

MISSISSIPPI POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE BOARD



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

September 21, 2022, at 10:30 a.m.

Teleconference: 1-888-822-7517, Access code: 2791682#
Zoom: <https://itsmsgov.zoom.us/j/81166789573>

Agenda

CALL TO ORDER

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EXECUTIVE SESSION IF DETERMINED NECESSARY

ADJOURNMENT

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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
- 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.

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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.

MINUTES

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%

MINUTES

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

MINUTES

Exhibit 2

- 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:
 - a. To meet demonstrated critical shortages in the fields of medicine, nursing, nursing education, physical and natural sciences, and teacher education;
 - 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 (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

MINUTES

Exhibit 2

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.**

MINUTES

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**.

MINUTES

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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Exhibit 2

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

MINUTES

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

MINUTES

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

MINUTES

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.

MINUTES

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

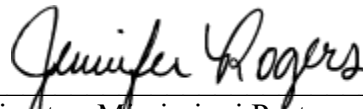
The Board did not consider any additional agenda items.

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

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

1. Approve APA Part 623: FAITH Scholarship Rules and Regulations

Summary:

The 2022 Legislature created the State Representative Bill Kinkade Fostering Access and Inspiring True Hope (FAITH) Scholarship to provide scholarships for students who have interacted with the state's foster care system.

Statistics show 75% of all students in foster care or state custody arrangements become a single parent or enter the corrections system by 25. This program is designed to change that statistic by providing students another path.

To be eligible, students must be U.S. citizens and MS residents under 25 years of age. Applicants must file the FAFSA and other federal aid applications, if applicable. They must meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Have been in legal custody of the Mississippi Department of Child Protection Services (CPS) at any time since age 13;
- Have lived in a qualified residential facility at any time since age 13; or
- Have been adopted from CPS or qualified residential facility after age 13.

Students must enroll at least part-time in a Mississippi public or private institution and seek an undergraduate credential or degree.

The FAITH Scholarship awards up to the full cost of attendance after all other grant aid has been applied, and it even covers housing during breaks, where such housing is available. The expectation is that recipients should be able to pursue higher education debt free.

Students will apply by completing the Mississippi Aid Application (MAAPP), just as they would apply for any other state aid. The 2023-2024 MAAPP opens October 1, 2022, and it remains open until September 15, 2023. Students may apply any time during the open application period, and there will be no document deadline. Questions have been added to the application to help applicants self-identify as eligible. The Office will verify eligibility with CPS and the qualified residential facilities.

The Office will start making awards to eligible recipients in 2023-2024.

Request:

The Office requests approval of APA Part 623: State Representative Bill Kinkade Fostering Access and Inspiring True Hope (FAITH) Scholarship Rules and Regulations. *The Rules are included in Exhibit 1 on page 38.*

Recommendation:

Board staff in coordination with CPS recommends approval of this item, contingent upon completion of the Administrative Procedures Act process.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

2. **Approve APA Part 654: Nursing and Respiratory Therapy Incentive Forgivable Loan Rules and Regulations**

Summary:

The 2022 Legislature created the Nursing and Respiratory Therapy Incentive Forgivable Loan Program.

To be eligible, students must be U.S. citizens and MS residents. Students must enroll at least part-time in a Mississippi public or private institution and seek an undergraduate degree in respiratory therapy or an undergraduate or graduate certificate or degree in nursing.

The program is very similar to the existing Nursing Education Forgivable Loan Program, except the new program extends eligibility to students pursuing a certificate to become a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) and students pursuing an Associate Degree in Nursing/Associate of Science in Nursing (ADN/ASN) or an Associate Degree in Respiratory Therapy or Respiratory Care Technology (RT).

The new program also differs from the existing program by requiring a repayment period of five years regardless of the amount of loan received, whereas the existing program requires a repayment period of one year for each year of loan received.

The program will award amounts equal to the average annual cost of tuition and fees at public institutions.

Students will apply by completing the Mississippi Aid Application (MAAPP), just as they would apply for any other state aid. The 2023-2024 MAAPP opens October 1, 2022, and applications must be received by March 31, 2023. Supporting documents must be received by the document deadline of June 30, 2023.

The Office will start making awards to eligible recipients in 2023-2024.

Request:

The Office requests approval of APA Part 654: Nursing and Respiratory Therapy Incentive Forgivable Loan Rules and Regulations. *The Rules are included in Exhibit 2 on page 42.*

Recommendation:

Board staff recommends approval of this item, contingent upon completion of the Administrative Procedures Act process.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

3. Approve Updates to APA Parts 653, 667, 669, 674, and 679 to Change the Document Deadline for Active Forgivable Loan Programs

Summary:

The online application deadline for the forgivable loan programs is March 31. The current deadline for the submission of most supporting documents is April 30 and for other documents is June 30. Having multiple document deadlines creates confusion for applicants and complexity for the program administrators.

The web address for the Office has changed since these rules were last updated.

Request:

The Office requests approval to update the rules and regulations of the active forgivable loan programs to change the document deadline to June 30 for all documents and update the Office's web address. The recommended changes are tracked in Exhibits 3 – 7 beginning on page 52:

Exhibit 3, page 52 - APA Part 653: Nursing Education Forgivable Loan Rules and Regulations

Exhibit 4, page 63 - APA Part 667: Critical Needs Dyslexia Therapy Teacher Forgivable Loan Rules and Regulations

Exhibit 5, page 73 - APA Part 669: Nursing Teacher Stipend Forgivable Loan Rules and Regulations

Exhibit 6, page 84 - APA Part 674: SREB Regional Contract Forgivable Loan Rules and Regulations

Exhibit 7, page 94 - APA Part 679: Speech-Language Pathologist Forgivable Loan Rules and Regulations

Recommendation:

Board staff recommends approval of this item, contingent upon completion of the Administrative Procedures Act process.

4. Approve Legislative Requests for 2023 Legislative Session

A. Create Stipend or Loan Repayment Program to Replace Nursing and Respiratory Therapy Incentive Forgivable Loan Program

Purpose:

Create a stipend or loan repayment program to provide financial support for nurses and incentivize nurses to remain in the state for work, meanwhile replacing the existing forgivable loans for nursing.

Reason for Request:

Mississippi has a long history of creating forgivable loan programs to address workforce shortage problems in the state. About four years ago, the state had 25 such programs. Due to advocacy and education in recent years, the number of forgivable loans had been reduced to nine active programs, which included

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

nursing forgivable loans for students in BSN, RN to BSN, MSN, RN to MSN, and PhD/DNP programs. Then, in 2022, the new Nursing and Respiratory Therapy Nursing Incentive Forgivable Loan was created to provide forgivable loans for students in LPN, ADN/ASN, BSN, RN to BSN, MSN, RN to MSN, PhD/DNP, and Respiratory Therapy programs. The new program largely duplicates the existing program.

In general, forgivable loans are designed to either incentivize students to choose a specific program of study or incentivize graduates to work in specific positions or fields with shortages.

In Mississippi, the undergraduate nursing programs are mostly full, and most programs turn applicants away. This indicates there is not a shortage of interested students and therefore little need to incentivize students to enroll in undergraduate nursing programs.

Nevertheless, there is still a shortage of nurses in Mississippi, which advocates indicate is due to nurses retiring or leaving the state for better pay and due to a shortage of nurse educators, which keeps nursing programs from expanding. Because forgivable loans can incentivize graduates to work in specific positions or fields with shortages, forgivable loans are a viable solution for addressing the state's current nursing shortage.

However, there are problems and costs associated with forgivable loans that make them an undesirable policy option.

- The return on forgivable loans is uncertain because they go to current students with the expectation the recipient will not only graduate but also pass the licensure exam and obtain employment in the state, all of which may not happen.
- Forgivable loans are administratively burdensome:
 - Before awarding loans, the state must deliver three different disclosure statements about private loans, conduct entrance counseling, and then issue a master contract or promissory note.
 - The state must track each loan recipient as he or she completes the degree, becomes licensed, and gains employment. The state must then track the borrower through years of employment to ensure the service obligation is fulfilled. These tracking services are currently provided by a paid third-party servicer.
 - If a student defaults on the loan, the debt will remain on the books until the person dies or becomes totally and permanently disabled, because state debt cannot be written off. The state currently services loans issued in the late 1970s.
- Forgivable loans can be detrimental to a student's financial well-being. If the student is unable to pass the licensure exam or moves out of state or changes plans, the student must repay the loan. In cases of repayment, a 5% penalty is added to the debt, and the debt accrues interest.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

- Forgivable loan programs are difficult to alter because each program is crafted for a unique program of study and then career trajectory.

Stipends and loan repayment are two simpler, more effective policy options to accomplish the same goal of incentivizing graduates to enter certain fields with workforce shortages.

Stipends are the simplest, most straightforward option with the greatest potential reach and impact. Recent nursing graduates, for example, could be offered an annual stipend to be paid directly to the nurse at the completion of each of the first three years of working full-time in the state.

Loan repayment is slightly less simple but still effective. Recent nursing graduates with outstanding student loans could have a portion of their student loans paid off by the state. Payments could be paid directly to the nurse's loan servicer. Loan repayment is limited in its reach because not all graduates have student loans.

Stipend and loan repayment programs are the preferred policy option for several reasons:

- The benefit to the state is immediate because the incentive goes directly to newly licensed nurses to keep them in the state. The state does not have to wait for students to attend and complete school and obtain licensure.
- The state is not required to offer loan disclosure statements, provide entrance counseling, or enter a contract with the recipient.
- The programs can be administered in-house by the Office of Student Financial Aid without the need for a third-party servicer.
- There is no penalty to the student for failure to graduate, achieve licensure, move out of state, etc.
- Employers can utilize the benefit to recruit employees.
- Service/employment requirements can be easily adjusted to incentivize students to enter whatever field for which the state is currently experiencing a shortage.

The Office recommends requesting the Legislature create a new stipend or loan repayment program for nurses and repeal the existing forgivable loan programs for nurses.

Suggested Legislation:

Suggested legislation for a stipend program is included in *Exhibit 8 on page 104* and suggested legislation for a loan repayment program is included in *Exhibit 9 on page 106*.

Fiscal Note:

Any new program would need to be funded. However, the Legislature provided \$6 million in State Coronavirus Relief funds for the Nursing and Respiratory

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

Therapy Incentive Forgivable Loan program. The program could not be implemented for 2022-23, so those funds could be diverted to a new loan repayment or stipend program at least through FY 2026. After FY 2026 the Legislature would need to identify another funding source to continue any program.

Recommendation:

Board staff recommends approval.

B. Amend Winter-Reed Teacher Loan Repayment Program to Remove Cap on Annual Awards

Purpose:

Remove the cap on the number of annual awards allowed under the Winter-Reed Teacher Loan Repayment Program.

Reason for Request:

June marked the end of the first year of administration of Winter-Reed. In the first year, the Office learned that limiting the number of recipients may result in money being forfeited. The current law states that a maximum of 150 new teachers may be awarded each year. The Office awarded all 150 potential recipients at the beginning of the year, but not everyone submitted their completion paperwork at the end of the year. So, the Office ultimately paid only 136 new teachers. Also, some of the teachers were teaching in non-shortage areas and therefore received smaller awards. The Office could have awarded more than 150 teachers and still stayed within the established budget. Rather than controlling the program size with a quota of awards, the Legislature can control the program size with the annual appropriation.

Suggested Legislation:

Suggested legislation is included in *Exhibit 10 on page 109*.

Fiscal Note:

The proposed change will not carry any additional cost. As written, the maximum annual cost of the program would be \$2.25 million. If the Legislature removes the quota and continues to fund the program at that level, the Office will adjust the annual number of new awards to ensure awards do not exceed available funds.

Recommendation:

Board staff recommends approval.

C. Possibly Request Creation and Funding of Dual Enrollment Grant Program for High School Students

Purpose:

Work with IHL, MCCB, and the private institutions to design a dual enrollment grant program for high school students.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

Reason for Request:

Currently, school districts and private schools establish agreements with local colleges and universities to provide dual enrollment courses—college-level courses students take while they are still in high school. Who bears the cost of these courses varies greatly depending on the contractual arrangement. In some districts and schools, the cost is paid on behalf of the student. In other districts, the student pays the cost or some portion of the cost. Students enroll in the college and the college administers the courses, but the colleges are often unable to charge the full cost of tuition for the courses because of the contractual agreements. In some cases, the colleges forfeit considerable tuition revenue to provide the courses.

The Office requests Board approval to work with IHL, MCCB and private institutions to design a dual enrollment grant program for high school students. Preliminary conversations indicate students would apply for the grants through SFA, and SFA would send the funds directly to the institutions just as we currently do. An award would equal a flat credit hour rate, and each student could receive grants for a specified maximum number of credit hours, possibly up to 15. After exhausting their grant eligibility, a student could continue to take dual enrollment courses but would be responsible for the full cost of tuition.

The Office also requests Board approval to amend the FY 2024 budget request to include funding for the program if all parties agree to pursue a legislative request for the program.

Fiscal Note:

MCCB estimates the program will cost about \$24.5 million for the 2023-24 academic year.

Recommendation:

Board staff recommends approval.

5. Selection of Chairperson for 2022-23

Summary:

According to APA Part 601, Chapter 2, Rule 2.1, Section III, the board shall elect from its membership a chairman. Dr. Jim Turcotte was elected as chairman in September 2021. The Board should elect a chairperson to serve during 2022-2023 academic/aid year. The rules allow a chairperson to serve consecutive terms.

6. Updates and Announcements

Exhibit 1

Title 10: Education Institutions and Agencies

Part 623: State Representative Bill Kinkade Fostering Access and Inspiring True Hope (FAITH) Scholarship Rules and Regulations

Part 623 Chapter 1: State Representative Bill Kinkade Fostering Access and Inspiring True Hope (FAITH) Scholarship Rules and Regulations

Rule 1.1 State Representative Bill Kinkade Fostering Access and Inspiring True Hope (FAITH) Scholarship Rules and Regulations. These Rules and Regulations are subject to change by the Mississippi Postsecondary Education Financial Assistance Board.

I. GENERAL ELIGIBILITY

- A. The applicant must be a current legal resident of Mississippi. Resident status for purposes of receiving FAITH under this act shall be determined in the same manner as resident status for tuition purposes as set forth in Sections 37-103-1 through 37-103-29, of Ms. Code Ann., with the exception of Section 37-103-17.
- B. The applicant must complete the required applications for state and federal financial aid by the established deadlines.
- C. The applicant must meet the established age requirement and meet at least one of the qualifying foster care criteria.
- D. The applicant must enroll at least part-time (minimum of 6 hours unless excepted by the institution) at an eligible Mississippi postsecondary institution and pursue an undergraduate certificate or degree within the allowable time period.

II. APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- A. First-time applicants must:
 - 1. Complete an initial application for state student financial aid online at www.msfinancialaid.org on or before September 15 during the fall of the aid year for which the student is seeking assistance.
 - 2. File the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and accept all available federal grant aid. The state of residency indicated on the FAFSA will be used to verify the applicant's residency status.
 - 3. Apply through the Mississippi Department of Child Protection Services for an Educational and Training Voucher if eligible to apply.
 - 4. Be younger than twenty-five (25) years of age by October 1 of the aid year for which the applicant makes application for the FAITH Scholarship,

Exhibit 1

unless the applicant was on active-duty status in the United States Armed Forces for any time before the applicant reached twenty-five (25) years of age. The number of months served on active-duty status in the United States Armed Forces shall be rounded up to the next higher year to determine the maximum extension of age eligibility allowed.

5. Meet at least one of the following criteria as certified by the Mississippi Department of Child Protection Services or the qualified residential childcare facility:
 - a. Was placed in the legal custody of the Mississippi Department of Child Protection Services by a youth court or through other legal means and who was in the legal custody of the department at any time on or after attaining thirteen (13) years of age.
 - b. Was placed in a qualified residential childcare facility by a parent, legal guardian, court of competent jurisdiction, or other person or entity acting in the best interest of the individual and who did reside in a qualified residential childcare facility at any time on or after attaining thirteen (13) years of age. A qualified residential childcare facility is an entity that provides a home for children and was licensed by the Mississippi Department of Child Protection Services at the time the applicant was housed by the agency.
 - c. Was adopted from the Mississippi Department of Child Protection Services' legal custody or adopted while residing at a qualified residential childcare facility at any time on or after attaining thirteen (13) years of age.
6. Enroll at least part-time (minimum 6 hours unless excepted by the institution) at one (1) eligible Mississippi postsecondary institution and pursue an undergraduate credential or degree. Evidence of enrollment will be automatically provided to the Board by the attending institution.

B. Renewal Applicants Must:

1. Complete a renewal application online at www.msfinancialaid.org on or before September 15 during the fall of the aid year for which the student is seeking assistance.
2. File the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) annually and continue to accept all available federal grant aid.
3. Apply through the Mississippi Department of Child Protection Services annually for an Educational and Training Voucher if eligible to apply.

