

UNDERSTANDING THE MISSISSIPPI ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM FOR GRADING SCHOOLS AND DISTRICTS



Overview of Accountability System and How it Got Started

Mississippi's schools and districts are graded annually on an A-F scale. These grades are part of the state's accountability system, which helps teachers, school leaders, parents and communities know how well their local schools and districts are serving their students.

Mississippi's school grading system considers several indicators, including how well students perform on state tests, whether students are showing improvement on those tests from year to year and whether students are graduating within four years. The system also factors in how well schools are helping English learners and their lowest-achieving students make progress toward proficiency.

The federal government requires all states to develop a system to annually evaluate the performance of public schools to ensure all students are being provided equitable access to a quality education. The Mississippi Legislature passed *legislation* in 2013 requiring the state to implement a single A-F grading system that meets state and federal requirements. The law requires grades to be based on student achievement and growth on state assessments, with an emphasis on the progress of the lowest performing 25% of students, and the percentage of students graduating within four years.

Since the *2013 accountability system law* was enacted, legislators, superintendents, administrators, Mississippi Department of Education officials, and business and policy leaders have remained involved in developing and refining the accountability system.

Mississippi Succeeds Report Card publishes school and district grades from 2017-18 to the present: msrc.mdek12.org

Prior year grades reports are posted on the Mississippi Department of Education website: mdek12.org/OPR/Reporting/Accountability



What Specific Factors are Included in Accountability Letter Grades?

- Student performance in math and English Language Arts on state assessments in grades 3-8 and in high school Algebra I and English II
- Whether **all students** are meeting annual expected growth in math and English Language Arts
- Whether the **lowest performing 25% of students** are meeting annual expected growth in math and English Language Arts
- Student performance in science on state assessments in grades 5, 8 and Biology
- Student performance on the high school U.S. History state assessment
- How well English Learners are making progress toward proficiency in the English language
- Student performance on the ACT or the ACT WorkKeys assessment
- Student participation and performance in accelerated courses, such as Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), and dual credit college courses
- Whether high school students are graduating on time

What is Not Captured in the Accountability Letter Grades?

- Grades do not measure how an individual student or teacher is performing.
- Grades do not take into consideration other things a school may be doing well, such as meeting students' emotional, social or health needs or how well students are performing in other subjects.



How are Accountability Grades Calculated?

Grades are calculated based on the number of points schools and districts earn in several categories, such as performance, growth, and the graduation rate (for high schools). Growth makes up more than half the grade for elementary schools and more than one third the grade for high schools and districts.

Elementary and Middle Schools (Earn up to 700 points)

Growth makes up more than half the grade (380 out of 700 points)

English Language Arts (Reading)	Math	Science	English Language Learners
Proficiency 95 points	Proficiency 95 points	Proficiency 95 points	Progress to Proficiency 35 points
Growth All Students 95 points	Growth All Students 95 points		
Growth Lowest 25% of Students 95 points	Growth Lowest 25% of Students 95 points		

High Schools and Districts (Earn up to 1,00 points)

Growth makes up more than one third of the grade (380 out of 1,000 points)

English Language Arts (Reading)	Math	Other Subjects	Advanced coursework (acceleration)	College and Career Readiness	English Language Learners	Graduation in 4 years
Proficiency 95 points	Proficiency 95 points	Science Proficiency 47.5 points	Performance 23.75 points	ACT Performance 47.5 points	Progress to Proficiency 50 points	4-year Cohort Rate 190 points
Growth All Students 95 points	Growth All Students 95 points	U.S. History Proficiency 47.5 points	Participation 23.75 points	ACT WorkKeys Option 47.5 points		
Growth Lowest 25% of Students 95 points	Growth Lowest 25% of Students 95 points					



Grading Scale (minimum points required to earn grade)

The total number of points earned for all components of the accountability system correspond to a grade on the A-F scale. This chart shows the minimum number of points required for each grade.

Grade	Elementary and Middle Schools	High Schools	Districts
A	442	754	668
B	377	648	599
C	328	584	536
D	269	510	489
F	< 269	< 510	< 489

Resources

- [Video](#) about Mississippi's A-F accountability system and the components of the system for elementary, middle and high schools: mdek12.org/OCGR/mact
- [Mississippi Succeeds Report Card](#) includes additional information about the performance of schools and districts: msrc.mdek12.org
- Historical accountability results: mdek12.org/OPR/Reporting/Accountability

