State Aid Advisory Committee
Final Recommendations

Financial Aid Advisory Committee Members:

**Community Colleges:**
- Terry Bland, Itawamba CC
- Garry Jones, East Mississippi CC

**Regional Universities:**
- Nicole Patrick, Mississippi University for Women
- Letherio Zeigler, Mississippi Valley State University

**Research Universities**
- David Williamson, University of Southern Mississippi
- Laura Diven-Brown, University of Mississippi
- Paul McKinney, Mississippi State University

**Private Universities**
- Isabelle Higbee, Millsaps College
Committee’s Charge

- Analyze the possibility of a simplified single grant program
- Eliminate the eligibility cliffs (HELP & MESG)
- Develop a balanced program that supports needy and/or high achieving students
- Staying within the $48 million current appropriations budget
- Have a positive impact on as many students as possible
- Provide an index that will help ensure the continued purchasing power for the grant system
Items Considered While Developing the Final Grant

- The impact on minority students
- Student purchasing power using state aid
- Challenges to a new grant system now based on external changes
- Student needs based on two and four year college enrollment
- Stay within the budget
Evolution of the Final Grant

• Advisory committee received data from the state aid office and started the review/development of a single grant program

• First view of single grant program presented to the Board in April 2021

• Continued to refine the new grant program based on recommendations from the Board with additional committee meetings

• Incorporated Jennifer Rogers into the discussion and received additional analysis/data/suggestions from the state aid office
Eligibility Requirements

• Minimum high school GPA of 2.5
• Minimum American College Test (ACT) composite score of 18
• Completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
• Mississippi resident
• Be enrolled at least 12 hours per term
Final Grant Components to Determine Eligibility

- **Financial Need Component**: Expected Family Contribution (EFC) as determined by completing the FAFSA

- **Academic Based Component**: ACT score
### Four-Year Institutions

#### EXPECTED FAMILY CONTRIBUTION (EFC)

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<th>Award Amount</th>
<th>EFC= 0</th>
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**EFC Award + ACT Award = Total Annual State Aid Award**
The Mississippi One Grant

EFC Award + ACT Award = Total Annual State Aid Award

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<tr>
<th>Two-Year Institutions</th>
<th>Expected Family Contribution (EFC)</th>
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The Mississippi One Grant is designed to provide financial assistance to Mississippi residents attending state approved public and private not-for-profit two-year and four-year institutions in Mississippi. Eligibility is based on the student’s FAFSA. Students may receive additional funds based on ACT composite score.

**EFC Award + ACT Award = Total Annual State Aid Award**

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### Initial Student Eligibility

- Minimum high school GPA of 2.5
- Minimum ACT composite score of 18
- Completion of FAFSA
- Mississippi resident
Legacy vs. Mississipi One Grant

Current Legacy Grant System

• Three separate major grant programs
• Zero EFC students who were only eligible for MTAG received no aid
• Award amounts are the same for two and four year college enrollment
• FAFSA not required for MTAG or MESG

The Mississippi One Grant

• A single grant program
• Zero EFC students would receive an award
• Award amounts are tiered based on enrollment in either two or four year colleges
• FAFSA would be required
Legacy vs. Mississippi One Grant

**Current Legacy Grant System**
- Uses family income/household size to determine HELP eligibility
- No automatic annual increase in appropriations
- Students with an ACT score between 15-17 would be eligible for MTAG

**The Mississippi One Grant**
- Uses the FAFSA EFC index to determine eligibility
- Built in annual increases to help maintain purchasing power
- Students with an ACT between 15-17 would no longer be eligible for state aid
The Transition to the Mississippi One Grant

- Current Legacy students would keep their same awards and must maintain their eligibility requirements
Analysis of the New Grant on The 2019-20 Population

• Increased the total eligible population for the new grant by 4,442 for a total of 30,698 students paid

• Increased the total number of eligible African-Americans by 1,791

• There were 3,134 students with no ACT or a score between 15-17 that would not get state aid. Many of them (1,535) had an EFC out of Pell Grant eligibility range and only 8 students received the full Pell Grant

• Current MTAG system does not award full Pell Grant students any state aid. Those students would now get at least $2,500 (4-Year College) or $1,000 (2-year College)
Analysis of the New Grant on The 2019-20 Population

- HELP eligible students would see the largest negative impact on their award when compared to the current grant system.

- The average Mississippi One Grant award would be:
  - African American: $1,849, $689 less than the current system
  - Caucasian: $1,336, $83 less than the current system
  - Other: $1,605, $553 less than the current system
  - Average For All: $1,477, $228 less than the current system

- Fund distribution between two and four year colleges would remain relatively static using the new grant system.
Annual Index

• Recommend an automatic increase each year based on the inflationary rate for the State of Mississippi as determined by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

• Other options would be to use the figures in above bullet as base line and add additional point(s) to insure the continued purchasing power of state aid
Questions?