Exhibit 1

4. Be younger than thirty (30) years of age by October 1 of the aid year for which the applicant makes application for the FAITH Scholarship, unless the applicant was on active-duty status in the United States Armed Forces for any time before the applicant reached twenty-five (25) years of age. The number of months served on active-duty status in the United States Armed Forces shall be rounded up to the next higher year to determine the maximum extension of age eligibility allowed.
5. Make satisfactory academic progress toward the completion of a certificate or degree with a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale, as certified by the registrar, based on that institution's calculation at the end of each semester, trimester, or term for which the applicant is enrolled.
6. Enroll at least part-time (minimum of 6 hours unless excepted by the institution) at one (1) eligible postsecondary institution in the State of Mississippi as an undergraduate student in pursuit of a certificate or degree. Evidence of enrollment will be automatically provided to the Board by the attending institution.

III. LENGTH AND AMOUNT OF AWARD

- A. For students attending a Mississippi public institution, the annual award amount of the FAITH Scholarship will be equal to the student's total Cost of Attendance less all other grant aid. For students attending a Mississippi non-public four-year institution, the annual award amount of the FAITH Scholarship will be equal to the average of the prior year's published undergraduate COA of all public institutions less all other grant aid.
- B. The FAITH Scholarship can be combined with any other state, federal, institutional, or private grant aid. No other grant aid should be reduced or supplanted by the FAITH scholarship. However, in no case shall the FAITH scholarship be combined with other grant aid to exceed the student's allowable COA. If an overaward occurs, the FAITH Scholarship will be reduced.
- C. The FAITH scholarship will also include any costs associated with room and board during institutional holidays at the student's institution if such accommodations are available.
- D. A maximum cumulative award amount is not established; however, a recipient may receive the FAITH scholarship for a maximum of five (5) calendar years, unless the applicant experiences a break in enrollment to serve on active-duty status in the United States Armed Forces. The number of months served on active-duty status in the United States Armed Forces shall be rounded up to the next higher year to determine the maximum length of eligibility extension allowed.

Exhibit 1

- E. FAITH Scholarships will be paid for no more than seventy-two (72) credit hours at a community college or one hundred forty-four (144) credit hours at a four-year college.
- F. All awards are dependent upon the availability of funds. Selection of recipients shall be based on a first-come, first-served basis of all eligible applicants; however, priority consideration shall be given to persons previously receiving awards under the FAITH Scholarship program.
- G. Payment of FAITH awards shall be disbursed directly to the educational institutions.
- H. If a recipient transfers from one eligible Mississippi institution to another, the award will be transferable, provided the student meets all continuing eligibility requirements.

IV. LOSS OF ELIGIBILITY

- A. Failure to maintain a minimum 2.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale will result in cancellation of the recipient's eligibility for the FAITH Scholarship until academic eligibility can be reestablished. Exception for cause will not be considered.
- B. Failure to make Satisfactory Academic Progress toward a certificate or degree will result in cancellation of the recipient's eligibility for the FAITH Scholarship; however, the student may file an appeal for reconsideration with the Mississippi Office of Student Financial Aid and may be granted an exception for cause.

Source: *Miss. Code Ann.* § 37-106-75.

Exhibit 2

Title 10: Education Institutions and Agencies

Part 654: Nursing and Respiratory Therapy Incentive Forgivable Loan Program for LPN, ADN/ASN, BSN, RN to BSN, MSN, RN to MSN, PhD/DNP, and RT Rules and Regulations

Part 654 Chapter 1: Nursing and Respiratory Therapy Incentive Forgivable Loan Program for LPN, ADN/ASN, BSN, RN to BSN, MSN, RN to MSN, PhD/DNP, and RT Rules and Regulations

Rule 1.1 Nursing and Respiratory Therapy Incentive Forgivable Loan Program for LPN, ADN/ASN, BSN, RN to BSN, MSN, RN to MSN, PhD/DNP, and RT Rules and Regulations. These Rules and Regulations are subject to change by the Mississippi Postsecondary Education Financial Assistance Board (hereinafter referred to as the "Board"). The number of awards and recipients are dependent upon availability of funds and selection shall be based on a first-come, first-served basis of all eligible applicants; however, priority consideration shall be given to persons previously receiving awards under the program.

I. GENERAL ELIGIBILITY

- A. The undergraduate applicant must be fully admitted as a regular student and enrolled part-time or full-time at the undergraduate level seeking a certificate in practical nursing, associate of science or applied science in nursing, respiratory therapy or respiratory care technology, or bachelor's degree in an approved nursing program at one (1) accredited four-year institution of higher learning in the State of Mississippi. Bachelor's degree-seeking students must be classified as a Junior or Senior. The graduate applicant must be fully admitted as a regular student and enrolled either part-time or full-time at the graduate level in an approved nursing program at one (1) accredited four-year institution of higher learning in the State of Mississippi. Enrollment and classification status will be determined by the attending institution.
- B. The applicant must have expressed in writing a present intention to provide nursing or respiratory care service in the State of Mississippi and must diligently pursue the course of study and requirements for the appropriate nursing or respiratory care license.
- C. The applicant must be accepted into an appropriate program of study and maintain satisfactory academic progress (SAP) in the approved program of study in accordance with the attending institution's policy.
- D. The applicant must not presently or previously have defaulted on an educational loan.
- E. Graduate and RN to BSN and RN to MSN bridge program applicants must possess a current Mississippi registered nursing license.

Exhibit 2

II. APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR FORGIVABLE LOAN APPLICANT

A. First time applicants must:

1. Complete an application online at www.msfinancialaid.org by the deadline date of March 31.
2. Submit a copy of the applicant's letter of acceptance into the appropriate program of study. The letter of acceptance should indicate that the applicant has been fully admitted or admitted as a regular student and should include the admittance date and entering classification. Provisional or conditional admission is not accepted. The letter of acceptance should be submitted as soon as possible but must be received by the document deadline of June 30.
3. Graduate and RN to BSN and RN to MSN bridge program applicants must submit a copy of their valid Mississippi nursing license by the document deadline of June 30.
4. Signify understanding of the Rules and Regulations, enter into a Contract and Note with the Board pursuant to the applicable Rules and Regulations and all applicable State laws, and complete, sign and return the Self Certification of a Private Loan form prior to the disbursement of funds.
Note: The Contract and Note will be issued once the applicant has been awarded. Funds will not be disbursed until the Contract and Note has been signed.
5. Be enrolled part-time or full-time in an approved program of study and be making SAP in accordance with the attending institution's policy. Evidence of academic eligibility will be automatically provided to the Board by the attending institution, unless specifically requested from the applicant.

B. Renewal applicants must:

1. Complete an application online at www.msfinancialaid.org by the deadline date of March 31.
2. Be enrolled part-time or full-time enrollment in an approved program of study and be making SAP in accordance with the attending institution's policy. Evidence of academic eligibility will be automatically provided to the Board by the attending institution, unless specifically requested from the applicant.
3. Complete, sign and return the Self Certification of a Private Loan form.

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III. AMOUNT and LENGTH OF FORGIVABLE LOAN

- A. The maximum annual award amount for full-time recipients shall be the average tuition and required fees charged by all Mississippi public institutions for the specified program. The annual award will be pro-rated for part-time students.
- B. Certificate-seeking students enrolling on a full-time basis may receive a lifetime maximum of one (1) annual award or two (2) semesters. Certificate-seeking students enrolling on a part-time basis may receive pro-rated awards over two (2) academic years or four (4) semesters. Undergraduate and graduate students, except RN to MSN bridge students, enrolling on a full-time basis may receive a lifetime maximum of two (2) annual awards or four (4) semesters. Undergraduate and graduate students, except RN to MSN bridge students, enrolling on a part-time basis may receive pro-rated awards over four (4) academic years or eight (8) semesters. RN to MSN bridge students enrolling on a full-time basis may receive a lifetime maximum of three (3) annual awards, six (6) semesters, or nine (9) trimesters. RN to MSN bridge students enrolling on a part-time basis may receive pro-rated awards over four (4) academic years, eight (8) semesters, or twelve (12) trimesters.
- C. Awards shall be disbursed directly to the school of attendance.

IV. RECIPIENT RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. Recipients must maintain good standing at the educational institution in which he/she is enrolled.
- B. Recipients must make SAP toward the appropriate certificate or degree. Any recipient who fails to make SAP will be suspended from participation in the program for the following period of enrollment.
- C. Recipients must remain in school part-time or full-time, complete an approved program of study and obtain the appropriate license. A recipient who withdraws from school, fails to complete an approved program of study, or fails to obtain an appropriate license, shall immediately become liable to the Board for the sum of all outstanding awards, plus a penalty of 5% of the outstanding principal, and interest on the combined outstanding principal and penalty.
- D. While receiving funds, the recipient must keep the Board informed of the recipient's current, correct, and complete contact information. This information may be updated via the recipient's student account online at www.msfinancialaid.org. Once in repayment, the recipient must keep the Board or its loan servicer informed of the recipient's current, correct, and complete contact information until the debt is completely satisfied.

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- E. A recipient should address in writing to the Board or its loan servicer any special circumstances regarding enrollment status, withdrawal from school, or failure to complete the approved program of study.

V. REPAYMENT

- A. A forgivable loan recipient enters repayment when the recipient completes the approved program of study, withdraws from school, or fails to complete the approved program of study. The recipient may satisfy his/her forgivable loan debt either by cancellation through appropriate health care service or by loan repayment.

- B. Cancellation through Health Care Service

- 1. A forgivable loan recipient must meet all the following criteria to qualify for debt cancellation through health care service:
 - a) Have the appropriate license, as determined by the Mississippi Board of Nursing or the Mississippi State Department of Health.
 - b) Work in professional health care in Mississippi by performing the appropriate service (practical nursing, teaching nursing, other professional nursing in the interest of public health, or respiratory care) on a full-time basis. "Full-time" is understood by the parties to mean that the health care provider shall maintain the normal full-time work schedule where the health care provider is employed. *NOTE: It is fully understood that it is the responsibility of the forgivable loan recipient to seek and secure employment. The Board assumes no obligation to perform that function.*
- 2. The forgivable loan debt shall be cancelled based on one (1) year's service for one-fifth (1/5) of the total forgivable loan amount received. For all recipients, such service shall never be less than sixty (60) months of full-time public health work, regardless of the length of study provided under this forgivable loan.
- 3. At the time of separation from the approved program of study, unless granted a grace period or other type of deferment, the forgivable loan recipient must request in writing a one (1)-year deferment of the accrual of interest and repayment of principal and penalty for purposes of completing the service option. The service deferment request must be accompanied by evidence of appropriate employment as defined in Section V.B.1.
- 4. At the end of each one (1)-year service deferment period, the forgivable loan recipient must request in writing a cancellation of the equivalent of one-fifth (1/5) of the total amount loaned.

Exhibit 2

5. The service deferment and cancellation must be requested in writing and approved each year for five (5) years until the debt is fully satisfied.

C. Loan Repayment

1. Unless granted a grace period, service deferment, or other deferment, a forgivable loan recipient shall become liable to the Board for the sum of all forgivable loan awards made to that person less the corresponding amount of debt previously cancelled through service, plus a penalty of 5% of the outstanding principal, and interest on the combined outstanding principal and penalty, immediately at the time of occurrence of one of the following events:
 - a) The recipient withdraws from school;
 - b) The recipient fails to complete the approved program of study;
 - c) The recipient fails to obtain the appropriate license; or
 - d) The recipient fails to complete the service option defined in Section V.B.
2. At the time of the occurrence of one of the events outlined in Section V.C.1. or upon termination of a grace period or other deferment, a 5% penalty will be applied to the sum of all forgivable loan awards made to the recipient less any amount previously cancelled through service.
3. The rate of interest charged a forgivable loan recipient on the unsatisfied balance shall be the current unsubsidized Federal Stafford Loan rate at the time the account first entered repayment.
4. Interest begins accruing at the time of occurrence of one of the events outlined in Section V.C.1. or upon termination of a grace period or other deferment, and repayment commences one (1) month after the occurrence of the event.
5. Forgivable loan recipients must repay the loan (principal, penalty, and interest thereon) in sixty (60) or less equal consecutive monthly installments. If the recipient becomes three (3) months past due in the repayment of his/her loan (principal, penalty, and interest thereon), all principal, penalty, and interest outstanding, together with costs of collection, shall become immediately due and payable and, demand shall be made by mailing the same to the obligor at the last address furnished by said obligor. Should payment of the sum due not be made in full within thirty (30) days, from the date demand was made, the Contract and Note

Exhibit 2

executed by the obligor shall be placed with a collection agency or an attorney for collection, at which point the obligor shall become liable for reasonable collection or attorneys' fees, which may be based on a percentage of the amount of the debt, and court costs, in addition to the other sums due and owing.

- D. The obligations made by the recipient of this forgivable loan shall not be voidable by reason of the age of the student at the time of receiving the forgivable loan.
- E. Special circumstances regarding a recipient's failure to complete the service option and/or fulfill the loan obligation should be addressed in writing to the Board or its loan servicer.

VI. GRACE PERIOD and OTHER DEFERMENTS

A. Grace Period

- 1. Upon completion of the approved program of study, the forgivable loan recipient will be granted a twelve (12)-month grace period, during which the recipient should obtain the appropriate license and secure appropriate employment as defined in Section V.B.1.
- 2. A forgivable loan recipient who does not complete the approved program of study will not be granted a twelve (12)-month grace period and will enter repayment immediately upon separation from the approved program of study. Such a recipient may be eligible for an in-school deferment as defined in Section VI.B.

B. In-School Deferment

- 1. A forgivable loan recipient who does not complete the approved program of study but remains enrolled at least part-time in a program of study at the same certificate or degree level may request deferment of the accrual of interest and the repayment of principal and penalty for purposes of remaining in school.
- 2. The in-school deferment must be requested in writing to the Board or its loan servicer and must be accompanied by verification of at least part-time enrollment from the attending institution.
- 3. The in-school deferment will not be granted for enrollment in a program of study for a degree level beyond that for which the loan was awarded.
- 4. The in-school deferment must be requested by the recipient and approved every term (except Summer) throughout the duration of the deferment.

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C. Temporary Disability Deferment

1. A forgivable loan recipient in repayment who is unable to secure or continue employment because of temporary total disability may request deferment of the accrual of interest and the repayment of principal and penalty. To qualify, a recipient must be unable to work and earn money due to the disability for at least sixty (60) days or be providing continuous care for a dependent or spouse during a period of at least (90) consecutive days.
2. The temporary disability deferment must be requested in writing to the Board or its loan servicer and must be accompanied by certification from a doctor of medicine or osteopathy who is legally authorized to practice medicine.
3. The temporary disability deferment must be requested by the recipient and approved every six (6) months throughout the duration of the deferment and condition for a total period of time not to exceed three (3) years.

D. Military Service Deferment

1. In terms of military service the following definitions shall apply:
 - a) **REQUIRED** military service is that service which is required of an individual in the service of the Armed Forces of the United States; it does not include a military service obligation incurred to repay a grant, stipend or scholarship granted the individual prior to, during, or after the award under the program.
 - b) **OBLIGATED** or **VOLUNTARY** military service is that service which is performed by the individual in repayment of a debt owed the United States government as a result of military scholarships, ROTC scholarships, etc. received by the individual. Service is **VOLUNTARY** if the individual is not obligated to incur a period of military service but chooses to incur the service obligation.
2. A forgivable loan recipient shall be eligible for deferment of the accrual of interest and the repayment of principal and penalty during the time of required military service.
3. The military deferment must be requested in writing to the Board or its loan servicer, stating beginning and ending dates of such required military service, and must be accompanied by a copy of the military orders.
4. The military deferment must be requested by the recipient and approved on a year-to-year basis (annually).

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5. If a recipient continues military service for any reason beyond the REQUIRED time, then that person shall be declared ineligible for military deferment and the remaining unsatisfied principal, penalty, and interest shall become due and payable to the Board according to the terms outlined in Section V.C.
6. If a recipient obligates himself/herself to VOLUNTARY military service prior to, during, or after the award, then that person shall be declared ineligible for military deferment and the remaining unsatisfied principal, penalty, and interest shall become due and payable to the Board according to the terms outlined in Section V.C.

VII. CANCELLATION OF DEBT

A. Death

1. If an individual recipient dies, then the recipient's obligation to repay the loan or render service is canceled.
2. The Board shall require a copy of the death certificate or other proof of death that is acceptable under applicable State Law. If a death certificate or other acceptable proof of death is not available, the recipient's obligation for service or repayment on the loan is canceled only upon a determination by the Board on the basis of other evidence that the Board finds conclusive.
3. The Board may not attempt to collect on the loan from the deceased recipient's estate.

B. Total and Permanent Disability

1. If the Board determines that an individual recipient is totally and permanently disabled, the recipient's obligation to make any further payments of principal, penalty, and interest on the loan is canceled. A recipient is not considered totally and permanently disabled on the basis of a condition that existed before he/she applied for the forgivable loan, unless the recipient's condition has substantially deteriorated since he/she submitted the forgivable loan application, so as to render the recipient totally and permanently disabled.
2. After being notified by the recipient or the recipient's representative that the recipient claims to be totally and permanently disabled, the Board shall promptly request that the recipient or the recipient's representative obtain a certification from a physician, who is a doctor of medicine or osteopathy and legally authorized to practice, on a form provided or approved by the

Exhibit 2

Board and other necessary documents as requested, that the recipient is totally and permanently disabled. The Board shall continue collection until it receives the certification or receives a letter from a physician stating that the certification has been requested and that additional time is needed to determine if the recipient is totally and permanently disabled. After receiving the physician's certification or letter and other necessary documents as requested and the student is found to be totally and permanently disabled, the Board may not attempt to collect from the recipient.

