

**OFFICE OF CHIEF ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICER**  
**Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Items**  
**December 17, 2020**

**OFFICE OF DISTRICT AND SCHOOL PERFORMANCE**

01. Action: Begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise Miss. Admin. Code 7-24: *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2020* specifically the business rules of the Mississippi Statewide Accountability System, Section 25, *College- and Career-Readiness*, regarding the inclusion of ACT WorkKeys in performance measures [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan]

Background Information: Beginning in March 2020, the Accountability Task Force (ATF) began work to consider the inclusion of the ACT WorkKeys into the Mississippi Statewide Accountability System. In its most recent November 16, 2020 meeting a proposal to include a Silver National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC) on ACT WorkKeys in conjunction with a recognized industry certification or career pathway as an indication of career readiness in the College- and Career-Readiness (CCR) component of the Mississippi Statewide Accountability System was presented. The ATF did not accept the proposal presented but approved a recommendation that the Silver NCRC be the sole indicator of career readiness. The MDE does not support the recommendation of the ATF, as it would significantly lower the standard of performance measure in the CCR component.

The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met on December 3, 2020 and reviewed the proposed changes to include ACT WorkKeys in the CCR component. The TAC confirmed that a Silver NCRC is not comparable to the existing measure of student success in the CCR component and therefore should not be used alone to indicate career readiness. The TAC agreed that an additional indicator, such as a recognized industry certification or career pathway, should be considered in the measure of student performance in conjunction with a Silver NCRC.

The Commission on School Accreditation (CSA) met on Thursday, December 10, 2020 and voted unanimously to recommend the State Board of Education begin the Administrative Procedures Act (APA) process to revise the business rules of the Mississippi Statewide Accountability System to include the ACT WorkKeys assessment in the measure of student performance as part of the College- and Career-Readiness component of the Mississippi Statewide Accountability System.

This item references Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 of the *Mississippi Board of Education 2018 – 2022 Strategic Plan*.

Recommendation: Approval

Back-up material attached

(Excerpt from the *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2020*)

Proposed revisions to the Business Rule 25 of the Mississippi Statewide Assessment System

**25. College- and Career-Readiness Indicator**

The following rules will apply only if the state legislature mandates statewide ACT testing and appropriates funding for such testing.

- 25.1 The ACT ~~or ACT WorkKeys assessment~~ will be used ~~as~~ in the College- and Career-Readiness Indicator.
- 25.2 The College- and Career-Readiness component will be comprised of a Mathematics and an English/Reading component. These two (2) components will be equally weighted and combined for one (1) score worth 50 points:  $(\text{Math} + \text{English/Reading}) \div 2$
- 25.3 A student will be included in the numerator for Mathematics if he/she is considered College- and Career-Ready in Mathematics by having a score on the Mathematics component of the ACT at or above the ACT College Readiness Benchmark for the Mathematics component at the time of the student's assessment.
- 25.4 A student will be included in the numerator for English/Reading if he/she is considered College- and Career- Ready in English/Reading by having a score on the English component of the ACT at or above the ACT College Readiness Benchmark OR if his/her score on the Reading component of the ACT is at or above the ACT College-Readiness Benchmark at the time of the student's assessment.
- 25.5 Science ACT sub-scores will not be included in the College- and Career-Readiness component.
- 25.6 ACT Composite scores will not be included in the College- and Career-Readiness component. (Rationale: ACT does not designate a composite score to indicate college readiness.)
- 25.7 The highest available sub-score for each student at the end of month nine (9) in Mathematics and English/Reading, as described above, will be used in the College- and Career-Readiness Indicator accountability calculations.  
~~25.7.1 Deleted~~
- 25.8 Contingent upon legislative funding, the state will pay for one (1) statewide ACT administration to be held in the spring for students classified in MSIS as 11th graders. Ungraded students whose birthdates link them to the cohort of students identified as 11th graders will also be included. Students may take the ACT as many additional times as they choose, at their own expense.
- 25.9 If the IEP committee deems it appropriate, an SCD student may participate in the administration of the ACT.
- 25.10 ~~The ACT scores of all students identified in the Senior Snapshot will be included in the calculation. Deleted~~
- 25.11 A student's score will be applied to the school in which the student is enrolled in MSIS at the time of the Senior Snapshot.
- 25.12 ~~No other assessments will be allowed as a substitution for the ACT in the College and Career Readiness component.~~ In lieu of the performance requirements established in Sections 25.3, and 25.4, a student may obtain a Silver level or higher National Career Readiness Certificate administered through the ACT WorkKeys assessment and successfully complete an industry certification or career pathway recognized by the Mississippi Department of Education.
- 25.13 The participation rate numerator will include the state administration or non-state administration of the ACT. The denominator will include all students in the Senior Snapshot.

25.14 The denominator for the College- and Career-Readiness component calculation will consist of all students participating in the ACT as identified in the participation calculation.