

North Bolivar Consolidated School District

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Maurice Smith, Superintendent
Gared Watkins, Sr., Assistant Superintendent/Federal Programs Director

To: Jefferick D. Butler
Tyrone Miller
Jacqueline Allen
William Lucas
Lashondra Walker

From: Maurice Smith

Date: September 10, 2020

RE: Accepting the District's Carnegie Unit Mastery of Content Learning Plan

The Mississippi Department of Education suspended the seat time requirement of a minimum of 140 hours of instruction required for each Carnegie unit and 70 hours for each one-half (.5) Carnegie unit offered for the 2020-2021 school year. Districts are required to develop a plan to ensure mastery of content for each Carnegie unit awarded.

I am asking for the board to waive the requirement of 140 hours and 70 hours outlined in MDE Process Standard 13.2 and to approve the attached Mastery of Content Learning Plan in lieu of that standard. Upon approval, the plan will be posted on the district website as required by the Mississippi Department of Education.

This waiver is for the 2020-2021 school year only to allow schools flexibility within their re-entry plans/scheduling options in an effort to comply with MSDH and CDC guidelines as a result of the on-going impact of the COVID-19 epidemic.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Process Standard 13.2 (Rule)

Districts must ensure that during the academic school year a minimum of 140 hours of instruction is provided for each Carnegie unit of credit offered and 70 hours for each one-half (1/2) unit offered.

(Proposed Suspension and/or Revision of Rules)

The MDE approved an additional one-year suspension of the minimum of 140 hours of instruction required for each Carnegie unit of credit and 70 hours for each (1/2) unit offered for the 2020-2021 school year. The suspension will allow districts flexibility within their reentry plans/scheduling options in an effort to comply with MSDH and CDC guidelines as a result of COVID-19 during the 2020-2021 school year.

Each district will develop a plan to ensure mastery of content for each Carnegie unit awarded in lieu of meeting the 140-hour requirement for (1) Carnegie unit awarded and 70 hours for each (1/2) unit awarded. The plan shall be approved by the local school board and posted on the district's website no later than September 30, 2020.

(North Bolivar's Proposed One-year Suspension and/or Revision)

North Bolivar Consolidated School District will ensure that during the academic year a minimum of 130 hours of instruction is provided for each Carnegie unit of credit offered and 65 hours for each one-half (1/2) unit offered.

Grading for students in the traditional classroom setting and/or online environment will follow the same North Bolivar Consolidated School District grading policies. Students who have an average of 60 or higher in a course receive a Carnegie Unit for the course. The curriculum and instruction department, lead teachers, instructional coaches, and teachers restructured pacing guides for the 2020-2021 school year to include standards not taught last year. Standards will be scaffolded into classroom instruction where they best fit during the 2020-2021 school year. North Bolivar Consolidated School District has prioritized content standards for all state tested courses. By prioritizing standards teachers will have more time to teach the most important standards to depth.

Remediation of standards not mastered by students during the 2019-2020 school year will be retaught in classroom instruction as well as supported through the Multi-Tier System of Supports (MTSS) process. Assessments play an important role for all students of North Bolivar Consolidated School District. Whether learning online or in a traditional classroom setting students will be assessed through observation, academic tasks, and assessments. Students will be assessed both in formative and summative fashion. Formative assessment practices will drive the adaptation of instruction based on student academic needs.

Students will meet 170 days, seven (7) periods a day for 350 minutes. This will account for each class being about 50 minutes per day, about 8,500 minutes per year (about 142 hours). This means that if a student misses fourteen (14) days in a year-long course or seven (7) days in a semester course, that they will not be able to receive credit for a Carnegie unit.