3. If the Board determines that a loan owed by a recipient, who claims to be totally and permanently disabled, is not eligible for cancellation for that reason, or if the Board has not received the physician's certification and other requested documents, as described in Section VII.B.2., within 60 days of the receipt of the documents as described in Section VII.B.2., the Board shall resume collection and shall be deemed to have exercised forbearance of payment of principal, penalty, and interest from the date the Board received the documents described in Section VII.B.2. until such a determination of ineligibility is made by the Board.

C. Bankruptcy

Forgivable loans are not dischargeable in bankruptcy.

VIII. WARRANTY

The acceptance of the forgivable loan shall serve to appoint the Secretary of State of the State of Mississippi by each recipient as his/her designated agent for service of process, upon whom may be served all lawful processes and summons in any action or proceeding against him/her in the event he/she removes himself/herself from this State and the processes of its courts, growing out of any breach of Contract and Note by the recipient for failure to fulfill his/her Contract and Note with the Board or, to repay the forgivable loan, including penalty and interest pursuant to the law and Contract and Note, and, said acceptance of the loan rights and privileges shall be a signification of the applicant's agreement that any such process or summons against him/her, which is so served upon the Secretary of State, shall be of the same legal force and validity as if served on him/her personally. The venue of all causes of action against such nonresidents shall be Hinds County, Mississippi.

IX. AUTHORIZATION

The acceptance of the forgivable loan shall serve to authorize the Mississippi Office of Student Financial Aid, the Board, and their respective agents and contractors to contact the recipient regarding the recipient's loan request or loan(s), including repayment of loan(s), at the current or any future number the recipient provides for the recipient's

Exhibit 2

cellular phone or other wireless device using automated telephone dialing equipment or artificial or pre-recorded voice or text messages.

Source: *Miss. Code Ann.* § 37-106-60.

Exhibit 3

Title 10: Education Institutions and Agencies

Part 653: Nursing Education Forgivable Loan Program BSN (NELB), RN to BSN (NELR), MSN (NELM), RN to MSN (NERM), Ph.D./DNP (NELP) Rules and Regulations

Part 653 Chapter 1: Nursing Education Forgivable Loan Program BSN (NELB), RN to BSN (NELR), MSN (NELM), RN to MSN (NERM), Ph.D./DNP (NELP) Rules and Regulations

Rule 1.1 Nursing Education Forgivable Loan Program BSN (NELB), RN to BSN (NELR), MSN (NELM), RN to MSN (NERM), Ph.D./DNP (NELP) Rules and Regulations. These Rules and Regulations are subject to change by the Mississippi Postsecondary Education Financial Assistance Board (hereinafter referred to as the "Board"). The number of awards and recipients are dependent upon availability of funds and selection shall be based on a first-come, first-served basis of all eligible applicants; however, priority consideration shall be given to persons previously receiving awards under the Nursing Education Forgivable Loan program - BSN (NELB), RN to BSN (NELR), MSN (NELM), RN to MSN (NERM), and Ph.D./DNP (NELP).

I. GENERAL ELIGIBILITY

- A. The applicant must be a current legal resident of Mississippi. Resident status for purposes of receiving NELB, NELR, NELM, NERM, and NELP shall be determined in the same manner as resident status for tuition purposes as set forth in Sections 37-103-1 through 37-103-29 of Ms. Code Ann., with the exception of Section 37-103-17.
- B. The undergraduate applicant must be fully admitted as a regular student and enrolled either part-time or full-time at the undergraduate level as a Junior or Senior seeking a bachelor's degree in an approved nursing program at one (1) accredited four year institution of higher learning in the State of Mississippi. The graduate applicant must be fully admitted as a regular student and enrolled either part-time or full-time at the graduate level in an approved nursing program at one (1) accredited four-year institution of higher learning in the State of Mississippi. Enrollment and classification status will be determined by the attending institution.
- C. The applicant must have expressed in writing a present intention to provide nursing service in the State of Mississippi and must diligently pursue the course of study and requirements for the appropriate nursing license.
- D. The undergraduate recipient must have a cumulative 2.5 college grade point average (GPA) on a 4.0 scale to establish eligibility, maintain a cumulative 2.5 GPA each period of enrollment (i.e. semester or trimester) for continued eligibility and maintain satisfactory academic progress in the approved program of study in accordance with the attending institution's policy. The graduate recipient must have a cumulative 3.0 college grade point average (GPA) on a 4.0

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scale to establish eligibility, maintain a cumulative 3.0 GPA each period of enrollment (i.e. semester or trimester) for continued eligibility and maintain satisfactory academic progress in the approved program of study in accordance with the attending institution's policy.

- E. The applicant must not presently or previously have defaulted on an educational loan.
- F. NELR, NELM, NERM, and NELP applicants must possess a current Mississippi registered nursing license.
- G. The NELM applicant must have earned a BSN degree and the NELP applicant must have earned an MSN degree prior to participation in the program.

II. APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR FORGIVABLE LOAN APPLICANT

- A. First time applicants must:
 - 1. Complete an application online at www.mississippi.edu/financialaid www.msfinancialaid.org by the deadline date of March 31.
 - 2. If residency has not been established, submit two forms of documentation of current legal residency by the document deadline of ~~April~~ [June 30](#). Acceptable forms of residency documentation are listed in the General Administration Rules and Regulations and published online at www.mississippi.edu/financialaid www.msfinancialaid.org.
 - 3. Submit a copy of the applicant's letter of acceptance into the undergraduate or graduate program of study. The letter of acceptance should indicate that the applicant has been fully admitted or admitted as a regular student and should include the admittance date and entering classification. Provisional or conditional admission is not accepted. The letter of acceptance should be submitted as soon as possible, but must be received by [the document deadline of](#) June 30.
 - 4. NELM, and NELP applicants must submit a copy of their valid Mississippi nursing license by the document deadline of April 30. NELR and NERM applicants must submit a copy of their valid Mississippi nursing license by the document deadline of June 30.
 - 5. Signify understanding of the NELB, NELR, NELM, NERM, or NELP Rules and Regulations, enter into a Contract and Note with the Board pursuant to the applicable Rules and Regulations and all applicable State laws, and complete, sign and return the Self Certification of a Private Loan form prior to the disbursement of funds. *Note: The Contract and Note will*

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be issued once the applicant has been awarded. Funds will not be disbursed until the Contract and Note has been signed.

6. If an undergraduate student, have a cumulative college GPA of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale, be enrolled part-time or full-time in an approved program of study, and be making satisfactory academic progress in accordance with the attending institution's policy; if a graduate student, have a cumulative college GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale, be enrolled part-time or full-time in an approved program of study, and be making satisfactory academic progress in accordance with the attending institution's policy. Evidence of academic eligibility will be automatically provided to the Board by the attending institution, unless specifically requested from the applicant.

B. Renewal applicants must:

1. Complete an application online at www.mississippi.edu/financialaid www.msfinancialaid.org by the deadline date of March 31.
2. If an undergraduate student, maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale each period of enrollment (i.e. semester or trimester), be enrolled part-time or full-time in an approved program of study, and be making satisfactory academic progress in accordance with the attending institution's policy; if a graduate student, maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale each period of enrollment (i.e. semester or trimester), be enrolled part-time or full-time in an approved program of study, and be making satisfactory academic progress in accordance with the attending institution's policy. Evidence of academic eligibility will be automatically provided to the Board by the attending institution, unless specifically requested from the applicant.
3. Complete, sign and return the Self Certification of a Private Loan form.

III. AMOUNT and LENGTH OF FORGIVABLE LOAN

- A. The maximum annual award amount for full-time NELB, NELR, NELM, and NERM recipients shall be \$4,000. The maximum annual award amount for full-time NELP recipients shall be \$5,000. The annual award will be pro-rated for part-time students.
- B. NELB, NELR, NELM, and NELP students enrolling on a full-time basis may receive a lifetime maximum of two (2) annual awards, four (4) semesters or six (6) trimesters. NELB, NELR, NELM, and NELP students enrolling on a part-time basis may receive pro-rated awards over three (3) academic years, six (6) semesters, or nine (9) trimesters. NERM students enrolling on a full-time basis may receive a lifetime maximum of three (3) annual awards, six (6) semesters, or nine (9) trimesters. NERM students enrolling on a part-time basis may receive

Exhibit 3

pro-rated awards over four (4) academic years, eight (8) semesters, or twelve (12) trimesters. In no case may the lifetime maximum award for a part-time student exceed the lifetime maximum award of a full-time student.

- C. Awards shall be disbursed directly to the school of attendance, to be applied first toward tuition.

IV. RECIPIENT RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. An NELB, NELR, NELM, NERM, or NELP recipient must maintain good standing at the educational institution in which he/she is enrolled at all times.
- B. An NELB or NELR recipient must maintain a 2.5 minimum GPA on a 4.0 scale per period of enrollment (i.e. semester or trimester). An NELM, NERM, or NELP recipient must maintain a 3.0 minimum GPA on a 4.0 scale per period of enrollment (i.e. semester or trimester). Any recipient who fails to maintain the minimum GPA will be suspended from participation in the program for the following period of enrollment. An official transcript or grade verification sent directly to the Board by the attending institution evidencing the required GPA on a 4.0 scale for the non-eligible period of enrollment will entitle an NELB, NELR, NELM, NERM, and NELP recipient for renewal priority.
- C. An NELB, NELR, NELM, NERM, and NELP recipient must remain in school part-time or full-time, complete an approved program of study and obtain the appropriate nursing license. An NELB, NELR, NELM, NERM, or NELP recipient who withdraws from school, fails to complete an approved program of study, or fails to obtain an appropriate nursing license, shall immediately become liable to the Board for the sum of all outstanding NELB, NELR, NELM, NERM, or NELP awards, plus a penalty of 5% of the outstanding principal, and interest on the combined outstanding principal and penalty.
- D. While receiving funds, the NELB, NELR, NELM, NERM, or NELP recipient must at all times keep the Board informed of the recipient's current, correct, and complete contact information. This information may be updated via the NELB, NELR, NELM, NERM, or NELP recipient's student account online at www.mississippi.edu/financialaid www.msfinancialaid.org. Once in repayment, the NELB, NELR, NELM, NERM, or NELP recipient must at all times keep the Board or its loan servicer informed of the recipient's current, correct, and complete contact information until the debt is completely satisfied.
- E. An NELB, NELR, NELM, NERM, or NELP recipient should address in writing to the Board or its loan servicer any special circumstances regarding enrollment status, withdrawal from school, or failure to complete the approved program of study.

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V. REPAYMENT

- A. An NELB, NELR, NELM, NERM, and NELP forgivable loan recipient enters repayment when the recipient completes the approved program of study, withdraws from school, or fails to complete the approved program of study. The recipient may satisfy his/her forgivable loan debt either by cancellation through nursing service or by loan repayment.
- B. Cancellation through Nursing Service
 1. An NELB, NELR, NELM, NERM, and NELP forgivable loan recipient must meet all of the following criteria to qualify for debt cancellation through nursing service:
 - a) Have the appropriate nursing license, as determined by the Mississippi Board of Nursing.
 - b) Work in professional nursing in Mississippi by either teaching nursing at an accredited School of Nursing, or by performing other work in professional nursing in the interest of public health on a full-time or part-time basis. “Full-time” is understood by the parties to mean that the nurse or instructor shall maintain the normal full-time work schedule where the nurse or instructor is employed. “Part-time/adjunct” is understood by the parties to mean that the professional nurse shall maintain a work schedule of no fewer than 20 hours per week, and the nurse instructor shall be classified as less than a 1.0 FTE at an individual institution. Less than 1.0 FTEs can be added together if an individual is teaching at more than one accredited Schools of Nursing in Mississippi.
NOTE: It is fully understood that it is the responsibility of the forgivable loan recipient to seek and secure employment. The Board assumes no obligation to perform that function.
 2. For NELB, NELR, NELM, NERM, and NELP recipients working full-time, the forgivable loan debt shall be cancelled on the basis of one year’s service for one year of forgivable loan received. For NELB, NELR, NELM, NERM, and NELP recipients working part-time, the forgivable loan debt shall be cancelled on the basis of two years’ service for one year of forgivable loan received. For all NELB, NELR, NELM, NERM, and NELP recipients, such service shall never be less than twelve (12) consecutive months for full-time public health work, twenty-four (24) consecutive months for part-time public health work, one (1) year of 1.0 FTE for full-time teaching, two (2) years of .50 FTE for part-time/adjunct teaching, or four (4) years of 0.25 FTE for part-time/adjunct teaching, regardless of the length of study provided under this forgivable loan.

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3. At the time of separation from the approved program of study, unless granted a grace period or other type of deferment, the NELB, NELR, NELM, NERM, and NELP forgivable loan recipient must request in writing a deferment of the accrual of interest and repayment of principal and penalty for purposes of completing the teaching service option. The service deferment request must be accompanied by evidence of appropriate employment as defined in Section V.B.1.
4. At the end of each service deferment period, the NELB, NELR, NELM, NERM, and NELP forgivable loan recipient must request in writing a cancellation of the equivalent of one annual award.
5. The service deferment and cancellation must be requested in writing and approved each year until the debt is fully satisfied.

C. Loan Repayment

1. Unless granted a grace period or other deferment, an NELB, NELR, NELM, NERM, and NELP forgivable loan recipient shall become liable to the Board for the sum of all NELB, NELR, NELM, NERM, and NELP forgivable loan awards made to that person less the corresponding amount of debt previously cancelled through nursing service, plus a penalty of 5% of the outstanding principal, and interest on the combined outstanding principal and penalty, immediately at the time of occurrence of one of the following events:
 - a) The recipient withdraws from school;
 - b) The recipient fails to complete the approved program of study;
 - c) The recipient fails to obtain the appropriate nursing license; or
 - d) The recipient fails to complete the professional nursing service option defined in Section V.B.
2. At the time of the occurrence of one of the events outlined in Section V.C.I. or upon termination of a grace period or other deferment, a 5% penalty will be applied to the sum of all forgivable loan awards made to the recipient less any amount previously cancelled through service.
3. The rate of interest charged an NELB, NELR, NELM, NERM, and NELP forgivable loan recipient on the unsatisfied balance shall be the current unsubsidized Federal Stafford Loan rate at the time of occurrence of one of the events outlined in Section V.C.1. or upon termination of a grace period or other deferment.

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4. Interest begins accruing at the time of occurrence of one of the events outlined in Section V.C.1. or upon termination of a grace period or other deferment, and repayment commences one (1) month after the occurrence of the event.
 5. NELB, NELR, and NELM forgivable loan recipients must repay the loan (principal, penalty, and interest thereon) in 36 or less equal consecutive monthly installments. NERM and NELP forgivable loan recipients must repay the loan (principal, penalty, and interest thereon) in 60 or less equal consecutive monthly installments. If the recipient fails to repay his/her loan (principal, penalty, and interest thereon) in the requisite number of installments, all principal, penalty, and interest outstanding, together with costs of collection, shall become immediately due and payable and, demand shall be made by mailing the same to the obligor at the last address furnished by said obligor. Should payment of the sum due not be made in full within thirty (30) days, from the date demand was made, the Contract and Note executed by the obligor shall be placed with a collection agency or an attorney for collection, at which point the obligor shall become liable for reasonable collection or attorneys' fees, which may be based on a percentage of the amount of the debt, and court costs, in addition to the other sums due and owing.
- D. The obligations made by the recipient of this forgivable loan shall not be voidable by reason of the age of the student at the time of receiving the forgivable loan.
- E. Special circumstances regarding a recipient's failure to complete the nursing service option and/or fulfill the loan obligation should be addressed in writing to the Board or its loan servicer.

VI. GRACE PERIOD and OTHER DEFERMENTS

- A. Grace Period
1. Upon completion of the approved program of study, the NELB, NELR, NELM, NERM, and NELP forgivable loan recipient will be granted a 12-month grace period, during which the recipient should obtain the appropriate nursing license and secure appropriate nursing employment as defined in Section V.B.1.
 2. An NELB, NELR, NELM, NERM, and NELP forgivable loan recipient who does not complete the approved program of study will not be granted a 12-month grace period and will enter repayment immediately upon separation from the approved program of study. Such a recipient may be eligible for an in-school deferment as defined in Section VI.B.

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B. In-School Deferment

1. An NELB or NELR forgivable loan recipient who does not complete the approved program of study, but remains enrolled at least part-time in a baccalaureate level program may request deferment of the accrual of interest and the repayment of principal and penalty for purposes of remaining in school.
2. The in-school deferment must be requested in writing to the Board or its loan servicer and must be accompanied by verification of at least part-time enrollment from the attending institution.
3. The in-school deferment will not be granted for enrollment in an advanced program of nursing. However, an NELB, NELR, NELM, or NERM forgivable loan recipient who pursues an advanced degree in nursing may fulfill the service obligation on a part-time basis while enrolled in the advanced degree program.
4. The in-school deferment must be requested by the recipient and approved every term (except Summer) throughout the duration of the deferment.

