

MISSISSIPPI POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE BOARD



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

June 23, 2022, 1:00 p.m.

Teleconference: 1-888-822-7517, Access code: 2791682#
Zoom: <https://itsmsgov.zoom.us/j/89339251674>

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BE IT REMEMBERED, that the Mississippi Postsecondary Education Financial Assistance Board held a regular meeting on Thursday, June 23, 2022 at 1:00 p.m. Members of the Board participated in the meeting in person and 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 in person:

- Barney Daly, Lt. Governor's appointee
- Sharon Ross, Governor's appointee
- Jim Turcotte, Governor's appointee and Chairman

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

- Ben Burnett, MAICU appointee
- Mark Keenum, IHL institutional appointee

The following member(s) did not participate:

- Debbi Braswell, MAICU appointee
- Steven Cunningham, IHL Board appointee
- Tyrone Jackson, MCCB institutional appointee
- Diane Watson, MCCB appointee

The following members of the Board's Advisory Committee participated remotely:

- Laura Diven-Brown, Advisory Committee of Aid Directors, University of Mississippi
- Letherio Ziegler, Advisory Committee of Aid Directors, MS Valley State University

Also in attendance either in person or remotely were:

- Jennifer Rogers, Director of Student Financial Aid and Postsecondary Board Director

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- Apryll Washington, Assistant Director of Policy and Planning, Student Financial Aid
- Frances West, Office and Program Assistant, Student Financial Aid
- Kim Gallaspy, Assistant Commissioner for Government Relations, IHL
- Cindy Goodin, Mississippi Community College Board
- Ann Hendrick, Director, Get2College, Woodward-Hines Education Foundation
- Casey Prestwood, Associate Commissioner for Academic and Student Affairs, IHL

The meeting was called to order at 1:03 p.m. by Chairman Turcotte.

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On motion by Barney Daly and seconded by Sharon Ross, all Board Members legally present and participating voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the board meeting held on April 18, 2022, as originally drafted.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

Item 1: Jennifer Rogers presented the FY 2024 Budget Request and Narrative for approval. On motion by Ben Burnett, seconded by Mark Keenum, all Board Members legally present and participating voted unanimously to approve the FY 2024 Budget Request.

1. Approve the FY 2024 Budget Request

The Mississippi Office of Student Financial Aid requests approval of the FY 2024 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 1 – FY 2024 Budget Request (Page 10)

Exhibit 2 – FY 2024 Budget Narrative (Page 12)

Recommendation: Board staff recommends approval of this item.

