

**I. APPLICATION PROCESS**

- C. The following supporting documents may be requested to complete an application for state student financial aid. The documents are grouped according to the purpose for which they are requested.

3. Merit Documentation - The Office will collect documents to determine a student's academic or merit eligibility for state student financial aid.

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- f) Official ACT/SAT Score Report on National Test - Students may submit a copy of the official ACT/SAT Score Report. The Office will accept ACT/SAT Superscores as calculated on the score report. The Office will not manually calculate Superscores. Scores from residual tests will NOT be accepted.

### **II. DETERMINING ELIGIBILITY**

#### **D. Special Issues Related to Determining Eligibility**

8. ACT/SAT Scores - To be eligible for some state financial aid, recipients must document a certain minimum score on the ACT or SAT, as determined by the program for which the applicant is applying. Only scores on the national ACT (includes state-wide weekday testing) or national SAT will be accepted. ACT/SAT Superscores as calculated on an official ACT/SAT score report will be accepted. The Office will not manually calculate ACT/SAT Superscores. Scores on residual tests will not be accepted.

#### **B. APA Part 611: Mississippi Resident Tuition Assistance Grant (MTAG) Rules and Regulations**

To accept ACT Superscores, APA Part 611: Mississippi Resident Tuition Assistance Grant (MTAG) Rules and Regulations should be updated as follows:

##### **Title 10: Education Institutions and Agencies**

##### **Part 611: Mississippi Resident Tuition Assistance Grant (MTAG)**

##### **Part 611 Chapter 1: Mississippi Resident Tuition Assistance Grant (MTAG) Rules and Regulations**

*Rule 1.1 Mississippi Resident Tuition Assistance Grant (MTAG) Rules and Regulations.*

#### **I. GENERAL ELIGIBILITY**

- C. The applicant must meet one of the following sets of academic criteria:
1. Graduated from high school, as verified by the institution before disbursement of awards, with a minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale, as certified by the high school counselor or other authorized school official, and scored an ACT composite score of 15 or higher from a national test or tests. In lieu of ACT scores, students may submit equivalent SAT scores according to the official ACT/SAT concordance

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tables in publication at the time of the test in question; or

2. Attended a home education program during grade levels 9 through 12 and scored an ACT composite score of 15 or higher from a national test or tests. In lieu of ACT scores, students may submit equivalent SAT scores according to the official ACT/SAT concordance tables in publication at the time of the test in question; or
3. Successfully completed the International Baccalaureate Program, with a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale, based on that school's grading system, and scored an ACT composite score of 15 or higher from a national test or tests. In lieu of ACT scores, students may submit equivalent SAT scores according to the official ACT/SAT concordance tables in publication at the time of the test in question; or
4. Satisfactorily completed a high school equivalency diploma and scored an ACT composite score of 15 or higher from a national test or tests. In lieu of ACT scores, students may submit equivalent SAT scores according to the official ACT/SAT concordance tables in publication at the time of the test in question; or

## II. APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

A. First-time applicants must:

3. If the applicant is considered to be a first-time college student (completed fewer than twelve (12) credit hours), submit by the document deadline of October 15:
  - a) Proof of graduation from high school with a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale certified by the high school counselor or other authorized school official and proof of an ACT composite score of 15 or higher from a national test or tests taken prior to being enrolled as a first-time college student. In lieu of ACT scores, students may submit equivalent SAT scores according to the official ACT/SAT concordance tables in publication at the time of the test in question; or
  - b) Proof of attendance at a home education program during grade levels 9 through 12 and proof of an ACT composite score of 15 or higher from a national test or tests taken prior to being enrolled as a first-time college



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student. In lieu of ACT scores, students may submit equivalent SAT scores according to the official ACT/SAT concordance tables in publication at the time of the test in question; or

- c) Proof of successful completion of the International Baccalaureate Program, with a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale, based on that school's grading system and proof of an ACT composite score of 15 or higher from a national test *or tests* taken prior to being enrolled as a first-time college student. In lieu of ACT scores, students may submit equivalent SAT scores according to the official ACT/SAT concordance tables in publication at the time of the test in question; or
- d) Proof of satisfactory completion of a high school equivalency diploma and proof of an ACT composite score of 15 or higher from a national test *or tests* taken prior to being enrolled as a first-time college student. In lieu of ACT scores, students may submit equivalent SAT scores according to the official ACT/SAT concordance tables in publication at the time of the test in question.

