

OFFICE OF CHIEF ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICER
Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Items
May 26, 2022

OFFICE OF STUDENT ASSESSMENT

04. Action: Approval of the recommended cut scores on the Mississippi Academic Assessment Program - Alternate (MAAP-A) for science assessments in Grades 5, 8, and Alternate Biology for school year 2021-2022 [Goals 1 and 2 – MBE Strategic Plan]

Background Information: The 2018 Mississippi Alternate Academic Achievement Standards (MAAAS) for science were implemented in school year 2019-2020. The MAAP-A science assessments for Grades 5, 8, and Alternate Biology were revised to align with the 2018 MAAAS for Science. To evaluate the new assessment, cut scores are established in order to: (a) reflect the MAAAS for the science courses, (b) link students' scores on the tests to expectations for students in each performance level, and (c) be well articulated across tests.

From June 29 to July 1, 2021, a standard setting was conducted by Questar Assessments, the MDE, and ACS Ventures, LLC. For this process, 12 Mississippi educators served as panelists and were tasked with making recommendations of cut scores associated with policy-driven, threshold performance level descriptors (PLDs) that distinguish among the three (3) performance levels: basic, pass, and proficient. The standard setting approach applied the Extended Angoff method where panelist looked at each assessment task and made judgements about expected student performance. The panelists completed two (2) rounds of independent review and subsequent group discussions to recommend the cut scores to correspond to the performance levels. Two (2) psychometricians from the Center for Assessment reviewed the results for the Mississippi Department of Education.

On August 19, 2021, the State Board of Education (SBE) approved the recommendation to use the committee decisions for the 2020-2021 alternate science scoring process and to use "pass" or "did not pass" for the student score reports. At that time, due to potential impacts of COVID-19 on instruction and assessment, the MDE, Questar, and the TAC made the recommendation to the SBE to conduct a performance standard review and validation process following the 2021-2022 academic year administration of the alternate science assessments in Grades 5, 8, and Alternate Biology.

The standards validation is scheduled for June 20-21, 2022. As a result of the ongoing impact and disruptions of the COVID-19 pandemic during the 2021-2022 school year, the MDE is recommending maintaining the cut scores of "passing" and "proficient" established for the 2020-2021 for the student score reports and

inclusion in the Mississippi Statewide Accountability System rather than the “pass” or “did not pass” used for the 2021-2022 school year student score reports. If the standards validation process conducted in June 2022 results in additional recommendation(s), upon SBE approval, the MDE recommends implementation of the new performance level cut scores in the 2022-2023 school year.

This item references Goals 1 and 2 of the *Mississippi Board of Education 2018 – 2022 Strategic Plan*.

Recommendation: Approval

Back-up material attached



**Standard Setting for the Mississippi Alternate Assessments for Science
Approved by the State Board of Education on August 19, 2021**

**Final scale cut scores for Alternate Science Assessment for the 2020-2021 School
Year**

Test	Rounded Scores	
	Passing	Proficient
Grade 5	13	17
Grade 8	14	17
Biology	14	19

Note: Only “Pass” or “Did Not Pass” labels were used for Student Score Reports for spring 2021 science assessments. The MDE recommends scoring the 2021-2022 assessments using the SBE approved Passing and Proficient cuts for Student Score Reports and inclusion in the Mississippi Statewide Accountability System for the 2021-2022 school year.