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Exhibit 1

MBR - FY 2024 Expenditures	FY22 Awards	FY22 Amount	FY23 SFA Awards	FY23 SFA Amount	FY23 AOB Amount	FY24 MBR Awards	FY24 MBR Amount	Awards +/- FY23 SFA	Amount +/- FY23 SFA	Change	Awards +/- FY23 AOB	Change
1-Administration												
Salaries, Wages and Fringes		\$ 710,000		\$ 791,606	\$ 791,606		\$ 815,354		\$ 23,748		\$ 23,748	
Travel		\$ 900		\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000		\$ 8,000		\$ -		\$ -	
Contractual Service		\$ 419,200		\$ 536,040	\$ 536,040		\$ 536,040		\$ -		\$ -	
Commodities		\$ 1,500		\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000		\$ 10,000		\$ -		\$ -	
Equipment		\$ 4,000		\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000		\$ 10,000		\$ -		\$ -	
Total Administration		\$ 1,135,600		\$ 1,355,646	\$ 1,355,646		\$ 1,379,394		\$ 23,748	1.8%	\$ 23,748	1.8%
2-MTAG/MESG and HELP												
MTAG	16,981	\$ 9,420,360	17,562	\$ 10,098,150	\$ 10,098,150	18,089	\$ 10,401,095	527	\$ 302,945		\$ 302,945	
MESG	3,478	\$ 7,862,511	3,782	\$ 8,604,050	\$ 8,604,050	3,882	\$ 8,792,730	100	\$ 188,680		\$ 188,680	
HELP	4,294	\$ 27,980,558	4,496	\$ 30,358,521	\$ 32,498,521	4,596	\$ 31,964,768	100	\$ 1,606,247		\$ (533,753)	
Total MTAG/MESG/HELP	24,753	\$ 45,263,429	25,840	\$ 49,060,721	\$ 51,200,721	26,567	\$ 51,158,592	727	\$ 2,097,871	4.3%	\$ (42,129)	-0.1%
3 - Forgivable Loan and Repayment Programs												
Teacher Programs:												
CNDT (Graduate)	0	\$ -	10	\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000	3	\$ 18,000	-7	\$ (42,000)		\$ (42,000)	
Nursing Programs:												
NELB	0	\$ -	240	\$ 960,000	\$ 960,000	60	\$ 240,000	-180	\$ (720,000)		\$ (720,000)	
NELM (Graduate)	0	\$ -	44	\$ 176,000	\$ 176,000	12	\$ 48,000	-32	\$ (128,000)		\$ (128,000)	
NELP (Graduate)	0	\$ -	16	\$ 80,000	\$ 80,000	4	\$ 20,000	-12	\$ (60,000)		\$ (60,000)	
NELR	0	\$ -	80	\$ 320,000	\$ 320,000	20	\$ 80,000	-60	\$ (240,000)		\$ (240,000)	
NERM (Graduate)	0	\$ -	16	\$ 64,000	\$ 64,000	4	\$ 16,000	-12	\$ (48,000)		\$ (48,000)	
NTSP (Graduate)	0	\$ -	16	\$ 160,000	\$ 160,000	4	\$ 40,000	-12	\$ (120,000)		\$ (120,000)	
Health/Science Programs:												
SLPL (Graduate)	0	\$ -	5	\$ 70,000	\$ 70,000	3	\$ 35,000	-2	\$ (35,000)		\$ (35,000)	
SREB (Graduate)	33	\$ 633,600	34	\$ 652,800	\$ 652,800	25	\$ 480,000	-9	\$ (172,800)		\$ (172,800)	
Total Loan/Repay Programs	33	\$ 633,600	461	\$ 2,542,800	\$ 2,542,800	135	\$ 977,000	-326	\$ (1,565,800)	-61.6%	\$ (1,565,800)	-61.6%
4 - Other												
GEER Summer Grant	4,500	\$ 3,500,000.00	3,000	\$ 3,500,000	\$ 3,500,000	0	\$ -	-3,000	\$ (3,500,000)		\$ (3,500,000)	
FAITH Scholarship	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	\$ -	200	\$ 2,000,000	200	\$ 2,000,000		\$ 2,000,000	
NEW Nursing Loan Repay	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	\$ -	350	\$ 2,000,000	350	\$ 2,000,000		\$ 2,000,000	
Winter-Reed Loan Repay	150	\$ 450,000	300	\$ 1,350,000	\$ 1,350,000	450	\$ 2,250,000	150	\$ 900,000		\$ 900,000	
LAW	8	\$ 93,256	15	\$ 172,500	\$ 172,500	15	\$ 176,250	0	\$ 3,750		\$ 3,750	
Nissan	2	\$ 19,440	1	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	2	\$ 20,000	1	\$ 10,000		\$ 10,000	
Total Other	4,660	\$ 4,062,696	3,316	\$ 5,032,500	\$ 5,032,500	1,017	\$ 6,446,250	-2,299	\$ 1,413,750	28.1%	\$ 1,413,750	28.1%
TOTAL Loans, Schols, Grants	29,446	\$ 49,959,725	29,617	\$ 56,636,021	\$ 58,776,021	27,719	\$ 58,581,842	-1,898	\$ 1,945,821	3.4%	\$ (194,179)	-0.3%
TOTAL	29,446	\$ 51,095,325	29,617	\$ 57,991,667	\$ 60,131,667	27,719	\$ 59,961,237	(1,898)	\$ 1,969,569	3.4%	\$ (170,431)	-0.3%

