

DATE: March 25, 2009
TO: School Superintendents
FROM: State Superintendent of Education, Dr. Hank M. Bounds
SUBJECT: Regional Meetings Regarding Stimulus Package

It appears that the 2009 Mississippi Legislative session will recess early without passing a budget. They are planning to return in May, or once they have received detailed information regarding the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) and how it will impact the fiscal year 2010 budget. Obviously, this will delay your budgeting process. Unfortunately, there are no other options for the Legislature at this time.

State statute 37-9-105, was amended three years ago to provide two deadlines for notification of non-reemployment. The statute states that superintendents shall give notice of non-reemployment on or before April 15, or within 10 days after the date the Governor approves appropriation bills, comprising the state's education budget for funding K-12, whichever date is later.

President Obama and Congress have been very clear that the primary purpose of the ARRA is to save and create jobs. Therefore, it is incumbent on all of us to use the later date to give a notice of non-reemployment. We expect that MAEP will be fully funded in fiscal year 2010 with a combination of state and federal funds.

We have scheduled three regional meetings. I encourage you to bring your business manager and a member of your board if possible.

Meeting locations:

Tuesday, March 31, 2009 - 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Grenada, MS - Grenada High School Auditorium
1875 Fairground Road
Grenada, MS 38901

Wednesday, April 1, 2009 - 10:00 p.m. - 11:30 p.m.

Hattiesburg, MS - Hattiesburg High School Auditorium
301 Hutchinson Avenue
Hattiesburg, MS 39401

Wednesday, April 1, 2009 - 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Ridgeland, MS - Ridgeland High School Auditorium
586 Sunnybrook Road
Ridgeland, MS 39157

Online registration is required. Please register on our website at www.mde.k12.ms.us. You will access “Go Sign Me Up” that is located on the left side of the homepage. Upon access, new members will need to register and current members will need to input username and password. You will need to choose “**click here**” to sign up for a class. These meetings are under the “**invitation only courses**” and the invitation code is **stimulus**. At this point, you will choose one of the three meeting locations and register. This information will need to be shared with the staff you select to attend.

If you have questions concerning the registration process, please call the State Superintendent’s office at 601.359.3512.