

OFFICE OF EDUCATIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY
Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Items
May 17-18, 2012

OFFICE OF ACCREDITATION

38. Approval to add Grades 5 and 8 Science to the Mississippi Statewide Accountability System to be included in the 2013 Accountability Results
(Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process with public comment)

On February 2, 2012, the Commission on School Accreditation approved the addition of Grades 5 and 8 Science to the Mississippi Statewide Accountability System. Grades 5 and 8 Science will be included in the 2013 Accountability Results.

Recommendation: Approval

Back-up material attached

Brenda Shelby

From: Sharon Cordle [scordle@mcschools.us]
Sent: Wednesday, April 25, 2012 8:17 AM
To: Policy
Subject: Adding the MST Grades 5 and 8 to the Accountability Standard Inbox x

I was just wondering how the MST can be used for accountability when it is only given in 5th and 8th grade. How will growth be determined? The fifth graders do not have a base line and they are not tested again until eight grade. How can this be a true show of growth from year to year? What does this mean for the 5th and 8th grade teachers? If we want to add it to the accountability system then shouldn't we test all grades in 3-8?

Thank You,

Sharon Cordle
Byhalia Middle School

From: Karen Alley [kalley@mcschools.us]
Sent: Wednesday, April 25, 2012 8:29 AM
To: Policy
Subject: Adding the MST Grades 5 and 8 to the Accountability Standard

I have serious concerns about using the science scores for Accountability. We only test in 5th and 8th grades. How will growth be determined? How will non-tested years be held accountable to cover the prerequisites for upcoming tests? I do not expect to be teaching science next year, so this is not a personal worry of mine, but a broader concern for our schools. If a 4th grade teacher doesn't introduce concepts, then the 5th grade teacher is going to be in a really tough spot, likewise the 8th grade teacher if the 6-7th grade teachers do not do their part. 5th and 8th grade teachers, in the trenches, would like to understand how the accountability will reflect on them personally as well.

Thank you,

--

Karen Alley
5th Grade Self-Contained
Byhalia Middle School

From: Leigh Mobley [lmobley@amory.k12.ms.us]
Sent: Thursday, April 26, 2012 2:06 PM
To: Policy; Patrick Ross; Paula Vanderford
Subject: 2012-13 testing calendar

We have recently learned that the 5th and 8th grade Science Test will be included in the Accountability Model for the 2012-2013 school year. After reviewing the testing calendar for the 2012-13 school year I would like to make a recommendation for a change in the calendar.

The 5th and 8th Grade Science test is based on curriculum that is to span a full school year. Therefore, it is in the best interest of the students and the teachers to allow as many teaching days as possible before the test is administered. The 2012-2013 testing calendar shows the 5th and 8th grade Science test being given on May 1, 2013. By moving the 5th and 8th grade Science test to May 10, the same day as the Biology I Subject Area Test, you would be allowing 5th and 8th grade Science teachers 7 more instructional days to prepare students for the test! Instructional time is valuable and these few days could make a difference. The Biology 1 curriculum is also a full year curriculum and this would allow the same amount of teaching time to both 5th and 8th grade teachers and Biology I teachers.

Your consideration of this change is appreciated.

Gearl Loden, Ph.D.
Superintendent
Amory School District

From: carol.laster@desotocountyschools.org
Sent: Sunday, April 29, 2012 6:00 PM
To: Policy
Subject: Science accountability

I am an assistant principal in the Desoto County Schools, and I'm emailing to express my strong disagreement with adding science to the MS accountability system! We are already adding the new Common Core Standards in Language Arts and Math. I fully believe the teachers will have enough to handle learning to effectively implement Common Core standards without the additional stress of another state test impacting accountability. As it is now we seem to be headed in the direction of the high schools-----more testing and less time for instruction. We now test for progress monitoring purposes 3 times a year along with weekly normal assessments, in addition to the state tests in May. We don't need longer days or years, we need our instructional days back at the elementary level in order to teach the most important foundation skills in reading, writing, and math. So please leave science out of the plan for now, and give schools time to incorporate the science skills into reading common core standards for several years. That will allow time for total common core standards to be implemented, and then we won't need the science test any longer.

Thanks for allowing me to voice my opinion! Please Don't add science to the model.

Sincerely,

Carol Laster

Sent from my android device.

From: jean.stephenson@desotocountyschools.org
To: Policy;
Subject: Including Science in the State Accountability System
Date: Tuesday, May 01, 2012 8:08:26 AM

Good morning,

As an educator in the Mississippi public school system, I would like to voice my opinion about including Science in the state accountability system for the 2012-13 school year. I feel that implementing the common core standards in the 2012-13 school year is enough and the Science accountability should not be adopted until another year, maybe 2013-14.

Thank you,

--

Jean Stephenson
Special Education Teacher
DeSoto Central Elementary