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Exhibit 1

MBR - FY 2024 Funding Sources	FY22 Amount	FY23 SFA Amount	FY 23 AOB Amount	FY24 MBR Amount	Amount +/- FY23 SFA	Change	Amount +/- FY23 AOB	Change
General Funds	\$ 47,107,957	\$ 50,631,667	\$ 50,631,667	\$ 51,971,237	\$ 1,339,570		\$ 1,339,570	
Total General Funds-Sect. 1	\$ 47,107,957	\$ 50,631,667	\$ 50,631,667	\$ 51,971,237	\$ 1,339,570	2.6%	\$ 1,339,570	2.6%
EEF Funds								
FAITH Funds (new approp)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,000,000		\$ -	
W-R Funds (new approp)	\$ 2,000,000	\$ -	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000		\$ (1,950,000)	
Total EEF Funds	\$ 2,000,000	\$ -	\$ 3,000,000	\$ 1,050,000	\$ 1,050,000	-	\$ (1,950,000)	-65.0%
ARPA Funds								
NEW Nurs Ln Repay Funds	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 2,000,000		\$ 2,000,000	
Total ARPA Funds	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 2,000,000	-	\$ 2,000,000	
Special Funds								
Investments - NISS	\$ 19,440	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 10,000		\$ 10,000	
Collections	\$ 1,277,086	\$ 2,500,000	\$ 2,990,000	\$ 1,700,000	\$ (800,000)		\$ (1,290,000)	
LAW funds	\$ 39,474	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000		\$ 20,000	
GEER funds (Gov)	\$ -	\$ 3,500,000	\$ 3,500,000	\$ -	\$ (3,500,000)		\$ (3,500,000)	
Lapsed FAITH	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,000,000		\$ 1,000,000	
Lapsed W-R	\$ -	\$ 1,350,000	\$ -	\$ 2,200,000	\$ 850,000		\$ 2,200,000	
Total Special Funds	\$ 1,336,000	\$ 7,360,000	\$ 6,500,000	\$ 4,940,000	\$ (2,420,000)	-32.9%	\$ (1,560,000)	-24.0%
Total Spend. Authority-Sect. 2	\$ 3,336,000	\$ 7,360,000	\$ 9,500,000	\$ 7,990,000	\$ 630,000	8.6%	\$ (1,510,000)	-15.9%
ORIGINAL SFA BUDGET	\$ 50,443,957	\$ 57,991,667	\$ 60,131,667	\$ 59,961,237	\$ 1,969,570	3.4%	\$ (170,430)	-0.3%
Deficit General Funds	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	
Def. Spend Auth - GEER Funds	\$ 3,500,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	
FINAL SFA BUDGET	\$ 53,943,957	\$ 57,991,667	\$ 60,131,667	\$ 59,961,237	\$ 1,969,570	3.4%	\$ (170,430)	-0.3%

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Exhibit 2

NARRATIVE FY 2024 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 direct information through high school counselors, counselor association meetings, and counselor training events. College access partners in turn provide direct information to students. 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 state-supported financial assistance.

FY 2024 Appropriation Request

On behalf of the students and the state of Mississippi, SFA requests **\$59,961,237 for FY24**, which represents a **decrease of \$170,430 or 0.3%** over the original FY23 appropriated dollars. The FY24 request includes a request for **\$51,971,237 in General Funds**, which represents an **increase of \$1,339,570 or 2.6%** over the original FY23 appropriation, and a request for **\$7,990,000 in Special Funds**, which represents a **decrease of \$1,510,000 or 15.9%** from the original FY23 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 (FY23 Estimated and FY24 Increase/Decrease for continuations) of MBR-1-03 and designated Budget Unit Decisions columns of MBR-1-03-A:
(D) Additional Needs – **\$23,748**: Funds are requested to provide cost of living salary increases for all employees.

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

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- 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 (FY23 Estimated and FY24 Increase/Decrease for continuations) of MBR-1-03 and designated Budget Unit Decisions columns of MBR-1-03-A:
(D) Additional Needs – (**\$42,129**): MTAG has stagnated for several years, but applications are up for the current year. Growth of about 3% is anticipated. A modest increase of about 100 students each is anticipated in the MESH and HELP Grant programs. The income threshold for HELP eligibility has been frozen at \$39,500 since the FY17 SFA appropriation bills. This budget anticipates that the freeze will continue in future years. The HELP Grant program budget also anticipates tuition increases of 3%. The **MTAG request is \$10,401,095**, which represents an **increase of \$302,945** over FY23 projections. The **MESH request is \$8,792,730**, which represents an **increase of \$188,680** over FY23 projections. The **HELP request is \$31,964,768**, which represents a **decrease of \$533,753** over the FY23 AOB, but an increase of \$1,606,247 over actual FY23 award projections. The FY23 AOB included \$2.14 million in Special Funds the Office does not anticipate having access to. Those funds were budgeted to the HELP Grant, even though the expected FY23 HELP expenditures are \$2.14 million less.