C. Temporary Disability Deferment

1. An NELB, NELR, NELM, NERM, and NELP forgivable loan recipient in repayment who is unable to secure or continue employment because of temporary total disability may request deferment of the accrual of interest and the repayment of principal and penalty. To qualify, a recipient must be unable to work and earn money due to the disability for at least sixty (60) days, or be providing continuous care for a dependent or spouse during a period of at least (90) consecutive days.
2. The temporary disability deferment must be requested in writing to the Board or its loan servicer and must be accompanied by certification from a doctor of medicine or osteopathy who is legally authorized to practice medicine.
3. The temporary disability deferment must be requested by the recipient and approved every six (6) months throughout the duration of the deferment and condition for a total period of time not to exceed three (3) years.

D. Military Service Deferment

1. In terms of military service the following definitions shall apply:
 - a) **REQUIRED** military service is that service which is required of an individual in the service of the Armed Forces of the United States;

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it does not include a military service obligation incurred to repay a grant, stipend or scholarship granted the individual prior to, during, or after the award under the NELB, NELR, NELM, NERM, and NELP program.

- b) OBLIGATED or VOLUNTARY military service is that service which is performed by the individual in repayment of a debt owed the United States government as a result of military scholarships, ROTC scholarships, etc. received by the individual. Service is VOLUNTARY if the individual is not obligated to incur a period of military service, but chooses to incur the service obligation.
2. An NELB, NELR, NELM, NERM, and NELP forgivable loan recipient shall be eligible for deferment of the accrual of interest and the repayment of principal and penalty during the time of required military service.
 3. The military deferment must be requested in writing to the Board or its loan servicer, stating beginning and ending dates of such required military service, and must be accompanied by a copy of the military orders.
 4. The military deferment must be requested by the recipient and approved on a year-to-year basis (annually).
 5. If a recipient continues military service for any reason beyond the REQUIRED time, then that person shall be declared ineligible for military deferment and the remaining unsatisfied principal, penalty, and interest shall become due and payable to the Board according to the terms outlined in Section V.C.
 6. If a recipient obligates himself/herself to VOLUNTARY military service prior to, during, or after the NELB, NELR, NELM, NERM, and NELP award, then that person shall be declared ineligible for military deferment and the remaining unsatisfied principal, penalty, and interest shall become due and payable to the Board according to the terms outlined in Section V.C.

VII. CANCELLATION OF DEBT

A. Death

1. If an individual recipient dies, then the recipient's obligation to repay the loan or render service is canceled.
2. The Board shall require a copy of the death certificate or other proof of death that is acceptable under applicable State Law. If a death certificate or other acceptable proof of death is not available, the recipient's

Exhibit 3

obligation for service or repayment on the loan is canceled only upon a determination by the Board on the basis of other evidence that the Board finds conclusive.

3. The Board may not attempt to collect on the loan from the deceased recipient's estate.

B. Total and Permanent Disability

1. If the Board determines that an individual recipient is totally and permanently disabled, the recipient's obligation to make any further payments of principal, penalty, and interest on the loan is canceled. A recipient is not considered totally and permanently disabled on the basis of a condition that existed before he/she applied for the forgivable loan, unless the recipient's condition has substantially deteriorated since he/she submitted the forgivable loan application, so as to render the recipient totally and permanently disabled.
2. After being notified by the recipient or the recipient's representative that the recipient claims to be totally and permanently disabled, the Board shall promptly request that the recipient or the recipient's representative obtain a certification from a physician, who is a doctor of medicine or osteopathy and legally authorized to practice, on a form provided or approved by the Board and other necessary documents as requested, that the recipient is totally and permanently disabled. The Board shall continue collection until it receives the certification or receives a letter from a physician stating that the certification has been requested and that additional time is needed to determine if the recipient is totally and permanently disabled. After receiving the physician's certification or letter and other necessary documents as requested and the student is found to be totally and permanently disabled, the Board may not attempt to collect from the recipient.
3. If the Board determines that a loan owed by a recipient, who claims to be totally and permanently disabled, is not eligible for cancellation for that reason, or if the Board has not received the physician's certification and other requested documents, as described in Section VII.B.2., within 60 days of the receipt of the documents as described in Section VII.B.2., the Board shall resume collection and shall be deemed to have exercised forbearance of payment of principal, penalty, and interest from the date the Board received the documents described in Section VII.B.2. until such a determination of ineligibility is made by the Board.

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C. Bankruptcy

NELB, NELR, NELM, NERM, and NELP forgivable loans are nondischargeable in bankruptcy.

VIII. WARRANTY

The acceptance of the NELB, NELR, NELM, NERM, and NELP forgivable loan shall serve to appoint the Secretary of State of the State of Mississippi by each recipient as his/her designated agent for service of process, upon whom may be served all lawful processes and summons in any action or proceeding against him/her in the event he/she removes himself/herself from this State and the processes of its courts, growing out of any breach of Contract and Note by the recipient for failure to fulfill his/her Contract and Note with the Board or, to repay the NELB, NELR, NELM, NERM, and NELP forgivable loan, including penalty and interest pursuant to the law and Contract and Note, and, said acceptance of the loan rights and privileges shall be a signification of the applicant's agreement that any such process or summons against him/her, which is so served upon the Secretary of State, shall be of the same legal force and validity as if served on him/her personally. The venue of all causes of action against such nonresidents shall be Hinds County, Mississippi.

IX. AUTHORIZATION

The acceptance of the NELB, NELR, NELM, NERM, and NELP forgivable loan shall serve to authorize the Mississippi Office of Student Financial Aid, the Board, and their respective agents and contractors to contact the recipient regarding the recipient's loan request or loan(s), including repayment of loan(s), at the current or any future number the recipient provides for the recipient's cellular phone or other wireless device using automated telephone dialing equipment or artificial or pre-recorded voice or text messages.

Source: *Miss. Code Ann.* § 37-106-59.

Exhibit 4

Title 10: Education Institutions and Agencies

Part 667: Critical Needs Dyslexia Therapy Teacher Forgivable Loan Program (CNDT) Rules and Regulations

Part 667 Chapter 1: Critical Needs Dyslexia Therapy Teacher Forgivable Loan Program (CNDT) Rules and Regulations

Rule 1.1 Critical Needs Dyslexia Therapy Teacher Forgivable Loan Program (CNDT) Rules and Regulations. These Rules and Regulations are subject to change by the Mississippi Postsecondary Education Financial Assistance Board (hereinafter referred to as the "Board"). New awards will be made each award year subject to the availability of funds, and selection shall be based on a first-come, first-served basis of all eligible applicants; priority consideration shall be given to persons previously receiving awards under the Critical Needs Dyslexia Therapy Teacher Forgivable Loan program (CNDT).

I. GENERAL ELIGIBILITY

- A. The applicant must be fully admitted as a regular student and enrolled full-time as determined by the attending institution at the graduate level seeking a first master's degree, which must be in a program of study leading to a Class "AA" Mississippi Educator License with a 203 endorsement for Dyslexia Therapy at one (1) accredited four-year institution of higher learning in the State of Mississippi approved by the State Board of Education. Classification will be determined by the attending institution.
- B. The recipient must have and maintain a cumulative 3.0 college grade point average (GPA) on a 4.0 scale each period of enrollment (i.e. semester or trimester) and must maintain satisfactory academic progress in the approved program of study in accordance with the attending institution's policy.
- C. The applicant must possess a current, valid Class "A" Mississippi Educator License.
- D. The applicant must have expressed in writing a present intention to serve as a Dyslexia Therapist in the State of Mississippi in a public school/district or public charter school, and must diligently pursue the course of study and requirements for the appropriate teaching license and endorsement.
- E. The applicant must not presently or previously have defaulted on an educational loan.
- F. CNDT recipients are not eligible for any other state aid but may apply for federal and institutional aid.

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II. APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR FORGIVABLE LOAN APPLICANT

A. First time applicants must:

1. Complete an application online at www.mississippi.edu/financialaid www.msfinancialaid.org by the deadline date of March 31.
2. Submit a copy of the applicant's letter of acceptance into the graduate program of study. The letter of acceptance should indicate that the applicant has been fully admitted or admitted as a regular student. Provisional or conditional admission is not accepted. The letter of acceptance should be submitted as soon as possible, but must be received by [the document deadline of](#) June 30.
3. Possess a valid Class "A" Mississippi Educator License and submit verification of such to the Board by the document deadline date of ~~April~~ [June](#) 30.
4. Have a cumulative college GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale, be enrolled full-time in a master's level program of study leading to a Class "AA" Mississippi Educator License with a 203 endorsement for Dyslexia Therapy, and be making satisfactory academic progress in accordance with the attending institution's policy. Evidence of academic eligibility will be automatically provided to the Board by the attending institution, unless specifically requested from the applicant.
5. Participate in Entrance Counseling, signify understanding of the CNDT Rules and Regulations, enter into a Contract and Note with the Board pursuant to the applicable Rules and Regulations and all applicable State laws, and complete, sign and return the Self Certification of a Private Loan form prior to the disbursement of funds. *Note: The Contract and Note will be issued once the applicant has been awarded. Funds will not be disbursed until the Contract and Note has been signed.*

B. Renewal applicants must:

1. Complete an application online at www.mississippi.edu/financialaid www.msfinancialaid.org by the deadline date of March 31.
2. Maintain a cumulative 3.0 college GPA on a 4.0 scale per period of enrollment (i.e. semester or trimester) and remain in a master's level program of study leading to a Class "AA" Mississippi Educator License with a 203 endorsement for Dyslexia Therapy, making satisfactory academic progress in accordance with the attending institution's policy. Evidence of continuing academic eligibility will be automatically provided

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to the Board by the attending institution, unless specifically requested from the applicant.

3. Complete, sign and return the Self Certification of a Private Loan form.

III. AMOUNT AND LENGTH OF FORGIVABLE LOAN

- A. The amount of the annual award for full-time students shall equal the total cost for tuition, materials and fees at the college or university in which the student is enrolled.
- B. Students may receive a lifetime maximum of two (2) annual awards.
- C. Awards shall be disbursed directly to the school of attendance, to be applied first toward tuition.
- D. Awards are not provided for out-of-state tuition costs.
- E. In order to receive CNDT funds, a student who previously received funds under the other state-supported undergraduate teacher programs, William Winter Teacher Forgivable Loan (WWTS), William Winter Alternate Route Teacher Forgivable Loan (WWAR), Critical Needs Teacher Forgivable Loan (CNTP), Critical Needs Alternate Route Teacher Forgivable Loan (CNAR), Teacher Education Scholars Forgivable Loan (TES) or Mississippi Teacher Loan Repayment (MTLR), must have discharged his/her previous loan through service or payment in full.
- F. CNDT recipients are not eligible for any other state aid but may apply for federal and institutional aid.

IV. RECIPIENT RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. A CNDT recipient must maintain good standing at the educational institution in which he/she is enrolled at all times.
- B. A CNDT recipient must maintain a cumulative 3.0 minimum GPA on a 4.0 scale per period of enrollment (i.e. semester or trimester). A CNDT recipient who fails to maintain the minimum GPA will be suspended from participation in the program for the following period of enrollment. An official transcript or grade verification sent directly to the Board by the attending institution evidencing a cumulative 3.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale for the non-eligible period of enrollment will entitle a CNDT recipient for renewal priority.
- C. A CNDT recipient must remain in school, complete an approved program of study and obtain the appropriate educator's license. A CNDT recipient who withdraws from school, fails to complete an approved program of study, or fails

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to obtain an appropriate educator's license, shall immediately become liable to the Board for the sum of all outstanding CNDT awards, plus a penalty of 5% of the outstanding principal, and interest on the combined outstanding principal and penalty.

- D. While receiving funds, the CNDT recipient must at all times keep the Board informed of the recipient's current, correct, and complete contact information. This information may be updated via the CNDT recipient's student account online at www.mississippi.edu/financialaid www.msfinancialaid.org. Once in repayment, the CNDT recipient must at all times keep the Board or its loan servicer informed of the recipient's current, correct, and complete contact information until the debt is completely satisfied.
- E. A CNDT recipient should address in writing to the Board or its loan servicer any special circumstances regarding enrollment status, withdrawal from school, or failure to complete the approved program of study.

V. REPAYMENT

- A. A CNDT forgivable loan recipient enters repayment when the recipient completes the approved program of study, withdraws from school, or fails to complete the approved program of study. The recipient may satisfy his/her forgivable loan debt either by cancellation through service or by loan repayment.
- B. Cancellation through Service
 - 1. A CNDT forgivable loan recipient must meet all of the following criteria to qualify for debt cancellation through service:
 - a) Obtain a "AA" Mississippi Educator License with a 203 Dyslexia Therapy designation.
 - b) Serve full-time, as defined by the State Board of Education, as a teacher, Dyslexia Therapist, or other position that combines instruction with the clinical provision of therapy for dyslexia. Invalid positions include, but are not limited to, the following: assistant teacher, full-time substitute, high school counselor, curriculum specialist or administrator.
 - c) Provide instruction and/or dyslexia therapy for students in grades kindergarten through twelve (K-12) in a Mississippi public school/district or public charter school. *NOTE: It is fully understood that it is the responsibility of the forgivable loan recipient to seek and secure appropriate employment in an appropriate school/district. Neither the Board nor the State Board of Education assumes the obligation to perform that function.*

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Prospective teachers may contact the Mississippi ~~Teacher Center~~ Department of Education for placement assistance-~~at~~ www.mde.k12.ms.us/mte.

2. A CNDT forgivable loan debt shall be cancelled on the basis of one year's service for one annual forgivable loan award received. For all CNDT recipients, such service shall never be less than one (1) year regardless of the length of study provided under this forgivable loan.
3. At the time of separation from the approved program of study, unless granted a grace period or other type of deferment, the CNDT forgivable loan recipient must request in writing a deferment of the accrual of interest and repayment of principal and penalty for purposes of completing the teaching service option. The service deferment request must be accompanied by evidence of appropriate employment as defined in Section V.B.1.
4. At the end of each service deferment period, the CNDT forgivable loan recipient must request in writing a cancellation of the equivalent of one annual award.
5. The service deferment and cancellation must be requested in writing and approved each year until the debt is fully satisfied.

C. Loan Repayment

1. Unless granted a grace period or other deferment, a CNDT forgivable loan recipient shall become liable to the Board for the sum of all CNDT forgivable loan awards made to that person less the corresponding amount of debt previously cancelled through teaching service, plus a penalty of 5% of the outstanding principal, and interest on the combined outstanding principal and penalty, immediately at the time of occurrence of one of the following events:
 - a) The recipient withdraws from school;
 - b) The recipient fails to complete the approved program of study;
 - c) The recipient fails to obtain the appropriate educator's license; or
 - d) The recipient fails to complete the teaching service option defined in Section V.B.
2. At the time of the occurrence of one of the events outlined in Section V.C.I. or upon termination of a grace period or other deferment, a 5%

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penalty will be applied to the sum of all forgivable loan awards made to the recipient less any amount previously cancelled through service.

3. The rate of interest charged a CNDT forgivable loan recipient on the unsatisfied balance shall be the current unsubsidized Federal Stafford Loan rate at the time of occurrence of one of the events outlined in Section V.C.1. or upon termination of a grace period or other deferment.
 4. Interest begins accruing at the time of occurrence of one of the events outlined in Section V.C.1. or upon termination of a grace period or other deferment, and repayment commences one (1) month after the occurrence of the event.
 5. Forgivable loan recipients must repay the loan (principal, penalty, and interest thereon) in 120 or less equal consecutive monthly installments. If the recipient fails to repay his/her loan (principal, penalty, and interest thereon) in 120 or less equal consecutive monthly installments, all principal, penalty, and interest outstanding, together with costs of collection, shall become immediately due and payable and, demand shall be made by mailing the same to the obligor at the last address furnished by said obligor. Should payment of the sum due not be made in full within thirty (30) days, from the date demand was made, the Contract and Note executed by the obligor shall be placed with a collection agency or an attorney for collection, at which point the obligor shall become liable for reasonable collection or attorneys' fees, which may be based on a percentage of the amount of the debt, and court costs, in addition to the other sums due and owing.
- D. The obligations made by the recipient of this forgivable loan shall not be voidable by reason of the age of the student at the time of receiving the forgivable loan.
- E. Special circumstances regarding a recipient's failure to complete the teaching service option and/or fulfill the loan obligation should be addressed in writing to the Board or its loan servicer.

VI. GRACE PERIOD AND OTHER DEFERMENTS

- A. Grace Period
1. Upon completion of the approved program of study, the CNDT forgivable loan recipient will be granted a 12-month grace period, during which the recipient should obtain the appropriate educator's license and secure appropriate teaching employment as defined in Section V.B.1.
 2. A CNDT forgivable loan recipient who does not complete the approved program of study will not be granted a 12-month grace period and will

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enter repayment immediately upon separation from the approved program of study. Such a recipient *may* be eligible for an in-school deferment as defined in Section VI.B.

B. In-School Deferment

1. A CNDT forgivable loan recipient who does not complete the approved program of study, but remains enrolled at least part-time in a first master's program may request deferment of the accrual of interest and the repayment of principal and penalty for purposes of remaining in school.
2. The in-school deferment must be requested in writing to the Board or its loan servicer and must be accompanied by verification of at least part-time enrollment from the attending institution.
3. The in-school deferment will not be granted for enrollment in a second master's, specialist or doctorate program.
4. The in-school deferment must be requested by the recipient and approved every term (except Summer) throughout the duration of the deferment.