### **C. APA Part 613: Mississippi Eminent Scholars Grant (MESG) Rules and Regulations**

To accept ACT Superscores, APA Part 613: Mississippi Eminent Scholars Grant (MESG) Rules and Regulations should be updated as follows:

#### **Title 10: Education Institutions and Agencies**

#### **Part 613: Mississippi Eminent Scholars Grant (MESG)**

#### **Part 613 Chapter 1: Mississippi Eminent Scholars Grant (MESG) Rules and Regulations**

#### *Rule 1.1 Mississippi Eminent Scholars Grant (MESG) Rules and Regulations.*

#### **I. GENERAL ELIGIBILITY**

- C. The applicant must meet one of the following sets of academic criteria:
  - 1. Graduated from high school or earned the equivalent in high school subjects acceptable for credit toward a diploma, as verified by the institution before disbursement of awards, with a minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.5 on a 4.0 scale based on the high school's grading system and

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certified by the high school counselor or other authorized school official, and scored an ACT composite score of 29 or higher from a national test or tests taken prior to being enrolled as a first-time college student. In lieu of ACT scores, students may submit equivalent SAT scores according to the official ACT/SAT concordance tables in publication at the time of the test in question; or

2. Attended a home education program during grade levels 9 through 12 and scored an ACT composite score of 29 or higher from a national test or tests taken prior to being enrolled as a first-time college student. In lieu of ACT scores, students may submit equivalent SAT scores according to the official ACT/SAT concordance tables in publication at the time of the test in question; or

## II. APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

A. First-time applicants must:

3. Submit by the document deadline of October 15:
  - a) Proof of graduation from high school or proof of earning the equivalent in high school subjects acceptable for credit toward a diploma, as verified by the institution before disbursement of awards, with a minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.5 on a 4.0 scale based on the high school's grading system and certified by the high school counselor or other authorized school official, and proof of an ACT composite score of 29 or higher from a national test or tests. In lieu of ACT scores, students may submit equivalent SAT scores according to the official ACT/SAT concordance tables in publication at the time of the test in question; or
  - b) Proof of attendance at a home education program during grade levels 9 through 12 and proof of an ACT composite score of 29 or higher from a national test or tests. In lieu of ACT scores, students may submit equivalent SAT scores according to the official ACT/SAT concordance tables in publication at the time of the test in question; or
  - c) Proof of graduation from high school or proof of earning the equivalent in high school subjects acceptable for credit toward a diploma, as verified by the institution before disbursement of awards, with a

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minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.5 on a 4.0 scale based on the high school's grading system and certified by the high school counselor or other authorized school official, and proof of recognition as a semifinalist or finalist by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation or the National Achievement Scholarship Program.

- d) Proof of a minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.5 on a 4.0 scale on at least 12, but no more than 36, hours of postsecondary education credit, as certified by the attending institution and proof of an ACT composite score of 29 or higher from a national test *or tests* taken before the student became a first-time college student. In lieu of ACT scores, students may submit equivalent SAT scores according to the official ACT/SAT concordance tables in publication at the time of the test in question, or proof of recognition as a semifinalist or finalist by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation or the National Achievement Scholarship Program will be accepted in lieu of the ACT.

### **D. APA Part 615: Higher Education Legislative Plan for Needy Students Grant (HELP) Rules and Regulations**

To accept ACT Superscores, APA Part 615: Higher Education Legislative Plan for Needy Students Grant (HELP) Rules and Regulations should be updated as follows:

#### **Title 10: Education Institutions and Agencies**

#### **Part 615: Higher Education Legislative Plan for Needy Students Grant (HELP) Rules and Regulations**

#### **Part 615 Chapter 1: Higher Education Legislative Plan for Needy Students Grant (HELP) Rules and Regulations**

*Rule 1.1 Higher Education Legislative Plan for Needy Students Grant (HELP) Rules and Regulations.*

### **I. GENERAL ELIGIBILITY**

- F. The applicant must meet the following academic requirements:
3. The applicant must have a composite score on the American College Test (ACT) of at least twenty (20) from a national test *or tests*. In lieu of ACT scores, students may submit equivalent SAT scores according to the official ACT/SAT concordance

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tables in publication at the time of the test in question.

### II. APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- A. First-time applicants must:
  - 2. Submit by the document deadline of April 30:
    - c) Proof of completion of the American College Test (ACT). The applicant must earn a composite score of at least twenty (20) on the ACT from a national test *or tests* taken prior to being enrolled as a first-time college student. In lieu of ACT scores, students may submit equivalent SAT scores according to the official ACT/SAT concordance tables in publication at the time of the test in question.

### E. **APA Part 635: Teacher Education Scholars Forgivable Loan (TES) Rules and Regulations**

To accept ACT Superscores, APA Part 635: Teacher Education Scholars Forgivable Loan (TES) Rules and Regulations should be updated as follows:

#### **Title 10: Education Institutions and Agencies**

#### **Part 635: Teacher Education Scholars Forgivable Loan Program (TES) Rules and Regulations**

#### **Part 635 Chapter 1: Teacher Education Scholars Forgivable Loan Program (TES) Rules and Regulations**

*Rule 1.1 Teacher Education Scholars Forgivable Loan Program (TES) Rules and Regulations.*

### I. GENERAL ELIGIBILITY

- D. The applicant must have earned an ACT composite score of 28 or higher from a national test *or tests* taken prior to enrollment into the education program. In lieu of ACT scores, students may submit equivalent SAT scores according to the official ACT/SAT concordance tables in publication at the time of the test in question from a national test taken prior to enrollment into the education program.