3-FORGIVABLE LOAN AND REPAYMENT PROGRAMS

- I. Program Description: For future teachers, SFA operates the legislatively created Critical Needs Dyslexia Therapy Teacher Forgivable Loan Program (CNDT). For future nurses, SFA operates the following nursing loan programs: Nursing Education Forgivable Loan Programs for baccalaureate, masters, and Ph.D. study (NELB, NELM, NELP, NELR, and NERM) 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).
- II. Program Objective: Student Financial aid programs have been developed:
- To meet demonstrated critical shortages in the fields of medicine, nursing, nursing education, physical and natural sciences, and teacher education;
 - To attract, educate, and retain qualified teachers and medical personnel to serve the people of Mississippi;
 - 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
 - To manifest the belief that the continued growth and development of Mississippi requires improved levels of postsecondary educational attainment; and
 - To meet the needs of specific student groups.
- III. Current program activities as supported by the funding in Columns 5-12 (FY23 Estimated and FY24 Increase/Decrease for continuations) of MBR-1-03 and designated Budget Unit Decisions columns of MBR-1-03-A:
(D) Additional Needs – (**\$1,565,800**): A decrease in expenditures for the Forgivable Loan 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, and transition the remaining forgivable loan programs to loan repayment 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. Funds were

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available for the first time since FY16 to fund the forgivable loans, so only renewal funds are requested for FY24. The Postsecondary Board is also requesting the Legislature phase out funding for the SREB Regional Contract program.

TEACHER PROGRAM:

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. The FY23 budget included \$60,000 in funding for 10 students. The **CNDT request for FY24 is \$18,000 for 3 renewal students, which represents a decrease of \$42,000 from FY23.**

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 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. The FY23 budget included \$1.6 million in funding for 396 students. The **NELB request for FY24 is \$240,000 for 60 renewal students, which represents a decrease of \$720,000 from FY23.** The **NELM request for FY24 is \$48,000 for 12 renewal students, which represents a decrease of \$128,000 from FY23.** The **NELP request for FY24 is \$20,000 for 4 renewal students, which represents a decrease of \$60,000 from FY23.** The **NELR request for FY24 is \$80,000 for 20 renewal students, which represents a decrease of \$240,000 from FY23.** The **NERM request for FY24 is \$16,000 for 4 renewal students, which represents a decrease of \$48,000 from FY23.**

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 FY23 budget included \$160,000 in funding for 16 students. The **NTSP request for FY24 is \$40,000 for 4 renewal students, which represents a decrease of \$120,000 from FY23.**

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 FY23 budget included \$70,000 in funding for 5 students. The **SLPL request for FY24 is \$35,000 for 3 renewal students, which represents a decrease of \$35,000 from FY23.**

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, requests the Legislature phase out the SREB program in order to target all available funds for the undergraduate grant programs and loan repayment programs. To phase out the program, SFA would award renewal students only. The **SREB request is \$480,000 for 25 seats, which represents a decrease of \$172,800 from FY23.**

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Exhibit 2

4. OTHER

- I. Program Description: SFA operated the GEER Summer Grant during the summer of 2022 and received spending authority in both FY22 and FY23. SFA will operate the FAITH Scholarship beginning in FY24, which will be funded separately through EEF funds deposited in the FAITH Scholarship Trust. SFA will be requesting the creation of a new Nursing Loan Repayment Program to begin in FY24 to use ARPA funds for the first three years. SFA operates the William F. Winter and Jack Reed, Sr. Teacher Loan Repayment Program (WRTR), which is funded separately through EEF funds deposited in the Winter-Reed Trust. SFA operates the Law Enforcement Officers and Firemen Scholarship Program (LAW), which is funded by the Mississippi Legislature and partially through a special fund, and the Nissan Scholarship, which is funded through the Nissan Trust.
- 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 (FY23 Estimated and FY24 Increase/Decrease for continuations) of MBR-1-03 and designated Budget Unit Decisions columns of MBR-1-03-A: (D) Additional Needs – **\$1,413,750**: 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.

The Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Summer Grant Program was awarded during the summer of 2022, using a grant received from the Governor's office. The office received spending authority in both the FY22 budget as a deficit and in the FY23 budget. **No funds are expected or requested for FY24**, which represents no change from the original FY23 budget, but a **decrease of \$3,500,000 from the final FY23 budget**.

The Representative Bill Kinkade Fostering Access and Inspiring True Hope (FAITH) Scholarship was created during the 2022 Legislative Session to make full awards to students who have interacted with the state's foster care system. SFA will begin to make awards in FY24. The **FAITH FY24 request is a total \$2,000,000**, which represents a **\$2,000,000 increase over the FY23 budget**. For the total requested, \$1,000,000 is requested in new EEF funds and \$1,000,000 is requested in spending authority for the lapsed FAITH funds appropriated in FY23.

