



MEMO

DATE: July 24, 2012

TO: Board of Trustees and Dr. Gearl Loden, Superintendent

FROM: Linda Pannell, Finance Director

SUBJECT: Education Enhancement Fund – Instructional Supply (EEF) Changes for 2012-2013

The state department has notified the districts of the change and intent of the legislature related to the EEF funds for 2012-13. Below is part of the information we recently received from the state. With this information the State Department requested that districts send their option to the state before or on July 23rd. Given the intent of the legislature and the fact that the wording will be changed for the 2013-14 school year, Dr. Loden and I responded to the state that our District will participate in the procurement cards for teachers.

Below is the wording of the notice we received:

Senate Bill 2761, as passed during the 2012 Regular Legislative Session, authorizes the Department of Finance and Administration to issue procurement cards for use by classroom teachers to purchase classroom supplies, instructional materials and equipment. Funding for the procurement cards is secured by EEF funds as specified in Mississippi Code section 37-61-33(3)(a)(iii) Mississippi Code, 1972 Annotated. The total amount of funds appropriated for fiscal year 2013 for EEF classroom supplies, instructional materials and equipment is \$8 million.

Although SB 2761 indicates that a district *may* choose to use procurement cards for EEF Classroom Supplies, after our discussions with the Education Committee Chairs, it became clear that the intent was for all districts to participate. It is our understanding that the current language will be changed during the next legislative session to make it a requirement. Given the attention that the legislature has placed on trying to insure that teachers receive these funds directly, I strongly recommend that all districts choose to participate in this program. However, we still must have official notice as to the intent of each district. Attached to this email is a document asking for your district's decision to opt in or out of the EEF Procurement Card program. ***The deadline for returning the form is 5:00 PM, Monday, July 23.***

The state has also notified us that the expected date for districts to received procurement cards to issue to the teachers is the end of September 2012: however, during the first year, card production issues may push this date into October. Cards will not be imprinted with the individual teacher names. Cards will be imprinted with an account number specific on to that card and will also have an imprint that reads "EEF Classroom Supply-State of Mississippi Funds" or words to that effect. School districts will be responsible for tracking each card issued to teachers.