### II. APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR FORGIVABLE LOAN APPLICANT

- A. First time applicants must:
  - 2. Supply proof of an ACT composite score of 28 or higher from a national test *or tests*. In lieu of ACT

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scores, students may submit equivalent SAT scores according to the official ACT/SAT concordance tables in publication at the time of the test in question. ACT or SAT scores must come from a test taken prior to enrollment into the education program. ACT or SAT scores must be received by the document deadline of April 30. The document deadline date will be suspended for applications for awards during the program's inaugural year, the 2013-2014 academic year.

### **F. APA Part 639: William Winter Teacher Forgivable Loan (WWTS) Rules and Regulations**

To accept ACT Superscores, APA Part 639: William Winter Teacher Forgivable Loan (WWTS) Rules and Regulations should be updated as follows:

#### **Title 10: Education Institutions and Agencies**

#### **Part 639: William Winter Teacher Forgivable Loan Program (WWTS) Rules and Regulations**

#### **Part 639 Chapter 1: William Winter Teacher Forgivable Loan Program (WWTS) Rules and Regulations**

*Rule 1.1 William Winter Teacher Forgivable Loan Program (WWTS) Rules and Regulations.*

### **I. GENERAL ELIGIBILITY**

- D. The applicant must have earned passing scores on all three of the Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators (Core) Tests (reading, writing, and mathematics), or must supply proof of exemption for Praxis testing by providing an ACT composite score of 21 or higher from a national test **or tests**. In lieu of ACT scores, students may submit equivalent SAT scores according to the official ACT/SAT concordance tables in publication at the time of the test in question. ACT or SAT scores must come from a test taken prior to enrollment into higher education.

### **II. APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR FORGIVABLE LOAN APPLICANT**

- A. First time applicants must:
3. Earn passing scores on all three of the Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators (Core) Tests (reading, writing, and mathematics) and submit all three test scores to the Board as soon as possible. Scores must be received by June 30. Passing scores are indicated on the score report provided to the student by the testing service. Passing scores are also published online at [www.mississippi.edu/financialaid](http://www.mississippi.edu/financialaid). Applicants may supply proof of exemption for Praxis

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testing by providing an ACT composite score of 21 or higher from a national test or tests. In lieu of ACT scores, students may submit equivalent SAT scores according to the official ACT/SAT concordance tables in publication at the time of the test in question. ACT or SAT scores must come from a test taken prior to enrollment into higher education. If submitted in lieu of Praxis scores, ACT or SAT scores must be received by the document deadline of April 30.

**Item 6:** Ms. Rogers presented several updates to the Board. No action was required of the Board.

Postsecondary Board Appointments: Dr. Ben Burnett has been reappointed by the Mississippi Association of Independent Colleges and Universities to serve another four-year term that begins today. Louanne Langston has also been reappointed by the Mississippi Community College Board to serve another four-year term that begins today. Governor Reeves has not yet informed us of a decision regarding the Governor's appointment currently held by Dr. Jim Turcotte. Lt. Governor Hosemann likewise has not informed us of a decision regarding the Lt. Governor's appointment recently vacated by Mr. Mack Grubbs. Dr. Turcotte can continue to serve until he is either reappointed or another appointment is made.

HB 274: HB 274 was one of two companion bills introduced this session to align the HELP Core Curriculum with the required IHL College Prep Curriculum. The required IHL College Prep Curriculum is changing for freshmen entering college in 2022, who will be this next year's graduating high school seniors, and the new requirements were not compatible with the HELP requirements previously stated in the code. The requirements now align and will not need to be changed again in the future.

HB 1793: HB1793 is an act to establish a grant fund using money from the federal CARES Act to assist institutions of higher education with costs associated with COVID-19. The House version of the bill placed the administration of the \$88 million under the Postsecondary Board, but a subsequent Senate committee substitute bill has moved administration to the Department of Finance and Administration.

Strategic Planning Meetings: The Board will resume its strategic planning meetings in the next month or so. Ms. Rogers will discuss dates with Dr. Turcotte and reach out to the Board for availability.

Press Release: A Press Release will be published about the Board's decision to accept ACT Superscores.

Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 24 at 10:00 a.m., during which the Board will discuss legislative requests for 2021. The meeting may be postponed if the Board needs additional time to conduct strategic planning.

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### ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS IF NECESSARY

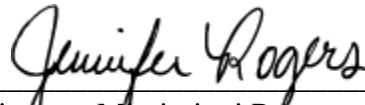
The Board did not consider any additional agenda items.

### EXECUTIVE SESSION IF DETERMINED NECESSARY

The Board did not consider the need to enter Executive Session.

### ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, Dr. Turcotte declared the meeting adjourned.



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Director, Mississippi Postsecondary Education Financial  
Assistance Board