In FY23, IHL received an appropriation of \$6,000,000 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for a newly created Nursing Incentive Loan Program. The expectation was that SFA would administer the program, but SFA was not able to write program rules, create an application process, accept applications, enter into contracts, and otherwise implement a new loan program in a matter of months. In addition, the new program largely duplicates the existing nursing forgivable loans. The Postsecondary Board requests the Nursing Incentive Loan program be converted into a loan repayment program and \$2,000,000 in ARPA funds be appropriated to SFA (not IHL) for three consecutive fiscal years. The **Nursing Incentive Loan Repayment request for FY24 is \$2,000,000**, which represents an **increase of \$2,000,000 over FY23**. The funds are requested from ARPA funding.

The William F. Winter – Jack Reed, Sr. Teacher Loan Repayment Program (WRTR) helps new teachers repay their undergraduate student loans. The **FY24 WRTR request is \$2,250,000**, which represents an **increase of \$900,000 from the amount budgeted in FY23**.

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Exhibit 2

Additional funding was appropriated for WRTR in both FY22 and FY23 than was needed for the first two years. For the total requested, \$50,000 is requested in new EEF funds and \$2,200,000 is requested in spending authority for the lapsed WRTR funds appropriated in FY22 and FY23.

The Law Enforcement Officers and Firemen Scholarship Program (LAW) provides education to the dependents of deceased or disabled service men and women. The **FY24 LAW request is \$176,250**, which represents an **increase of \$3,750 over FY23**.

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 \$20,000**, which represents an **increase of \$10,000 over FY23**.

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Exhibit 2

Item 2: Jennifer Rogers presented the FY 2024-28 Five-Year Strategic Plan. On motion by Barney Daly, seconded by Sharon Ross, all Board Members legally present and participating voted unanimously to approve the FY 2024-28 Five-Year Strategic Plan.

2. Approve the FY 2024-28 Five-Year Strategic Plan

The Mississippi Office of Student Financial Aid requests approval of the FY 2024-28 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 3 – FY 2024-28 Five-Year Strategic Plan (Page 19)

Exhibit 4 – FY 2024-28 Five-Year Strategic Plan Narrative (Page 20)

Recommendation: Board staff recommends approval of this item.