C. Temporary Disability Deferment

1. A CNDT forgivable loan recipient in repayment who is unable to secure or continue employment because of temporary total disability may request deferment of the accrual of interest and the repayment of principal and penalty. To qualify, a recipient must be unable to work and earn money due to the disability for at least sixty (60) days, or be providing continuous care for a dependent or spouse during a period of at least (90) consecutive days.
2. The temporary disability deferment must be requested in writing to the Board or its loan servicer and must be accompanied by certification from a doctor of medicine or osteopathy who is legally authorized to practice medicine.
3. The temporary disability deferment must be requested by the recipient and approved every six (6) months throughout the duration of the deferment and condition for a total period of time not to exceed three (3) years.

D. Military Service Deferment

1. In terms of military service the following definitions shall apply:
 - a) **REQUIRED** military service is that service which is required of an individual in the service of the Armed Forces of the United States;

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it does not include a military service obligation incurred to repay a grant, stipend or scholarship granted the individual prior to, during, or after the award under the CNDT program.

- b) OBLIGATED or VOLUNTARY military service is that service which is performed by the individual in repayment of a debt owed the United States government as a result of military scholarships, ROTC scholarships, etc. received by the individual. Service is VOLUNTARY if the individual is not obligated to incur a period of military service, but chooses to incur the service obligation.
2. A CNDT forgivable loan recipient shall be eligible for deferment of the accrual of interest and the repayment of principal and penalty during the time of required military service.
 3. The military deferment must be requested in writing to the Board or its loan servicer, stating beginning and ending dates of such required military service, and must be accompanied by a copy of the military orders.
 4. The military deferment must be requested by the recipient and approved on a year-to-year basis (annually).
 5. If a recipient continues military service for any reason beyond the REQUIRED time, then that person shall be declared ineligible for military deferment and the remaining unsatisfied principal, penalty, and interest shall become due and payable to the Board according to the terms outlined in Section V.C.
 6. If a recipient obligates himself/herself to VOLUNTARY military service prior to, during, or after the CNDT award, then that person shall be declared ineligible for military deferment and the remaining unsatisfied principal, penalty, and interest shall become due and payable to the Board according to the terms outlined in Section V.C.

VII. CANCELLATION OF DEBT

A. Death

1. If an individual recipient dies, then the recipient's obligation to repay the loan or render service is canceled.
2. The Board shall require a copy of the death certificate or other proof of death that is acceptable under applicable State Law. If a death certificate or other acceptable proof of death is not available, the recipient's obligation for service or repayment on the loan is canceled only upon a

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determination by the Board on the basis of other evidence that the Board finds conclusive.

3. The Board may not attempt to collect on the loan from the deceased recipient's estate.

B. Total and Permanent Disability

1. If the Board determines that an individual recipient is totally and permanently disabled, the recipient's obligation to make any further payments of principal, penalty, and interest on the loan is canceled. A recipient is not considered totally and permanently disabled on the basis of a condition that existed before he/she applied for the forgivable loan, unless the recipient's condition has substantially deteriorated since he/she submitted the forgivable loan application, so as to render the recipient totally and permanently disabled.
2. After being notified by the recipient or the recipient's representative that the recipient claims to be totally and permanently disabled, the Board shall promptly request that the recipient or the recipient's representative obtain a certification from a physician, who is a doctor of medicine or osteopathy and legally authorized to practice, on a form provided or approved by the Board and other necessary documents as requested, that the recipient is totally and permanently disabled. The Board shall continue collection until it receives the certification or receives a letter from a physician stating that the certification has been requested and that additional time is needed to determine if the recipient is totally and permanently disabled. After receiving the physician's certification or letter and other necessary documents as requested and the student is found to be totally and permanently disabled, the Board may not attempt to collect from the recipient.
3. If the Board determines that a loan owed by a recipient, who claims to be totally and permanently disabled, is not eligible for cancellation for that reason, or if the Board has not received the physician's certification and other requested documents, as described in Section VII.B.2., within 60 days of the receipt of the documents as described in Section VII.B.2., the Board shall resume collection and shall be deemed to have exercised forbearance of payment of principal, penalty, and interest from the date the Board received the documents described in Section VII.B.2. until such a determination of ineligibility is made by the Board.

C. Bankruptcy

CNDT forgivable loans are nondischargeable in bankruptcy.

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VIII. WARRANTY

The acceptance of the CNDT forgivable loan by each recipient shall serve to appoint the Secretary of State of the State of Mississippi as his/her designated agent for service of process, upon whom may be served all lawful processes and summons in any action or proceeding against him/her in the event he/she removes himself/herself from this State and the processes of its courts, growing out of any breach of Contract and Note by the recipient for failure to fulfill his/her Contract and Note with the Board or, to repay the CNDT forgivable loan, including penalty and interest pursuant to the law and Contract and Note, and, said acceptance of the loan rights and privileges shall be a signification of the applicant's agreement that any such process or summons against him/her, which is so served upon the Secretary of State, shall be of the same legal force and validity as if served on him/her personally. The venue of all causes of action against such nonresidents shall be Hinds County, Mississippi.

IX. AUTHORIZATION

The acceptance of the CNDT forgivable loan shall serve to authorize the Mississippi Office of Student Financial Aid, the Board, and their respective agents and contractors to contact the recipient regarding the recipient's loan request or loan(s), including repayment of loan(s), at the current or any future number the recipient provides for the recipient's cellular phone or other wireless device using automated telephone dialing equipment or artificial or pre-recorded voice or text messages.

Source: *Miss. Code Ann.* § 37-106-71.

Exhibit 5

Title 10: Education Institutions and Agencies

Part 669: Nursing Teacher Stipend Forgivable Loan Program (NTSP) Rules and Regulations

Part 669 Chapter 1: Nursing Teacher Stipend Forgivable Loan Program (NTSP) Rules and Regulations

Rule 1.1 Nursing Teacher Stipend Forgivable Loan Program (NTSP) Rules and Regulations.

These Rules and Regulations are subject to change by the Mississippi Postsecondary Education Financial Assistance Board (hereinafter referred to as the "Board"). The number of awards and recipients are dependent upon availability of funds and selection shall be based on a first-come, first-served basis of all eligible applicants; however, priority consideration shall be given to persons previously receiving awards under the Nursing Teacher Stipend Forgivable Loan program (NTSP).

I. GENERAL ELIGIBILITY

- A. The applicant must be a current legal resident of Mississippi. Resident status for purposes of receiving NTSP shall be determined in the same manner as resident status for tuition purposes as set forth in Sections 37-103-1 through 37-103-29 of Ms. Code Ann., with the exception of Section 37-103-17.
- B. The applicant must be fully admitted as a regular student and enrolled full-time at the graduate level seeking a masters or doctoral degree in an accredited nursing program at one (1) Board-approved institution in the State of Mississippi. Enrollment and classification status will be determined by the attending institution.
- C. The applicant must also participate in the Nursing Education Forgivable Loan Program – MSN (NELM), RN to MSN (NERM), or Ph.D./DNP (NELP) administered by the Board. (Priority will be given to nursing faculty who have been accepted for Board-approved forgivable loan money and are teaching in a state-accredited nursing program as an exception to accreditation standards and to nursing faculty who have been accepted for board-approved forgivable loan money and are within 12 months of earning a doctoral degree.)
- D. The applicant must be recommended for participation in the NTSP program by a dean or director of a Mississippi school of nursing. Recommendation should be in the form of a letter of intended employment upon the applicant's completion of the program of study. The letter of intended employment must include the institution of intended employment and the nursing program in which the applicant is intended to teach (practical nursing, associate's degree, bachelor's degree, master's degree, or doctoral degree).

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- E. The applicant must have expressed in writing a present intention to teach at any accredited school of nursing in Mississippi approved by the Board and must diligently pursue the course of study and requirements for the appropriate nursing license.
- F. The applicant must have a cumulative 3.0 college grade point average (GPA) on a 4.0 scale to establish eligibility, maintain a cumulative 3.0 GPA each period of enrollment (i.e. semester or trimester) for continued eligibility, and maintain satisfactory academic progress in the approved program of study in accordance with the attending institution's policy.
- G. The applicant must not presently or previously have defaulted on an educational loan.
- H. Applicants must possess a current Mississippi registered nursing license.
- I. Must not have received or currently be receiving funds from the Rural Health Program.

II. APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR FORGIVABLE LOAN APPLICANT

- A. First time applicants must:
 - 1. Complete an application online at www.mississippi.edu/financialaid www.msfinancialaid.org by the deadline date of March 31.
 - 2. If residency has not been established, submit two forms of documentation of current legal residency by the document deadline of ~~April~~ [June 30](#). Acceptable forms of residency documentation are listed in the General Administration Rules and Regulations and published online at www.mississippi.edu/financialaid www.msfinancialaid.org.
 - 3. Submit a copy of the applicant's letter of acceptance into the appropriate program of study. The letter of acceptance should indicate that the applicant has been fully admitted or admitted as a regular student and should include the admittance date and entering classification. Provisional or conditional admission is not accepted. The letter of acceptance should be submitted as soon as possible, but must be received by [the document deadline of](#) June 30.
 - 4. Submit a recommendation for participation in the NTSP program by a dean or director of a Mississippi school of nursing by [the document deadline of](#) ~~April~~ [June 30](#). Recommendation should be in the form of a letter of intended employment upon the applicant's completion of the program of study. The letter of intended employment must include the institution of intended employment and the nursing program in which the

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applicant is intended to teach (associate degree, bachelor's degree, master's degree, or doctoral degree).

5. Submit a copy of the applicant's current Mississippi nursing license by [the document deadline of April-June 30](#).
6. Signify understanding of the NTSP Rules and Regulations, enter into a Contract and Note with the Board pursuant to the applicable Rules and Regulations and all applicable State laws, and complete, sign and return the Self Certification of a Private Loan form prior to the disbursement of funds. *Note: The Contract and Note will be issued once the applicant has been awarded. Funds will not be disbursed until the Contract and Note has been signed.*
7. Have a cumulative college GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale, be enrolled full-time in an approved program of study, and be making satisfactory academic progress in accordance with the attending institution's policy. Evidence of academic eligibility will be automatically provided to the Board by the attending institution, unless specifically requested from the applicant.

B. Renewal applicants must:

1. Complete an application online at www.mississippi.edu/financialaid www.msfinancialaid.org by the deadline date of March 31.
2. Maintain a cumulative college GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale each period of enrollment (i.e. semester or trimester), be enrolled full-time in an approved program of study, and be making satisfactory academic progress in accordance with the attending institution's policy. Evidence of academic eligibility will be automatically provided to the Board by the attending institution, unless specifically requested from the applicant.
3. Complete, sign and return the Self Certification of a Private Loan form.

III. AMOUNT and LENGTH OF FORGIVABLE LOAN

- A. The maximum award amount for NTSP recipients shall be \$1,000 per month for each month of full-time enrollment.
- B. Masters degree recipients may receive a lifetime maximum of monthly awards not to exceed one (1) calendar year. Doctoral degree recipients may receive a lifetime maximum of monthly awards not to exceed two (2) calendar years.
- C. Awards shall be disbursed directly to the school of attendance.

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- D. A student who receives NTSP while completing a masters degree in nursing may not later receive NTSP to pursue a doctoral degree in nursing.

IV. RECIPIENT RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. An NTSP recipient must maintain good standing at the educational institution in which he/she is enrolled at all times.
- B. An NTSP recipient must maintain a 3.0 minimum GPA on a 4.0 scale per period of enrollment (i.e. semester or trimester). Any recipient who fails to maintain the minimum GPA will be suspended from participation in the program for the following period of enrollment. An official transcript or grade verification sent directly to the Board by the attending institution evidencing the required GPA on a 4.0 scale for the non-eligible period of enrollment will entitle an NTSP recipient for renewal priority.
- C. An NTSP recipient must remain in school full-time, complete an approved program of study, and obtain the appropriate nursing license. An NTSP recipient who withdraws from school, fails to complete an approved program of study, or fails to obtain an appropriate nursing license, shall immediately become liable to the Board for the sum of all outstanding NTSP awards, plus a penalty of 5% of the outstanding principal, and interest on the combined outstanding principal and penalty.
- D. While receiving funds, the NTSP recipient must at all times keep the Board informed of the recipient's current, correct, and complete contact information. This information may be updated via the NTSP recipient's student account online at www.mississippi.edu/financialaid www.msfinancialaid.org. Once in repayment, the NTSP recipient must at all times keep the Board or its loan servicer informed of the recipient's current, correct, and complete contact information until the debt is completely satisfied.
- E. An NTSP recipient should address in writing to the Board or its loan servicer any special circumstances regarding enrollment status, withdrawal from school, or failure to complete the approved program of study.

V. REPAYMENT

- A. An NTSP forgivable loan recipient enters repayment when the recipient completes the approved program of study, withdraws from school, or fails to complete the approved program of study. The recipient may satisfy his/her forgivable loan debt either by cancellation through service as a nurse educator or by loan repayment.
- B. Cancellation through Service as a Nurse Educator

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1. An NTSP forgivable loan recipient must meet all of the following criteria to qualify for debt cancellation through nursing service:
 - a) Have the appropriate nursing license, as determined by the Mississippi Board of Nursing.
 - b) Teach nursing full-time or part-time/adjunct at an accredited School of Nursing in Mississippi. “Full-time” is understood by the parties to mean that the nurse or instructor shall maintain the normal full-time work schedule where the nurse or instructor is employed. “Part-time/adjunct” is understood by the parties to mean that the nurse shall be classified as less than a 1.0 FTE at an individual institution. Less than 1.0 FTEs can be added together if an individual is teaching at more than one accredited Schools of Nursing in Mississippi. *NOTE: It is fully understood that it is the responsibility of the forgivable loan recipient to seek and secure employment. The Board assumes no obligation to perform that function.*
2. The NTSP forgivable loan debt shall be cancelled on the basis of two (2) year’s of full-time teaching service for one (1) year of forgivable loan received; four (4) year’s of 0.50 FTE (total) part-time/adjunct teaching for one (1) year of forgivable loan received; and eight (8) year’s of 0.25 FTE (total) part-time/adjunct teaching for one (1) year of forgivable loan received. Such service shall never be less than two (2) academic years for teaching, regardless of the length of study provided under this forgivable loan.
3. At the time of separation from the approved program of study, unless granted a grace period or other type of deferment, the NTSP forgivable loan recipient must request in writing a deferment of the accrual of interest and repayment of principal and penalty for purposes of completing the teaching service option. The service deferment request must be accompanied by evidence of appropriate employment as defined in Section V.B.1.
4. At the end of each service deferment period, the NTSP forgivable loan recipient must request in writing a cancellation of the equivalent of one annual award.
5. The service deferment and cancellation must be requested in writing and approved each year until the debt is fully satisfied.

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C. Loan Repayment

1. Unless granted a grace period or other deferment, an NTSP forgivable loan recipient shall become liable to the Board for the sum of all NTSP forgivable loan awards made to that person less the corresponding amount of debt previously cancelled through service as a nurse educator, plus a penalty of 5% of the outstanding principal, and interest on the combined outstanding principal and penalty, immediately at the time of occurrence of one of the following events:
 - a) The recipient withdraws from school;
 - b) The recipient fails to complete the approved program of study;
 - c) The recipient fails to obtain the appropriate nursing license; or
 - d) The recipient fails to complete the professional nursing service option defined in Section V.B.
2. At the time of the occurrence of one of the events outlined in Section V.C.I. or upon termination of a grace period or other deferment, a 5% penalty will be applied to the sum of all forgivable loan awards made to the recipient less any amount previously cancelled through service.
3. The rate of interest charged an NTSP forgivable loan recipient on the unsatisfied balance shall be the current unsubsidized Federal Stafford Loan rate at the time of occurrence of one of the events outlined in Section V.C.1. or upon termination of a grace period or other deferment.
4. Interest begins accruing at the time of occurrence of one of the events outlined in Section V.C.1. or upon termination of a grace period or other deferment, and repayment commences one (1) month after the occurrence of the event.
5. NTSP forgivable loan recipients must repay the loan (principal, penalty, and interest thereon) in 60 or less equal consecutive monthly installments. If the recipient fails to repay his/her loan (principal, penalty, and interest thereon) in the requisite number of installments, all principal, penalty, and interest outstanding, together with costs of collection, shall become immediately due and payable and, demand shall be made by mailing the same to the obligor at the last address furnished by said obligor. Should payment of the sum due not be made in full within thirty (30) days, from the date demand was made, the Contract and Note executed by the obligor shall be placed with a collection agency or an attorney for collection, at which point the obligor shall become liable for reasonable collection or

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attorneys' fees, which may be based on a percentage of the amount of the debt, and court costs, in addition to the other sums due and owing.

- D. The obligations made by the recipient of this forgivable loan shall not be voidable by reason of the age of the student at the time of receiving the forgivable loan.
- E. Special circumstances regarding a recipient's failure to complete the teaching service option and/or fulfill the loan obligation should be addressed in writing to the Board or its loan servicer.

VI. GRACE PERIOD and OTHER DEFERMENTS

A. Grace Period

- 1. Upon completion of the approved program of study, the NTSP forgivable loan recipient will be granted a 12-month grace period, during which the recipient should obtain the appropriate nursing license and secure appropriate nursing employment as defined in Section V.B.1.
- 2. An NTSP forgivable loan recipient who does not complete the approved program of study will not be granted a 12-month grace period and will enter repayment immediately upon separation from the approved program of study. Such a recipient may be eligible for an in-school deferment as defined in Section VI.B.

