**Calhoun County School District**

**Awarding of Carnegie Unit Credit**

**COVID-19 Supplemental Assurances**

**Process Standard 13.1: The teaching day must provide 330 minutes of instruction per day**

On March 26, 2020, during its regularly scheduled meeting, the State Board of Education suspended the requirement for 330 minutes of instruction per day from March 16, 2020, the first date of school closures due to COVID-19 through the end of the 2019 – 2020 school year.

The MDE requests an additional one-year suspension for the 2020 – 2021 school year of Miss. Code Ann. § 37-13-67 which states, “the number of hours of actual teaching which shall constitute a school day shall be determined and fixed by the Board of Trustees of the school district at not less than five and one-half (5½) hours. This suspension will allow districts flexibility within their re-entry plans/scheduling options in an effort to comply with the MSDH and the CDC guidelines as a result of the ongoing impact of COVID-19 during the 2020 – 2021 school year. With this suspension of the 330 minutes of instruction per day, districts shall meet a minimum of 240 minutes (4 hours) of instructional time per day.

**Process Standard 13.2: 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 (½) unit offered.**

On March 26, 2020, during its regularly scheduled meeting, the State Board of Education suspended the requirement of the minimum of 140 hours of instruction required for each Carnegie unit of credit offered and 70 hours for each one-half (½) unit offered for the 2019 – 2020 school year. (Additional details may be found at https://www.mdek12.org/guidance2020-21.)

The MDE requests an additional one-year suspension of the minimum of 140 hours of instruction required for each Carnegie unit of credit offered and 70 hours for each one-half (1/2) unit offered for the 2020 – 2021 school year. This suspension will allow districts flexibility within their re-entry plans/scheduling options in an effort to comply with MSDH and CDC guidelines as a result of the ongoing impact of COVID-19 during the 2020 – 2021 school year. Each district shall be required to develop a plan to ensure the mastery of content for each Carnegie unit awarded in lieu of meeting the 140-hour requirement for one (1) Carnegie unit awarded and 70 hours for each one-half (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.

Therefore, Calhoun County School District will ensure that this requirement is met prior to the awarding of Carnegie unit credit per the amended Process Standard 13.2:

“Each district shall be required to develop a plan to ensure the mastery of content for each Carnegie unit awarded in lieu of meeting the 140-hour requirement for one (1) Carnegie unit awarded and 70 hours for each one-half (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.”

CCSD teachers will deliver targeted, rigorous instruction through both a traditional method and through a virtual learning environment. All instruction is based on the MS College and Career Readiness Standards. Teachers will utilize pacing guides and content specific strategies as a plan to ensure that high quality instructional levels will be achieved by all students.

Principals and lead teachers will closely monitor pacing guides, lesson plans, and classroom instruction to verify that course content is being taught, that lessons are being provided, and that assignments are being both made and completed in a manner consistent with meeting and supplementing instruction as needed so as to validate the awarding of Carnegie unit credit. Teachers will be given regular feedback regarding these processes, and professional development and mentoring support will be provided to those teachers who need assistance to meet these requirements.

Teachers will also participate in district-wide and subject area specific virtual PLC meetings to provide support and guidance to one another through sharing of best practices, troubleshooting issues, and streamlining instruction to provide the greatest opportunities for mastery of content to all students seeking Carnegie unit credit.

Student mastery of content will be determined through the awarding of grades through both virtual and traditional instructional models based upon the district’s grading policies. Measures of student progress toward mastery will be evaluated through assignments, quizzes, tests, comprehensive exams, and benchmark assessments as required for successful completion of course content prior to credit being awarded.