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Exhibit 2

MBR - FY2024-2028	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028
1- Administration					
Salaries, Wages and Fringes	\$ 815,354	\$ 839,815	\$ 865,010	\$ 890,960	\$ 917,689
Travel	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000
Contractual Service	\$ 536,040	\$ 536,000	\$ 536,000	\$ 536,000	\$ 536,000
Commodities	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
Equipment	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
Total Administration	\$ 1,379,394	\$ 1,403,815	\$ 1,429,010	\$ 1,454,960	\$ 1,481,689
2- MTAG/MESG and HELP					
MTAG	\$ 10,401,095	\$ 10,505,105	\$ 10,610,156	\$ 10,610,156	\$ 10,610,156
MESG	\$ 8,792,730	\$ 8,905,980	\$ 8,962,605	\$ 8,962,605	\$ 8,962,605
HELP	\$ 31,964,768	\$ 33,281,889	\$ 34,464,807	\$ 35,498,751	\$ 36,563,714
Total MTAG/MESG and HELP	\$ 51,158,592	\$ 52,692,974	\$ 54,037,568	\$ 55,071,513	\$ 56,136,475
3 - Forgivable Loan Programs					
Teacher Programs:					
CNDT (Graduate)	\$ 18,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Nursing Programs:					
NELB	\$ 240,000	\$ 60,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
NELM (Graduate)	\$ 48,000	\$ 12,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
NELP (Graduate)	\$ 20,000	\$ 5,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
NELR	\$ 80,000	\$ 20,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
NERM (Graduate)	\$ 16,000	\$ 4,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
NTSP (Graduate)	\$ 40,000	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Health/Science Related Programs:					
SLPL	\$ 35,000	\$ 11,500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
SREB	\$ 480,000	\$ 495,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Forgive Ln/Repay Programs	\$ 977,000	\$ 617,500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
4 - Other					
GEER Summer Grant	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FAITH Scholarship	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 2,500,000	\$ 3,000,000	\$ 3,500,000	\$ 4,000,000
NEW Nursing Loan Repay	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 2,000,000
Winter-Reed (New)	\$ 2,250,000	\$ 2,250,000	\$ 2,250,000	\$ 2,250,000	\$ 2,250,000
LAW	\$ 176,250	\$ 181,538	\$ 186,984	\$ 192,593	\$ 198,371
Nissan	\$ 20,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000
Total Other	\$ 6,446,250	\$ 6,961,538	\$ 7,476,984	\$ 7,982,593	\$ 8,488,371
TOTAL Lns, Schols, Grants	\$ 58,581,842	\$ 60,272,012	\$ 61,514,552	\$ 63,054,106	\$ 64,624,846
TOTAL	\$ 59,961,237	\$ 61,675,827	\$ 62,943,561	\$ 64,509,065	\$ 66,106,535
General Funds	\$ 51,971,237	\$ 53,675,827	\$ 54,433,561	\$ 57,499,065	\$ 58,596,535
Total General Funds - Sect. 1	\$ 51,971,237	\$ 53,675,827	\$ 54,433,561	\$ 57,499,065	\$ 58,596,535
EEF Funds					
FAITH Funds (new appropriation)	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 2,500,000	\$ 3,000,000	\$ 3,500,000	\$ 4,000,000
W-R Funds (new appropriation)	\$ 50,000	\$ 2,250,000	\$ 2,250,000	\$ 2,250,000	\$ 2,250,000
Total EEF Funds	\$ 1,050,000	\$ 4,750,000	\$ 5,250,000	\$ 5,750,000	\$ 6,250,000
ARPA Funds					
NEW Nurs Ln Repayment Funds	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 2,000,000	\$ -	\$ -
Total ARPA Funds	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 2,000,000	\$ -	\$ -
Special Funds					
SA - NISS Investment	\$ 20,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000
SA - Collections	\$ 1,700,000	\$ 1,200,000	\$ 1,200,000	\$ 1,200,000	\$ 1,200,000
SA - LAW funds	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000
SA - GEER Funds (Governor)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
SA - Lapsed FAITH	\$ 1,000,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
SA - Lapsed W-R	\$ 2,200,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Special Funds	\$ 4,940,000	\$ 1,250,000	\$ 1,260,000	\$ 1,260,000	\$ 1,260,000
Total Spend Authority-Sect. 2	\$ 7,990,000	\$ 8,000,000	\$ 8,510,000	\$ 7,010,000	\$ 7,510,000
TOTAL SFA BUDGET	\$ 59,961,237	\$ 61,675,827	\$ 62,943,561	\$ 64,509,065	\$ 66,106,535

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The Mississippi Office of Student Financial Aid 157-00

2024-2028 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:

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- 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
- 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

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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 Mississippi Counselors Association, and the Magnolia School Counselors Association among others.

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. After several years of stagnation or declines in the numbers of students receiving MTAG, applications are up for the current year, so an increase of 3% is projected for FY 2024. Modest increases of 1% are projected for FY 2025 and FY 2026. The number of MESG recipients is expected to increase modestly in FY 2024, FY 2025, and possibly FY 2026 due to the Postsecondary Board's 2021 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 grew rapidly in recent years, but the rapid annual growth has stabilized as expected. Nevertheless, the number of HELP recipients is expected to grow modestly through FY 2026 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. Data show forgivable loan programs to be ineffective and inefficient. 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

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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 FY2016, FY2020, and FY2021, the uncertainty of receiving a deficit appropriation resulted in late awards and student frustration and fear.

- b) Timing – The timing of the budget process coupled with the uncertainty of full funding results in SFA making award offers to students in July before the plan to start college in August. Ideally, a mechanism to “forward fund” financial aid would be created so that the appropriation received in one year would actually fund the awards made in the next aid year. This would require two years worth of funding in the initial year but would allow the Office to make award offers to students as they apply and become eligible rather than waiting until a month before school starts in August to make awards.
- c) 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. Adequate time for implementation often is not allowed. The Office cannot implement a grant or loan program in three to five months. A full aid year is needed between the creation of a program and the anticipated implementation.
- d) Need-Based Aid – Despite the growth of the HELP grant, additional need-based aid is needed to improve college access and affordability to help the state meet its education attainment goal, Ascent to 55%.
- e) Program Changes - Legislative changes to existing programs will impact student eligibility rates, award rates, and the amount of money needed to award eligible students.
- f) Student Choice - Student choice and performance continuously impact 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.
- g) Federal Expected Family Contribution (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. The federal EFC is changing to the Student Aid Index (SAI) in 2024-25 and will include negative figures. Lack of information from Federal Student Aid has prevented SFA from modeling this change to determine its impact on projected program costs.
- h) FAFSA Simplification – Congress recently passed legislation to simplify the FAFSA form and to change other rules related to the premier federal aid programs. SFA is working with a task force of other states to create models to understand how the federal aid changes will impact state aid.
- i) 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.
- j) 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.
- k) 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

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enter monetary repayment, leaving the Office more dependent upon General Fund appropriations to meet budgetary demands.