B. In-School Deferment

- 1. A masters degree forgivable loan recipient who does not complete the approved program of study, but remains enrolled at least part-time in a masters degree program and a doctoral degree forgivable loan recipient who does not complete the approved program of study, but remains enrolled at least part-time in a doctoral degree program may request deferment of the accrual of interest and the repayment of principal and penalty for purposes of remaining in school.
- 2. The in-school deferment must be requested in writing to the Board or its loan servicer and must be accompanied by verification of at least part-time enrollment from the attending institution.
- 3. The in-school deferment will not be granted for masters degree forgivable loan recipients to enroll in a doctoral degree program of nursing. However, the masters degree NTSP recipient who pursues a doctoral degree in nursing may fulfill the service obligation on a part-time/adjunct basis while enrolled in the advanced degree program.

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4. The in-school deferment must be requested by the recipient and approved every term (except Summer) throughout the duration of the deferment.

C. Temporary Disability Deferment

1. An NTSP forgivable loan recipient in repayment who is unable to secure or continue employment because of temporary total disability may request deferment of the accrual of interest and the repayment of principal and penalty. To qualify, a recipient must be unable to work and earn money due to the disability for at least sixty (60) days, or be providing continuous care for a dependent or spouse during a period of at least (90) consecutive days.
2. The temporary disability deferment must be requested in writing to the Board or its loan servicer and must be accompanied by certification from a doctor of medicine or osteopathy who is legally authorized to practice medicine.
3. The temporary disability deferment must be requested by the recipient and approved every six (6) months throughout the duration of the deferment and condition for a total period of time not to exceed three (3) years.

D. Military Service Deferment

1. In terms of military service the following definitions shall apply:
 - a) **REQUIRED** military service is that service which is required of an individual in the service of the Armed Forces of the United States; it does not include a military service obligation incurred to repay a grant, stipend or scholarship granted the individual prior to, during, or after the award under the NTSP program.
 - b) **OBLIGATED** or **VOLUNTARY** military service is that service which is performed by the individual in repayment of a debt owed the United States government as a result of military scholarships, ROTC scholarships, etc. received by the individual. Service is **VOLUNTARY** if the individual is not obligated to incur a period of military service, but chooses to incur the service obligation.
2. An NTSP forgivable loan recipient shall be eligible for deferment of the accrual of interest and the repayment of principal and penalty during the time of required military service.
3. The military deferment must be requested in writing to the Board or its loan servicer, stating beginning and ending dates of such required military service, and must be accompanied by a copy of the military orders.

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4. The military deferment must be requested by the recipient and approved on a year-to-year basis (annually).
5. If a recipient continues military service for any reason beyond the REQUIRED time, then that person shall be declared ineligible for military deferment and the remaining unsatisfied principal, penalty, and interest shall become due and payable to the Board according to the terms outlined in Section V.C.
6. If a recipient obligates himself/herself to VOLUNTARY military service prior to, during, or after the NTSP award, then that person shall be declared ineligible for military deferment and the remaining unsatisfied principal, penalty, and interest shall become due and payable to the Board according to the terms outlined in Section V.C.

VII. CANCELLATION OF DEBT

A. Death

1. If an individual recipient dies, then the recipient's obligation to repay the loan or render service is canceled.
2. The Board shall require a copy of the death certificate or other proof of death that is acceptable under applicable State Law. If a death certificate or other acceptable proof of death is not available, the recipient's obligation for service or repayment on the loan is canceled only upon a determination by the Board on the basis of other evidence that the Board finds conclusive.
3. The Board may not attempt to collect on the loan from the deceased recipient's estate.

B. Total and Permanent Disability

1. If the Board determines that an individual recipient is totally and permanently disabled, the recipient's obligation to make any further payments of principal, penalty, and interest on the loan is canceled. A recipient is not considered totally and permanently disabled on the basis of a condition that existed before he/she applied for the forgivable loan, unless the recipient's condition has substantially deteriorated since he/she submitted the forgivable loan application, so as to render the recipient totally and permanently disabled.
2. After being notified by the recipient or the recipient's representative that the recipient claims to be totally and permanently disabled, the Board shall

Exhibit 5

promptly request that the recipient or the recipient's representative obtain a certification from a physician, who is a doctor of medicine or osteopathy and legally authorized to practice, on a form provided or approved by the Board and other necessary documents as requested, that the recipient is totally and permanently disabled. The Board shall continue collection until it receives the certification or receives a letter from a physician stating that the certification has been requested and that additional time is needed to determine if the recipient is totally and permanently disabled. After receiving the physician's certification or letter and other necessary documents as requested and the student is found to be totally and permanently disabled, the Board may not attempt to collect from the recipient.

3. If the Board determines that a loan owed by a recipient, who claims to be totally and permanently disabled, is not eligible for cancellation for that reason, or if the Board has not received the physician's certification and other requested documents, as described in Section VII.B.2., within 60 days of the receipt of the documents as described in Section VII.B.2., the Board shall resume collection and shall be deemed to have exercised forbearance of payment of principal, penalty, and interest from the date the Board received the documents described in Section VII.B.2. until such a determination of ineligibility is made by the Board.

C. Bankruptcy

NTSP forgivable loans are nondischargeable in bankruptcy.

VIII. WARRANTY

The acceptance of the NTSP forgivable loan by each recipient shall serve to appoint the Secretary of State of the State of Mississippi as his/her designated agent for service of process, upon whom may be served all lawful processes and summons in any action or proceeding against him/her in the event he/she removes himself/herself from this State and the processes of its courts, growing out of any breach of Contract and Note by the recipient for failure to fulfill his/her Contract and Note with the Board or, to repay the NTSP forgivable loan, including penalty and interest pursuant to the law and Contract and Note, and, said acceptance of the loan rights and privileges shall be a signification of the applicant's agreement that any such process or summons against him/her, which is so served upon the Secretary of State, shall be of the same legal force and validity as if served on him/her personally. The venue of all causes of action against such nonresidents shall be Hinds County, Mississippi.

IX. AUTHORIZATION

The acceptance of the NTSP forgivable loan shall serve to authorize the Mississippi Office of Student Financial Aid, the Board, and their respective agents and contractors to

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contact the recipient regarding the recipient's loan request or loan(s), including repayment of loan(s), at the current or any future number the recipient provides for the recipient's cellular phone or other wireless device using automated telephone dialing equipment or artificial or pre-recorded voice or text messages.

Source: *Miss. Code Ann.* § 37-106-59.

Exhibit 6

Title 10: Education Institutions and Agencies

Part 674: SREB Regional Contract Forgivable Loan Program (SREB) Rules and Regulations

Part 674 Chapter 1: SREB Regional Contract Forgivable Loan Program (SREB) Rules and Regulations

Rule 1.1 SREB Regional Contract Forgivable Loan Program (SREB) Rules and Regulations.

These Rules and Regulations are subject to change by the Mississippi Postsecondary Education Financial Assistance Board (hereinafter referred to as the "Board"). The number of awards and recipients are dependent upon availability of funds and selection shall be based on a first-come, first-served basis of all eligible applicants; however, priority consideration shall be given to persons previously receiving awards under the Southern Regional Education Board Regional Contract Forgivable Loan program (SREB).

I. GENERAL ELIGIBILITY

- A. The applicant must be a current legal resident of Mississippi. Resident status for purposes of receiving SREB shall be determined in the same manner as resident status for tuition purposes as set forth in Sections 37-103-1 through 37-103-29 of Ms. Code Ann., with the exception of Section 37-103-17.
- B. The applicant must be fully admitted and enrolled full-time at an accredited School of Optometry approved by the Board.
- C. The applicant must have expressed in writing a present intention to practice Optometry in the State of Mississippi. The applicant must also diligently pursue the course of study and requirements for the required license to practice in Mississippi.
- D. The recipient must remain in good standing with the attending institution and must maintain satisfactory academic progress in the approved program of study in accordance with the attending institution's policy.
- E. The applicant must not presently or previously have defaulted on an educational loan.

II. APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR FORGIVABLE LOAN APPLICANT

- A. First time applicants must:
 - 1. Complete an application online at www.mississippi.edu/financialaid www.msfinancialaid.org by the deadline date of March 31.

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2. If residency has not been established, submit two forms of documentation of current legal residency by the document deadline of ~~April~~ June 30. Acceptable forms of residency documentation are listed in the General Administration Rules and Regulations and published online at www.mississippi.edu/financialaid www.msfinancialaid.org.
 3. Submit an official academic transcript or electronic grade verification from the school/college/university last attended by the document deadline of ~~April~~ June 30. The transcript or grade verification must report grades from all postsecondary institutions attended.
 4. Submit to the Board an official letter of acceptance from the accredited school of optometry, showing date admitted and entering classification by the document deadline of June 30.
 5. Signify understanding of the SREB Rules and Regulations, enter into a Contract and Note with the Board pursuant to the applicable Rules and Regulations and all applicable State laws, and complete, sign and return the Self Certification of a Private Loan form prior to the disbursement of funds. *Note: The Contract and Note will be issued once the applicant has been awarded. Funds will not be disbursed until the Contract and Note has been signed.*
 6. Maintain good standing in the attending institution at all times, be enrolled full-time in the approved program, and be making satisfactory academic progress in accordance with the attending institution's policy. Evidence of academic eligibility will be automatically provided to the Board by the attending institution, unless specifically requested from the applicant.
- B. Renewal applicants must:
1. Complete an application online at www.mississippi.edu/financialaid www.msfinancialaid.org by the deadline date of March 31.
 2. Maintain good standing in the attending institution at all times, be enrolled full-time in the approved program, and be making satisfactory academic progress in accordance with the attending institution's policy. Evidence of academic eligibility will be automatically provided to the Board by the attending institution, unless specifically requested from the applicant.
 3. Complete, sign and return the Self Certification of a Private Loan form.

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III. AMOUNT AND LENGTH OF FORGIVABLE LOAN

- A. The maximum annual award amount shall be made in an amount to be agreed upon by the Southern Regional Education Board, the attending institution, and the State of Mississippi.
- B. Students may receive a lifetime maximum of four (4) annual awards or eight (8) semesters.
- C. Awards shall be disbursed directly to the Southern Regional Education Board.
- D. Awards are not provided for summer school.

IV. RECIPIENT RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. An SREB recipient must maintain good standing at the attending institution at all times.
- B. An SREB recipient who fails, temporarily withdraws, or is required to repeat any year, will be suspended from participation in the program and his/her awards will be stopped until such time as the proper official at the attending institution informs the Board that he/she is ready to advance.
- C. An SREB recipient must remain in school full-time, complete the approved program of study, and obtain the appropriate license. An SREB recipient who withdraws from school, fails to complete the approved program of study, or fails to obtain the appropriate license, shall immediately become liable to the Board for the sum of all outstanding SREB awards, plus a penalty of 5% of the outstanding principal, and interest on the combined outstanding principal and penalty.
- D. While receiving funds, the SREB recipient must at all times keep the Board informed of the recipient's current, correct, and complete contact information. This information may be updated via the SREB recipient's student account online at www.mississippi.edu/financialaid www.msfinancialaid.org. Once in repayment, the SREB recipient must at all times keep the Board or its loan servicer informed of the recipient's current, correct, and complete contact information until the debt is completely satisfied.
- E. An SREB recipient should address in writing to the Board or its loan servicer any special circumstances regarding enrollment status, withdrawal from school, or failure to complete the approved program of study.

V. REPAYMENT

- A. An SREB forgivable loan recipient enters repayment when the recipient completes the approved program of study, withdraws from school, or fails to

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complete the approved program of study. The recipient may satisfy his/her forgivable loan debt either by cancellation through service or by loan repayment.

B. Cancellation through Service

1. An SREB forgivable loan recipient must meet all of the following criteria to qualify for debt cancellation through service:
 - a) Obtain the appropriate license to practice optometry in Mississippi.
 - b) Practice optometry full-time. "Full-time" is understood to mean that the recipient shall maintain the normal full-time work schedule where the recipient is employed.
 - c) Practice optometry in the State of Mississippi. *NOTE: It is fully understood that it is the responsibility of the forgivable loan recipient to seek and secure appropriate employment. The Board assumes no obligation to perform that function.*
2. An SREB forgivable loan debt shall be cancelled on the basis of one year's service for one year of forgivable loan received. For all SREB recipients, such service shall never be less than one (1) year regardless of the length of study provided under this forgivable loan.
3. At the time of separation from the approved program of study, unless granted a grace period or other type of deferment, the SREB forgivable loan recipient must request in writing a deferment of the accrual of interest and repayment of principal and penalty for purposes of completing the service option. The service deferment request must be accompanied by evidence of appropriate employment as defined in Section V.B.1.
4. At the end of each service deferment period, the SREB forgivable loan recipient must request in writing a cancellation of the equivalent of one annual award.
5. The service deferment and cancellation must be requested in writing and approved each year until the debt is fully satisfied.

C. Loan Repayment

1. Unless granted a grace period or other deferment, an SREB forgivable loan recipient shall become liable to the Board for the sum of all SREB forgivable loan awards made to that person less the corresponding amount of debt previously cancelled through service, plus a penalty of 5% of the outstanding principal, and interest on the combined outstanding principal and penalty, immediately at the time of occurrence of one of the following

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events:

- a) The recipient withdraws from school;
 - b) The recipient fails to complete the approved program of study;
 - c) The recipient fails to obtain the appropriate license; or
 - d) The recipient fails to complete the service option defined in Section V.B.
2. At the time of the occurrence of one of the events outlined in Section V.C.I. or upon termination of a grace period or other deferment, a 5% penalty will be applied to the sum of all SREB forgivable loan awards made to the recipient less any amount previously cancelled through service.
 3. The rate of interest charged an SREB forgivable loan recipient on the unsatisfied balance shall be the current unsubsidized Federal Direct Loan rate at the time of occurrence of one of the events outlined in Section V.C.1. or upon termination of a grace period or other deferment.
 4. Interest begins accruing at the time of occurrence of one of the events outlined in Section V.C.1. or upon termination of a grace period or other deferment, and repayment commences one (1) month after the occurrence of the event.
 5. Forgivable loan recipients must repay the loan (principal, penalty, and interest thereon) in 60 or less equal consecutive monthly installments. If the recipient fails to repay his/her loan (principal, penalty, and interest thereon) in 60 or less equal consecutive monthly installments, all principal, penalty, and interest outstanding, together with costs of collection, shall become immediately due and payable and, demand shall be made by mailing the same to the obligor at the last address furnished by said obligor. Should payment of the sum due not be made in full within thirty (30) days, from the date demand was made, the Contract and Note executed by the obligor shall be placed with a collection agency or an attorney for collection, at which point the obligor shall become liable for reasonable collection or attorneys' fees, which may be based on a percentage of the amount of the debt, and court costs, in addition to the other sums due and owing.
- D. The obligations made by the recipient of this forgivable loan shall not be voidable by reason of the age of the student at the time of receiving the forgivable loan.

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- E. Special circumstances regarding a recipient's failure to complete the service option and/or fulfill the loan obligation should be addressed in writing to the Board or its loan servicer.

VI. GRACE PERIOD AND OTHER DEFERMENTS

A. Grace Period

1. Upon completion of the approved program of study, the SREB forgivable loan recipient will be granted a 12-month grace period, during which the recipient should obtain the appropriate license and/or secure appropriate employment as defined in Section V.B.1.
2. An SREB forgivable loan recipient who does not complete the approved program of study will not be granted a 12-month grace period and will enter repayment immediately upon separation from the approved program of study. Such a recipient may be eligible for an in-school deferment as defined in Section VI.B.

B. In-School Deferment

1. An SREB forgivable loan recipient who does not complete the approved program of study, but remains enrolled at least part-time in a doctoral level program may request deferment of the accrual of interest and the repayment of principal and penalty for purposes of remaining in school.
2. The in-school deferment must be requested in writing to the Board or its loan servicer and must be accompanied by verification of at least part-time enrollment from the attending institution.
3. The in-school deferment must be requested by the recipient and approved every term (except Summer) throughout the duration of the deferment.

C. Post-Graduate Training/Residency Deferment

1. An SREB forgivable loan recipient may request deferment of the accrual of interest and the repayment of principal and penalty for the purpose of pursuing post-graduate training or residency at an accredited hospital in optometry for a period not to exceed one (1) year.
2. The residency deferment must be requested in writing to the Board or its loan servicer, stating the location and starting and ending dates of the post-graduate training/residency, and must be accompanied by verification from the institution providing the post-graduate training/residency.

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3. The residency deferment must be requested by the recipient and approved at the beginning of each year of post-graduate training/residency.

D. Temporary Disability Deferment

1. An SREB forgivable loan recipient in repayment who is unable to secure or continue employment because of temporary total disability may request deferment of the accrual of interest and the repayment of principal and penalty. To qualify, a recipient must be unable to work and earn money due to the disability for at least sixty (60) days, or be providing continuous care for a dependent or spouse during a period of at least (90) consecutive days.
2. The temporary disability deferment must be requested in writing to the Board or its loan servicer and must be accompanied by certification from a doctor of medicine or osteopathy who is legally authorized to practice medicine.
3. The temporary disability deferment must be requested by the recipient and approved every six (6) months throughout the duration of the deferment and condition for a total period of time not to exceed three (3) years.

