

# STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

*Office of the Governor*



## EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 1031

**WHEREAS**, Education is the number one economic-development and quality-of-life issue in Mississippi; and

**WHEREAS**, We must constantly seek ways to improve the quality of education our children receive, and the efficiency with which it is delivered; and,

**WHEREAS**, Our current system of K-12 administration is inefficient, with 152 school districts across only 82 counties; and,

**WHEREAS**, Reducing the total number of school districts from 152 to a smaller number will both improve educational quality and save money during these difficult economic times:

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Haley Barbour, Governor of the State of Mississippi, under and by virtue of the Constitution and laws of this state, do hereby promulgate the following executive order, effective immediately.

There is hereby created and established an advisory council to be known as the Commission on Mississippi Educational Structure. It shall be the responsibility of the Commission on Mississippi Educational Structure to review Mississippi's current structure of school districts and recommend how they can be consolidated in order to improve both the quality of education and the efficiency with which it is delivered.

It shall further be the responsibility of the Commission on Mississippi Educational Structure to recommend how consolidation can best be achieved, and to calculate the savings that would result from consolidation.

The Commission shall have the authority to raise and to expend non-state funds, and to contract with outside consultants to advise the Commission, and to contract for such other services as the Commission deems necessary.

The Mississippi Department of Education shall provide staff and such other support as the Commission deems appropriate.

The Commission shall consist of not less than ten members appointed by the Governor to serve at his will and pleasure.

The Governor shall designate one member of the Commission to serve as its Chairman and another member to serve as its Vice Chairman, each of whom shall hold such position at the will and pleasure of the Governor. The Chairman or his designee has the exclusive authority to convene the Commission.

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The Commission shall provide a recommendation not later than Monday, April 1, 2010, or another date specified by the Governor. The recommendation shall detail standards and priorities to be used by the State Board of Education in selecting those school districts to consolidate. Although the Governor has recommended reducing the total number of school districts to 100, the Commission shall have the authority to recommend consolidating to a greater or lesser number of districts.

The report shall further detail how best to implement consolidation, and shall make any other recommendations on how to maximize educational quality while eliminating duplicative and wasteful administrative spending.

Any executive orders relating to the subject matter hereof and contrary hereto are hereby superseded by this order.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Mississippi to be affixed.

DONE in the City of Jackson, the 21<sup>st</sup> day of December, in the year of our Lord two thousand nine and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and thirty-fourth.



Handwritten signature of Haley Barbour in blue ink.

HALEY BARBOUR  
GOVERNOR

BY THE GOVERNOR

Handwritten signature of C. Delbert Hosemann, Jr. in blue ink.

SECRETARY OF STATE