- l) 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.
- b) The Office continuously assesses the state's financial aid programs.
 1. 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 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.
 4. The Office continues to work with the Postsecondary Board to develop recommendations to be presented 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

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Postsecondary Board meets about four or five times a year to address program and budget-related issues.

6. Agency Goals, Objectives, Strategies and Measures for FY 2024 through FY 2028:

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.

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.

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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

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

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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 and www.msfinancialaid.org

Output: Bounce rate for www.mississippi.edu/financialaid and 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.

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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/emailed

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

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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

Output: Amount of HELP awarded

Efficiency: Average student award through the HELP program

BUDGET PROGRAM 3: Forgivable Loan 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 programs.

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

Output: Total amount of funds expended on the forgivable loan 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 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

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Efficiency: Average student award through the CNDT program

Explanatory Note: Due to budget constraints, full funding wasn't available from FY17 through FY22. Awards are being made in FY23 and funds for renewal awards are requested for FY24. 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 and for loan repayment 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 are not requested for future years.

STRATEGY A.1.3.: 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

Explanatory Note: Due to budget constraints, full funding wasn't available from FY17 through FY22. Awards are being made in FY23 and funds for renewal awards are requested for FY24. 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 are not requested for future years.

STRATEGY A.1.4.: 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

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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, full funding hasn't been available from FY17 through FY22. Awards are being made in FY23 and funds for renewal awards are requested for FY24. 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 are not requested for future years.

STRATEGY A.1.5.: 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 hasn't been available from FY17 through FY22. Awards are being made in FY23 and funds for renewal awards are requested for FY24. 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 are not requested for future years.

STRATEGY A.1.6.: 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.

Output: Number of SLPL awards

Output: Amount of SLPL awards

Efficiency: Average student award through the SLPL program

Explanatory Note: Due to budget constraints, full funding hasn't been available from FY17 through FY22. Awards are being made in FY23 and funds for renewal awards are requested for FY24. 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

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Exhibit 2

limit loans to renewal applicants only on a first-come, first-served basis with preference for renewals. Therefore, funds are not requested for future years.

STRATEGY A.1.7.: 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. *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. SFA, under direction of the Postsecondary Board, requests the Legislature phase out the SREB program in order to target all available funds for the undergraduate grant programs or loan repayment programs. To phase out the program, SFA would award renewal students only. Therefore, the annual request for funds will decrease each year until funds are no longer requested after FY26.

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 a loan repayment program for teacher education, called the William F. Winter – Jack Reed, Sr. Teacher Loan Repayment Program (WRTR), 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. The program was established by the 2021 Legislature. 150 teachers were funded in FY22. 300 teachers were funded in FY23, and funds are requested to fund an additional 150 teachers as well as renewal teachers in FY24.

Output: Number of WRTR awards

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Exhibit 2

Output: Amount of WRTR awards

Efficiency: Average award through the WRTR program

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 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.

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Item 3: Ms. Rogers presented a proposal to update APA Part 685 Winter-Reed Teacher Loan Repayment Rules and Regulations, Section V.C. to change the deadline date for the Contract Completion Form from May 31 to June 30. On motion by Sharon Ross, seconded by Mark Keenum, all Board Members legally present and participating voted unanimously to approve the proposed rule update, contingent upon completion of the Administrative Procedures Act process.

3. Approve Update to APA Part 685 Winter-Reed Teacher Loan Repayment Program Rules and Regulations:

Summary:

Teachers who have been awarded through the Winter-Reed Teacher Loan Repayment program are expected to complete and submit a Contract Completion Form at the end of each year of service. Funds are not disbursed to the teacher's loan servicer until the form is received. The original deadline date was May 31. The Office requests the Board move the deadline to June 30 each year to give award recipients additional time to complete and submit the form. The change will appear as follows:

V. RECIPIENT RESPONSIBILITIES

...