E. Military Service Deferment

1. In terms of military service the following definitions shall apply:
 - a) **REQUIRED** military service is that service which is required of an individual in the service of the Armed Forces of the United States; it does not include a military service obligation incurred to repay a grant, stipend or scholarship granted the individual prior to, during, or after the award under the Southern Regional Education Board Regional Contract Forgivable loan program.
 - b) **OBLIGATED** or **VOLUNTARY** military service is that service which is performed by the individual in repayment of a debt owed the United States government as a result of military scholarships, ROTC scholarships, etc. received by the individual. Service is **VOLUNTARY** if the individual is not obligated to incur a period of military service, but chooses to incur the service obligation.
2. An SREB forgivable loan recipient shall be eligible for deferment of the accrual of interest and the repayment of principal and penalty during the time of required military service.

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3. The military deferment must be requested in writing to the Board or its loan servicer, stating beginning and ending dates of such required military service, and must be accompanied by a copy of the military orders.
4. The military deferment must be requested by the recipient and approved on a year-to-year basis (annually).
5. If a recipient continues military service for any reason beyond the REQUIRED time, then that person shall be declared ineligible for military deferment and the remaining unsatisfied principal, penalty, and interest shall become due and payable to the Board according to the terms outlined in Section V.C.
6. If a recipient obligates himself/herself to VOLUNTARY military service prior to, during, or after the SREB award, then that person shall be declared ineligible for military deferment and the remaining unsatisfied principal, penalty, and interest shall become due and payable to the Board according to the terms outlined in Section V.C.

VII. CANCELLATION OF DEBT

A. Death

1. If an individual recipient dies, then the recipient's obligation to repay the loan or render service is canceled.
2. The Board shall require a copy of the death certificate or other proof of death that is acceptable under applicable State Law. If a death certificate or other acceptable proof of death is not available, the recipient's obligation for service or repayment on the loan is canceled only upon a determination by the Board on the basis of other evidence that the Board finds conclusive.
3. The Board may not attempt to collect on the loan from the deceased recipient's estate.

B. Total and Permanent Disability

1. If the Board determines that an individual recipient is totally and permanently disabled, the recipient's obligation to make any further payments of principal, penalty, and interest on the loan is canceled. A recipient is not considered totally and permanently disabled on the basis of a condition that existed before he/she applied for the forgivable loan, unless the recipient's condition has substantially deteriorated since he/she submitted the forgivable loan application, so as to render the recipient totally and permanently disabled.

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2. After being notified by the recipient or the recipient's representative that the recipient claims to be totally and permanently disabled, the Board shall promptly request that the recipient or the recipient's representative obtain a certification from a physician, who is a doctor of medicine or osteopathy and legally authorized to practice, on a form provided or approved by the Board and other necessary documents as requested, that the recipient is totally and permanently disabled. The Board shall continue collection until it receives the certification or receives a letter from a physician stating that the certification has been requested and that additional time is needed to determine if the recipient is totally and permanently disabled. After receiving the physician's certification or letter and other necessary documents as requested and the student is found to be totally and permanently disabled, the Board may not attempt to collect from the recipient.
3. If the Board determines that a loan owed by a recipient, who claims to be totally and permanently disabled, is not eligible for cancellation for that reason, or if the Board has not received the physician's certification and other requested documents, as described in Section VII.B.2., within 60 days of the receipt of the documents as described in Section VII.B.2., the Board shall resume collection and shall be deemed to have exercised forbearance of payment of principal, penalty, and interest from the date the Board received the documents described in Section VII.B.2. until such a determination of ineligibility is made by the Board.

C. Bankruptcy

SREB forgivable loans are nondischargeable in bankruptcy.

VIII. WARRANTY

The acceptance of the SREB forgivable loan shall serve to appoint the Secretary of State of the State of Mississippi by each recipient as his/her designated agent for service of process, upon whom may be served all lawful processes and summons in any action or proceeding against him/her in the event he/she removes himself/herself from this State and the processes of its courts, growing out of any breach of Contract and Note by the recipient for failure to fulfill his/her Contract and Note with the Board or, to repay the SREB forgivable loan, including penalty and interest pursuant to the law and Contract and Note, and, said acceptance of the loan rights and privileges shall be a signification of the applicant's agreement that any such process or summons against him/her, which is so served upon the Secretary of State, shall be of the same legal force and validity as if served on him/her personally. The venue of all causes of action against such nonresidents shall be Hinds County, Mississippi.

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IX. AUTHORIZATION

The acceptance of the SREB forgivable loan shall serve to authorize the Mississippi Office of Student Financial Aid, the Board, and their respective agents and contractors to contact the recipient regarding the recipient's loan request or loan(s), including repayment of loan(s), at the current or any future number the recipient provides for the recipient's cellular phone or other wireless device using automated telephone dialing equipment or artificial or pre-recorded voice or text messages.

Source: *Miss. Code Ann.* § 37-106-47.

Exhibit 7

Title 10: Education Institutions and Agencies

Part 679: Speech-Language Pathologist Forgivable Loan Program (SLPL)

Part 679 Chapter 1: Speech-Language Pathologist Forgivable Loan Program (SLPL) Rules and Regulations

Rule 1.1 Speech-Language Pathologist Forgivable Loan Program (SLPL) Rules and Regulations. These Rules and Regulations are subject to change by the Mississippi Postsecondary Education Financial Assistance Board (hereinafter referred to as the "Board"). New awards will be made each award year subject to the availability of funds, and selection shall be based on a first-come, first-served basis of all eligible applicants. Priority consideration shall be given to persons previously receiving awards under the Speech-Language Pathologist Forgivable Loan program (SLPL).

I. GENERAL ELIGIBILITY

- A. The applicant must be a current legal resident of Mississippi. Resident status for purposes of receiving SLPL shall be determined in the same manner as resident status for tuition purposes as set forth in Sections 37-103-1 through 37-103-29 of Ms. Code Ann., with the exception of Section 37-103-17.
- B. The applicant must be fully admitted as a regular student and enrolled full-time or part-time, as determined by the attending institution, at the graduate level at one (1) accredited four year institution of higher learning in the State of Mississippi. Classification will be determined by the attending institution.
- C. The applicant must be seeking a first master's degree in Speech-Language Pathology, Communicative Disorders, Communication Sciences and Disorders, or similar program of study leading to licensure as a Speech-Language Pathologist.
- D. The applicant must have and maintain a cumulative 3.0 college grade point average (GPA) on a 4.0 scale each period of enrollment (i.e. semester or trimester) and must maintain satisfactory academic progress in the approved program of study in accordance with the attending institution's policy.
- E. The applicant must have expressed in writing a present intention to serve as a Speech-Language Pathologist in the State of Mississippi in a public school/district or public charter school, and must diligently pursue the course of study and requirements for the appropriate license and employment.
- F. The applicant must not presently or previously have defaulted on an educational loan.
- G. SLPL recipients are not eligible for any other state aid but may apply for federal and institutional aid.

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II. APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR FORGIVABLE LOAN APPLICANT

A. First time applicants must:

1. Complete an application online at www.mississippi.edu/financialaid www.msfinancialaid.org by the deadline date of March 31.
2. If residency has not been established, submit two forms of documentation of current legal residency to be received by the document deadline of ~~April~~ June 30. Acceptable forms of residency documentation are listed in the General Administration Rules and Regulations and published online at www.mississippi.edu/financialaid www.msfinancialaid.org.
3. Submit a copy of the applicant's letter of acceptance into the graduate program of study. The letter of acceptance should indicate that the applicant has been fully admitted or admitted as a regular student. Provisional or conditional admission is not accepted. The letter of acceptance should be submitted as soon as possible, but must be received by the document deadline of June 30.
4. Have a cumulative college GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale, be enrolled full-time in a master's level program of study leading to licensure and employment as a Speech-Language Pathologist, and be making satisfactory academic progress in accordance with the attending institution's policy. Evidence of academic eligibility will be automatically provided to the Board by the attending institution, unless specifically requested from the applicant.
5. Participate in Entrance Counseling, signify understanding of the SLPL Rules and Regulations, enter into a Contract and Note with the Board pursuant to the applicable Rules and Regulations and all applicable State laws, and complete, sign and return the Self Certification of a Private Loan form prior to the disbursement of funds. *Note: The Contract and Note will be issued once the applicant has been awarded. Funds will not be disbursed until the Contract and Note has been signed.*

B. Renewal applicants must:

1. Complete an application online at www.mississippi.edu/financialaid www.msfinancialaid.org by the deadline date of March 31.
2. Maintain a cumulative 3.0 college GPA on a 4.0 scale per period of enrollment (i.e. semester or trimester) and remain in a master's level program of study leading to licensure and employment as a Speech-Language Pathologist, making satisfactory academic progress in accordance with the attending institution's policy. Evidence of continuing

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academic eligibility will be automatically provided to the Board by the attending institution, unless specifically requested from the applicant.

3. Participate in Entrance Counseling and complete, sign and return the Self Certification of a Private Loan form.

III. AMOUNT AND LENGTH OF FORGIVABLE LOAN

- A. The amount of the annual award for full-time students shall equal the total cost for tuition and fees at the college or university in which the student is enrolled, not to exceed the highest tuition and fees at a state institution of higher learning. The amount of the annual award for part-time students shall be based on the cost of tuition and fees for the hours enrolled at the college or university in which the student is enrolled, not to exceed the highest tuition and fees for the equivalent hours enrolled at a state institution of higher learning.
- B. Full-time students may receive a lifetime maximum of two (2) annual awards and part-time students may receive a lifetime maximum of three (3) annual awards.
- C. Awards shall be made during all terms required for enrollment in the program, including summer where appropriate.
- D. Awards shall be disbursed directly to the school of attendance, to be applied first toward tuition.
- E. In order to receive SLPL funds, a student who previously received funds under any other state-supported forgivable loan program must have discharged his/her previous loan through service or payment in full.
- F. SLPL recipients are not eligible for any other state aid but may apply for federal and institutional aid.

IV. RECIPIENT RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. An SLPL recipient must maintain good standing at the educational institution in which he/she is enrolled at all times.
- B. An SLPL recipient must maintain a 3.0 minimum GPA on a 4.0 scale per period of enrollment (i.e. semester or trimester). An SLPL recipient who fails to maintain the minimum GPA will be suspended from participation in the program for the following period of enrollment. An official transcript or grade verification sent directly to the Board by the attending institution evidencing a 3.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale for the non-eligible period of enrollment will entitle an SLPL recipient for renewal priority.

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- C. An SLPL recipient must remain in school, complete an approved program of study and obtain the appropriate license. An SLPL recipient who withdraws from school, fails to complete an approved program of study, or fails to obtain an appropriate license, shall immediately become liable to the Board for the sum of all outstanding SLPL awards, plus a penalty of 5% of the outstanding principal, and interest on the combined outstanding principal and penalty.
- D. While receiving funds, the SLPL recipient must at all times keep the Board informed of the recipient's current, correct, and complete contact information. This information may be updated via the SLPL recipient's student account online at www.mississippi.edu/financialaid www.msfinancialaid.org. Once in repayment, the SLPL recipient must at all times keep the Board or its loan servicer informed of the recipient's current, correct, and complete contact information until the debt is completely satisfied.
- E. An SLPL recipient should address in writing to the Board or its loan servicer any special circumstances regarding enrollment status, withdrawal from school, or failure to complete the approved program of study.

V. REPAYMENT

- A. An SLPL forgivable loan recipient enters repayment when the recipient completes the approved program of study, withdraws from school, or fails to complete the approved program of study. The recipient may satisfy his/her forgivable loan debt either by cancellation through service or by loan repayment.
- B. Cancellation through Service
 - 1. An SLPL forgivable loan recipient must meet all of the following criteria to qualify for debt cancellation through service:
 - a) Obtain the appropriate license for employment as a Speech-Language Pathologist.
 - b) Serve full-time, as defined by the State Board of Education, as a Speech-Language Pathologist.
 - c) Provide Speech-Language Pathology services for students in grades kindergarten through twelve (K-12) in a Mississippi public school/district or public charter school. *NOTE: It is fully understood that it is the responsibility of the forgivable loan recipient to seek and secure employment as a Speech-Language Pathologist in an appropriate school/district. Neither the Board nor the State Board of Education assumes the obligation to perform that function. Prospective Speech-Language Pathologists*

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may contact the Mississippi ~~Teacher Center~~ Department of Education for placement assistance at www.mde.k12.ms.us/mte.

2. An SLPL forgivable loan debt shall be cancelled on the basis of one year's service for one annual forgivable loan award received. For all SLPL recipients, such service shall never be less than one (1) year regardless of the length of study provided under this forgivable loan.
3. At the time of separation from the approved program of study, unless granted a grace period or other type of deferment, the SLPL forgivable loan recipient must request in writing a deferment of the accrual of interest and repayment of principal and penalty for purposes of completing the service option. The service deferment request must be accompanied by evidence of appropriate employment as defined in Section V.B.1.
4. At the end of each service deferment period, the SLPL forgivable loan recipient must request in writing a cancellation of the equivalent of one annual award.
5. The service deferment and cancellation must be requested in writing and approved each year until the debt is fully satisfied.

C. Loan Repayment

1. Unless granted a grace period or other deferment, an SLPL forgivable loan recipient shall become liable to the Board for the sum of all SLPL forgivable loan awards made to that person less the corresponding amount of debt previously cancelled through service, plus a penalty of 5% of the outstanding principal, and interest on the combined outstanding principal and penalty, immediately at the time of occurrence of one of the following events:
 - a) The recipient withdraws from school;
 - b) The recipient fails to complete the approved program of study;
 - c) The recipient fails to obtain the appropriate license; or
 - d) The recipient fails to complete the service option defined in Section V.B.
2. At the time of the occurrence of one of the events outlined in Section V.C.1. or upon termination of a grace period or other deferment, a 5% penalty will be applied to the sum of all SLPL forgivable loan awards made to the recipient less any amount previously cancelled through service.

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3. The rate of interest charged an SLPL forgivable loan recipient on the combined outstanding principal and penalty shall be the current unsubsidized Federal Stafford Loan rate at the time of occurrence of one of the events outlined in Section V.C.1. or upon termination of a grace period or other deferment.
 4. Interest begins accruing at the time of occurrence of one of the events outlined in Section V.C.1. or upon termination of a grace period or other deferment, and repayment commences one (1) month after the occurrence of the event.
 5. Forgivable loan recipients must repay the loan (principal, penalty, and interest thereon) in 60 or less equal consecutive monthly installments. If the recipient fails to repay his/her loan (principal, penalty, and interest thereon) in 60 or less equal consecutive monthly installments, all principal, penalty, and interest outstanding, together with costs of collection, shall become immediately due and payable, and demand shall be made by mailing the same to the obligor at the last address furnished by said obligor. Should payment of the sum due not be made in full within thirty (30) days from the date demand was made, the Contract and Note executed by the obligor shall be placed with a collection agency or an attorney for collection, at which point the obligor shall become liable for reasonable collection or attorneys' fees, which may be based on a percentage of the amount of the debt, and court costs, in addition to the other sums due and owing.
- D. The obligations made by the recipient of this forgivable loan shall not be voidable by reason of the age of the student at the time of receiving the forgivable loan.
- E. Special circumstances regarding a recipient's failure to complete the service option and/or fulfill the loan obligation should be addressed in writing to the Board or its loan servicer.

VI. GRACE PERIOD AND OTHER DEFERMENTS

- A. Grace Period
1. Upon completion of the approved program of study, the SLPL forgivable loan recipient will be granted a 12-month grace period, during which the recipient should obtain the appropriate license and secure appropriate employment as defined in Section V.B.1.
 2. An SLPL forgivable loan recipient who does not complete the approved program of study will not be granted a 12-month grace period and will enter repayment immediately upon separation from the approved program

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of study. Such a recipient *may* be eligible for an in-school deferment as defined in Section VI.B.

B. In-School Deferment

1. An SLPL forgivable loan recipient who does not complete the approved program of study, but remains enrolled at least part-time in a first master's program may request deferment of the accrual of interest and the repayment of principal and penalty for purposes of remaining in school.
2. The in-school deferment must be requested in writing to the Board or its loan servicer and must be accompanied by verification of at least part-time enrollment from the attending institution.
3. The in-school deferment will not be granted for enrollment in a second master's, specialist or doctorate program.
4. The in-school deferment must be requested by the recipient and approved every term (except Summer) throughout the duration of the deferment.

C. Temporary Disability Deferment

1. An SLPL forgivable loan recipient in repayment who is unable to secure or continue employment because of temporary total disability may request deferment of the accrual of interest and the repayment of principal and penalty. To qualify, a recipient must be unable to work and earn money due to the disability for at least sixty (60) days, or be providing continuous care for a dependent or spouse during a period of at least (90) consecutive days.
2. The temporary disability deferment must be requested in writing to the Board or its loan servicer and must be accompanied by certification from a doctor of medicine or osteopathy who is legally authorized to practice medicine.
3. The temporary disability deferment must be requested by the recipient and approved every six (6) months throughout the duration of the deferment and condition for a total period of time not to exceed three (3) years.

D. Military Service Deferment

1. In terms of military service the following definitions shall apply:
 - a) REQUIRED military service is that service which is required of an individual in the service of the Armed Forces of the United States; it does not include a military service obligation incurred to repay a

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grant, stipend or scholarship granted the individual prior to, during, or after the award under the SLPL program.