- C. By ~~May 31~~ June 30 at the conclusion of the recipient's contract year, the recipient must submit to the Board an annual Contract Completion Form. The form must be received for the Board to disburse the offered award amount to the loan servicer.

...

Recommendation:

Board approval is recommended, contingent upon completion of the Administrative Procedures Act process.

Item 4: Ms. Rogers presented a proposal to have the option to enact a temporary rule to update APA Part 653: Nursing Education Forgivable Loan Program BSN (NELB), RN to BSN (NELR), MSN (NELM), RN to MSN (NERM), and Ph.D./DNP (NELP); APA Part 667: Critical Needs Dyslexia Therapy Teacher Forgivable Loan Program (CNDT); and APA Part 669: Nursing Teacher Stipend Forgivable Loan Program (NTSP). The Office requests authority to evaluate the applications as of June 30 and, if needed, enact a temporarily rule to extend the document and/or application deadline dates to August 1, 2022. On motion by Ben Burnett, seconded by Barney Daly, all Board Members legally present and participating voted unanimously to give the Office the option to enact the temporary rule, contingent upon completion of the Administrative Procedures Act process.

4. Approve Option to Enact Temporary Rule to Extend Deadline Dates for APA Parts 653, 667, and 669:

Summary:

In April 2022, the Board approved awards for the forgivable loan programs for the first time since FY 2016. The application for loans has remained open and SFA has continued to accept applications in years when funding was not available. However, because awards have not been made in recent years, some institutions did not promote the loan programs to their incoming students. The deadline for the Mississippi Aid Application was March 31 for all loans, and the

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document deadline for all loans was April 30. Letters of Acceptance are accepted through June 30. However, due to a lack of complete applications, as of the date of the Board meeting, SFA will be unable to award the total number of awards budgeted for APA Part 653: Nursing Education Forgivable Loan – BSN, RN to BSN, MSN, RN to MSN, or PHD/DNP; APA Part 667: Critical Needs Dyslexia Therapy Teacher Forgivable Loan; or APA Part 669: Nursing Teacher Stipend Forgivable Loan. The Office has enacted a communication plan to solicit outstanding documents from existing applicants. The Office requests the option to evaluate the number of complete applications on July 1, 2022, and if needed enact a temporary rule to extend the deadline date for the application and documents to August 1, 2022. The temporary rule would appear as follows:

Title 10: Education Institutions and Agencies

Part 606: Temporary Rules and Regulations

Chapter 1: Temporary Rules and Regulations

Rule 1.1: Temporary Rules and Regulations

I. DEADLINE DATES

- A. For the 2022-2023 Aid Year, the deadline date for the Mississippi Aid Application is extended to August 1, 2022, for the following programs:
 - 1. APA Part 653: Nursing Education Forgivable Loan Program BSN (NELB), RN to BSN (NELR), MSN (NELM), RN to MSN (NERM), and Ph.D./DNP (NELP)
 - 2. APA Part 667: Critical Needs Dyslexia Therapy Teacher Forgivable Loan Program (CNDT)
 - 3. APA Part 669: Nursing Teacher Stipend Forgivable Loan Program (NTSP).

- B. For the 2022-2023 Aid Year, the deadline date for all supporting documents, including the Letter of Acceptance, is extended to August 1, 2022, for the following programs:
 - 1. APA Part 653: Nursing Education Forgivable Loan Program BSN (NELB), RN to BSN (NELR), MSN (NELM), RN to MSN (NERM), and Ph.D./DNP (NELP)
 - 2. APA Part 667: Critical Needs Dyslexia Therapy Teacher Forgivable Loan Program (CNDT)
 - 3. APA Part 669: Nursing Teacher Stipend Forgivable Loan Program (NTSP).

Recommendation:

Board approval is recommended, contingent upon completion of the Administrative Procedures Act process.

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Item 5: Jennifer Rogers informed the Board that Steven Cunningham and Barney Daly were both reappointed to the Board for four-year terms beginning July 1, 2023. Debbi Braswell has retired from Belhaven University. A new MAICU appointee has been requested. The next meeting will be held in late August or September. Additional information will be forthcoming.

5. Updates and Announcements

ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS IF NECESSARY

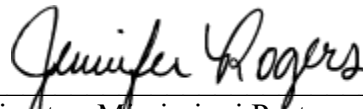
The Board did not consider any additional agenda items.

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, the meeting adjourned.



Director, Mississippi Postsecondary Education Financial
Assistance Board