- b) OBLIGATED or VOLUNTARY military service is that service which is performed by the individual in repayment of a debt owed the United States government as a result of military scholarships, ROTC scholarships, etc. received by the individual. Service is VOLUNTARY if the individual is not obligated to incur a period of military service, but chooses to incur the service obligation.
2. An SLPL forgivable loan recipient shall be eligible for deferment of the accrual of interest and the repayment of principal and penalty during the time of required military service.
 3. The military deferment must be requested in writing to the Board or its loan servicer, stating beginning and ending dates of such required military service, and must be accompanied by a copy of the military orders.
 4. The military deferment must be requested by the recipient and approved on a year-to-year basis (annually).
 5. If a recipient continues military service for any reason beyond the REQUIRED time, then that person shall be declared ineligible for military deferment and the remaining unsatisfied principal, penalty, and interest shall become due and payable to the Board according to the terms outlined in Section V.C.
 6. If a recipient obligates himself/herself to VOLUNTARY military service prior to, during, or after the SLPL award, then that person shall be declared ineligible for military deferment and the remaining unsatisfied principal, penalty, and interest shall become due and payable to the Board according to the terms outlined in Section V.C.

VII. CANCELLATION OF DEBT

A. Death

1. If an individual recipient dies, then the recipient's obligation to repay the loan or render service is canceled.
2. The Board shall require a copy of the death certificate or other proof of death that is acceptable under applicable State Law. If a death certificate or other acceptable proof of death is not available, the recipient's obligation for service or repayment on the loan is canceled only upon a determination by the Board on the basis of other evidence that the Board finds conclusive.

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3. The Board may not attempt to collect on the loan from the deceased recipient's estate.

B. Total and Permanent Disability

1. If the Board determines that an individual recipient is totally and permanently disabled, the recipient's obligation to make any further payments of principal, penalty, and interest on the loan is canceled. A recipient is not considered totally and permanently disabled on the basis of a condition that existed before he/she applied for the forgivable loan, unless the recipient's condition has substantially deteriorated since he/she submitted the forgivable loan application, so as to render the recipient totally and permanently disabled.
2. After being notified by the recipient or the recipient's representative that the recipient claims to be totally and permanently disabled, the Board shall promptly request that the recipient or the recipient's representative obtain a certification from a physician, who is a doctor of medicine or osteopathy and legally authorized to practice, on a form provided or approved by the Board and other necessary documents as requested, that the recipient is totally and permanently disabled. The Board shall continue collection until it receives the certification or receives a letter from a physician stating that the certification has been requested and that additional time is needed to determine if the recipient is totally and permanently disabled. After receiving the physician's certification or letter and other necessary documents as requested and the student is found to be totally and permanently disabled, the Board may not attempt to collect from the recipient.
3. If the Board determines that a loan owed by a recipient, who claims to be totally and permanently disabled, is not eligible for cancellation for that reason, or if the Board has not received the physician's certification and other requested documents, as described in Section VII.B.2., within 60 days of the receipt of the documents as described in Section VII.B.2., the Board shall resume collection and shall be deemed to have exercised forbearance of payment of principal, penalty, and interest from the date the Board received the documents described in Section VII.B.2. until such a determination of ineligibility is made by the Board.

C. Bankruptcy

SLPL forgivable loans are nondischargeable in bankruptcy.

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VIII. WARRANTY

The acceptance of the SLPL forgivable loan by each recipient shall serve to appoint the Secretary of State of the State of Mississippi as his/her designated agent for service of process, upon whom may be served all lawful processes and summons in any action or proceeding against him/her in the event he/she removes himself/herself from this State and the processes of its courts, growing out of any breach of Contract and Note by the recipient for failure to fulfill his/her Contract and Note with the Board or, to repay the SLPL Forgivable loan, including penalty and interest pursuant to the law and Contract and Note, and, said acceptance of the loan rights and privileges shall be a signification of the applicant's agreement that any such process or summons against him/her, which is so served upon the Secretary of State, shall be of the same legal force and validity as if served on him/her personally. The venue of all causes of action against such nonresidents shall be Hinds County, Mississippi.

IX. AUTHORIZATION

The acceptance of the SLPL forgivable loan shall serve to authorize the Mississippi Office of Student Financial Aid, the Board, and their respective agents and contractors to contact the recipient regarding the recipient's loan request or loan(s), including repayment of loan(s), at the current or any future number the recipient provides for the recipient's cellular phone or other wireless device using automated telephone dialing equipment or artificial or pre-recorded voice or text messages.

Source: *Miss. Code Ann.* § 37-106-73.

Exhibit 8

Nurse and Respiratory Therapist Retention Stipend Program

AN ACT TO CREATE THE NURSE AND RESPIRATORY THERAPIST RETENTION STIPEND PROGRAM; TO PROVIDE AWARDS TO NURSES AND RESPIRATORY THERAPIST WHO APPLY, SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS; TO SET ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS; TO EXCLUDE CERTAIN PERSONS FROM ELIGIBILITY; TO REQUIRE THAT RECIPIENTS MAINTAIN CURRENT EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION AT ALL TIMES WITH THE MISSISSIPPI POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE BOARD; TO PROVIDE THAT AMOUNTS AWARDED BE PAID TO THE RECIPIENT; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES. BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

SECTION 1. (1) There is established the "Nurse and Respiratory Therapist Retention Stipend Program" for retaining new nursing and respiratory therapist graduates in the State of Mississippi, to be administered by the Mississippi Postsecondary Education Financial Assistance Board.

(2) Subject to the availability of funds, an eligible applicant for an initial award must have:

(a) Gained employment within the last year for the first time as a full-time licensed practical nurse, licensed registered nurse or respiratory therapist in the State of Mississippi; and

(b) A current relevant Mississippi professional license.

(3) Persons who have received funds from state forgivable loan programs established under Mississippi law are not eligible for this program.

(4) Recipients in the initial year of the program will be selected on a first-come, first-served basis from all eligible applicants. In the second and subsequent years of an applicant's continued eligibility, priority shall be given to renewal applicants. In any given year, new registered nurse applicants, new licensed practical nurse applicants, and new respiratory therapist applicants should be awarded at a ratio of about six (6) to two (2) to one (1).

(5) The Mississippi Postsecondary Education Financial Assistance Board shall renew eligible applicants approved in prior years only if the renewal applicant continues to meet the standards set forth in this act and the renewal applicant has not received full funding provided by subsection (6).

(6) Awards shall be as follows:

(a) Awards for licensed practical nurse recipients may be a maximum of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) for each year of full-time employment up to three (3) years.

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(b) Awards for licensed respiratory therapy and licensed registered nurse recipients may be a maximum of Eight Thousand Dollars (\$8,000) for each year of full-time employment up to three (3) years.

(c) Awards for licensed registered nurse recipients who work full-time as nurse educators in an approved Mississippi School of Nursing may be a maximum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) for each year of employment up to three (3) years.

(7) Awards will be granted on a year-to-year basis, and recipients have no obligation to seek a subsequent award.

(8) Awards shall be paid annually, after the expiration of the year of employment for which the award was granted, to the recipient.

(9) During the employment year for which the award is granted, a recipient must keep the Mississippi Postsecondary Education Financial Assistance Board informed of any changes to the recipient's current, correct, and complete employment information and status.

(10) Recipients who fail to maintain a relevant Mississippi professional license or fail to fulfill the year of employment on which the award was based forfeit any right to the award.

(11) The Mississippi Postsecondary Education Financial Assistance Board, in collaboration with the Licensing Board of the nurse or other health care professional eligible to receive funds under this program, must track award recipients under this program through their third employment year, unless the recipient leaves employment in the state at an earlier date. Data collected must include each recipients' place of employment and any other pertinent information necessary to determine the efficacy of the program in retaining nurses and respiratory therapists in the State of Mississippi.

(12) The Mississippi Postsecondary Education Financial Assistance Board must promulgate regulations necessary for the proper administration of this section, including setting a fiscal year policy for the program and application dates and deadlines.

(13) There is established in the State Treasury a special fund to be designated the "Nurse and Respiratory Therapist Retention Stipend Program Fund," into which shall be deposited those funds appropriated by the Legislature, and any other funds that may be made available, for the purpose of implementing the loan repayment program established herein. Money in the fund at the end of the fiscal year shall not lapse, and interest earned on any amounts deposited into the fund shall be credited to the special fund.

SECTION 2. Section 37-106-59, Mississippi Code of 1972, which establishes a forgivable loan program for baccalaureate and graduate studies in nursing, and Section 37-106-60, which establishes the Nursing and Respiratory Therapy Incentive Forgivable Loan Program, are repealed from and after July 1, 2023.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage.

Exhibit 9

Nurse and Respiratory Therapist Retention Loan Repayment Program

AN ACT TO CREATE THE NURSE AND RESPIRATORY THERAPIST RETENTION LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM; TO PROVIDE AWARDS TO NURSES AND RESPIRATORY THERAPIST WHO APPLY, SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS; TO SET ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS; TO EXCLUDE CERTAIN PERSONS FROM ELIGIBILITY; TO REQUIRE THAT RECIPIENTS MAINTAIN CURRENT EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION AT ALL TIMES WITH THE MISSISSIPPI POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE BOARD; TO PROVIDE THAT AMOUNTS AWARDED BE PAID TO THE RECIPIENT'S LENDER OR LOAN SERVICE PROVIDER; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES. BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

SECTION 1. (1) There is established the "Nurse and Respiratory Therapist Retention Loan Repayment Program" for retaining new nursing and respiratory therapist graduates in the State of Mississippi, to be administered by the Mississippi Postsecondary Education Financial Assistance Board.

(2) Subject to the availability of funds, an eligible applicant for an initial award must have:

- (a) Gained employment within the last year for the first time as a full-time licensed practical nurse, licensed registered nurse or respiratory therapist in the State of Mississippi;
- (b) A current relevant Mississippi professional license; and
- (c) Outstanding qualifying educational loans, received while pursuing a nursing or relevant respiratory therapist degree, which may include the principal, interest, and related expenses such as the required interest premium on the unpaid balances of government and commercial loans obtained by the recipient for educational expense.

(3) Persons who have received funds from state forgivable loan programs established under Mississippi law, or who are in default or delinquent on any federal, state, local or commercial qualifying educational loan, are not eligible for this program.

(4) Recipients in the initial year of the program will be selected on a first-come, first-served basis from all eligible applicants. In the second and subsequent years of an applicant's continued eligibility, priority shall be given to renewal applicants. In any given year, new registered nurse applicants, new licensed practical nurse applicants, and new respiratory therapist applicants should be awarded at a ratio of about six (6) to two (2) to one (1).

(5) The Mississippi Postsecondary Education Financial Assistance Board shall renew eligible applicants approved in prior years only if the renewal applicant continues to meet the standards set forth in this act and the renewal applicant has not received full funding provided by subsection (6).

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(6) Awards shall be as follows:

(a) Awards for licensed practical nurse recipients may be a maximum of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) for each year of full-time employment up to three (3) years.

(b) Awards for licensed respiratory therapy and licensed registered nurse recipients may be a maximum of Eight Thousand Dollars (\$8,000) for each year of full-time employment up to three (3) years.

(c) Awards for licensed registered nurse recipients who work full-time as nurse educators in an approved Mississippi School of Nursing may be a maximum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) for each year of employment up to three (3) years.

(7) Awards will be granted on a year-to-year basis, and recipients have no obligation to seek a subsequent award.

(8) Awards shall be paid annually, after the expiration of the year of employment for which the award was granted, to the recipient's lender or loan service provider, to be applied to the outstanding balance. Monies paid by the recipient or on the recipient's behalf toward qualifying educational loans before payment of the award are not eligible for reimbursement through the program.

(9) During the employment year for which the award is granted, a recipient must keep the Mississippi Postsecondary Education Financial Assistance Board informed of any changes to the recipient's current, correct, and complete employment information and status.

(10) Recipients who fail to maintain a relevant Mississippi professional license or fail to fulfill the year of employment on which the award was based forfeit any right to the award.

(11) The Mississippi Postsecondary Education Financial Assistance Board, in collaboration with the Licensing Board of the nurse or other health care professional eligible to receive funds under this program, must track award recipients under this program through their third employment year, unless the recipient leaves employment in the state at an earlier date. Data collected must include each recipients' place of employment and any other pertinent information necessary to determine the efficacy of the program in retaining nurses and respiratory therapists in the State of Mississippi.

(12) The Mississippi Postsecondary Education Financial Assistance Board must promulgate regulations necessary for the proper administration of this section, including setting a fiscal year policy for the program and application dates and deadlines.

(13) There is established in the State Treasury a special fund to be designated the "Nurse and Respiratory Therapist Retention Loan Repayment Program Fund," into which shall be deposited those funds appropriated by the Legislature, and any other funds that may be made available, for the purpose of implementing the loan repayment program established herein. Money in the fund

Exhibit 9

at the end of the fiscal year shall not lapse, and interest earned on any amounts deposited into the fund shall be credited to the special fund.

SECTION 2. Section 37-106-59, Mississippi Code of 1972, which establishes a forgivable loan program for baccalaureate and graduate studies in nursing, and Section 37-106-60, which establishes the Nursing and Respiratory Therapy Incentive Forgivable Loan Program, are repealed from and after July 1, 2023.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage.

Exhibit 10

§ 37-106-36. William F. Winter and Jack Reed, Sr., Teacher Loan Repayment Program [Repealed effective July 1, 2024].

(1) There is established the “William F. Winter and Jack Reed, Sr., Teacher Loan Repayment Program.”

(2) Subject to the availability of funds, an eligible applicant for an initial award must have:

(a) Graduated from a baccalaureate degree-granting institution of higher learning which is regionally accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) or a comparable accreditation body;

(b) Signed a contract as a full-time first-year teacher in a public school district in Mississippi;

(c) Obtained a standard five-year license. Persons with emergency licenses shall not be eligible applicants; and

(d) Outstanding qualifying undergraduate educational loans, which may include the principal, interest and related expenses such as the required interest premium on the unpaid balances of government and commercial loans obtained by the recipient for undergraduate educational expense.

(3) Persons who have received funds from other forgivable loan programs established for teachers under Mississippi law, or who are presently in default or delinquent on any federal, state, local or commercial qualifying educational loan, shall not be eligible for this program.

(4) Initial recipients shall be selected on a first-come, first-served basis of all eligible applicants; ~~which shall be limited to only one hundred fifty (150) individuals receiving scholarship funds.~~ In the second and subsequent years of an applicant’s continued eligibility, priority consideration shall first be given to renewal applicants. ~~In any given year only one hundred fifty (150) new applicants shall be eligible to receive funds under the program.~~

(5) Among first-time, first-year teacher recipients, priority consideration shall be given to persons who are teaching in a public school district designated as a geographical critical teacher shortage area by the State Board of Education.

(6) Awards for recipients who have signed a contract to teach in a public school district that is not designated as a geographical critical teacher shortage area shall be as follows:

(a) One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$1,500.00) for the first year of teaching;

(b) Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500.00) for the second year of teaching; and

(c) Three Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$3,500.00) for the third year of teaching.

Exhibit 10

(7) Awards for recipients who have signed a contract to teach in a public school district that is designated as a geographical critical teacher shortage area shall be as follows:

(a) Four Thousand Dollars (\$4,000.00) for the first year of teaching;

(b) Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) for the second year of teaching, provided the recipient continues to teach in the same public school district or another public school district designated a geographical shortage area by the State Board of Education; and

(c) Six Thousand Dollars (\$6,000.00) for the third year of teaching, provided the recipient continues to teach in the same public school district or another public school district designated a geographical shortage area by the State Board of Education.

(8) A first-year recipient who moves to another public school district shall be eligible to receive an award based on the amount allowed under the program in the new district where the teacher is employed.

(9) Awards shall be granted on a year-to-year basis, and recipients shall have no obligation to seek a future award.

(10) Awards shall be paid annually, after the expiration of the one-year teaching contract for which the award was granted, to the recipient's lender or loan service provider, and shall be applied to the outstanding balance. Monies paid on the recipient's behalf toward qualifying undergraduate educational loans prior to receiving payment of the award shall not be eligible for repayment through the program.

(11) During the teaching year for which the award is granted, a recipient must at all times keep the State Financial Aid Board informed of any changes to the recipient's current contact information and employment status.

(12) Recipients who fail to maintain a standard license or fail to fulfill the one-year teaching contract on which the award was based shall forfeit any right to the award.

(13) The State Financial Aid Board, in collaboration with the State Board of Education, shall track recipients of an award under this program through their fifth teaching year, unless the recipient shall leave teaching in a public school district at an earlier date. Data collected shall include recipients' undergraduate institution, school district, subject area/grade level in teaching and any other pertinent information necessary to determine the efficacy of the program in retaining teachers in their first three (3) years of teaching.

(14) The State Financial Aid Board shall promulgate regulations necessary for the proper administration of this section.

(15) There is established in the State Treasury a special fund to be designated the "William F. Winter and Jack Reed, Sr., Loan Repayment Program Fund," into which shall be deposited those funds appropriated by the Legislature, and any other funds that may be made available, for the

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purpose of implementing the loan repayment program established herein. Money in the fund at the end of the fiscal year shall not lapse into the General Fund, and interest earned on any amounts deposited into the fund shall be credited to the special fund.

(16) This section shall stand repealed on July 1, 2024.