

**OFFICE OF EDUCATIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY**  
**Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Items**  
**July 18-19, 2013**

**OFFICE OF ACCREDITATION**

19. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process for the following Carnegie unit credit for 8<sup>th</sup> grade courses:
- A. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: Approval to allow Introduction to Agriscience to be taught at the eighth (8<sup>th</sup>) grade level for one (1) Carnegie unit credit for high school graduation purposes
  - B. Discussion to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: Approval to allow Carnegie unit credit in Mississippi Studies and Geography in the eighth (8<sup>th</sup>) grade beginning in school year 2013-2014

Recommendation: Approval

Back-up material attached

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**OFFICE OF ACCREDITATION**

- 19.A. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: Approval to allow Introduction to Agriscience to be taught at the eighth (8<sup>th</sup>) grade level for one (1) Carnegie unit credit for high school graduation purposes

On June 6, 2013, the Commission on School Accreditation approved the proposal from the Office of Career and Technical Education to allow Introduction to Agriscience to be taught at the eighth (8<sup>th</sup>) grade level for one (1) Carnegie unit credit for high school graduation purposes.

Recommendation: Approval

Back-up material attached



**Approved by the Commission on School Accreditation  
June 6, 2013**

**Item 19.A.**

**Discussion of the Office of Career and Technical Education proposal to allow Introduction to Agriscience to be taught at the 8<sup>th</sup> grade level for one Carnegie credit for high school graduation purposes**

The Office of Career and Technical Education requests the Accreditation Commission to consider a change to allow Introduction to Agriscience to be taught at the 8<sup>th</sup> grade level for one Carnegie credit for high school graduation purposes.

This course has been typically taught at the 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> grade level; however, there is an increasing demand for it to also be offered to 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. CTE now offers Pathways to Success in almost all career clusters. In the Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources cluster we currently offer the following pathways and have others under development:

- Agricultural and Environmental Science and Technology Pathway – 5 Carnegie units (3 required) (adding a 6<sup>th</sup> Carnegie unit in Biomedical)
- Agricultural and Natural Resources Pathway – 4 Carnegie units required
- Horticulture Pathway – 4 Carnegie units required  
(Agriculture Power & Machinery, Food Products (Meats), Forestry, and Aquaculture pathways are under development)

The courses in these pathways are offered to students beginning in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade; therefore, 8<sup>th</sup> grade Introduction to Agriscience would be an excellent course to prepare students for one of the pathways.

Agriculture is a large part of the Mississippi economy. Recently, the Commissioner of Agriculture indicated that agriculture-related jobs account for about one-third of the Mississippi workforce. This workforce must be even better prepared to meet the demands of a growing technological economy. The high school Pathways to Success help us meet this demand and adequately prepare students for a career in agriculture.

Allowing students, who choose to do so, to begin their *introduction to agriscience* at the 8<sup>th</sup> grade will help them discover and explore their interest and aptitude in agriculture careers and select pathways to accomplish their goals. Allowing high school credit will provide even greater incentive for students to plan their high school pathway.

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**OFFICE OF ACCREDITATION**

- 19.B. Discussion to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: Approval to allow Carnegie unit credit in Mississippi Studies and Geography in the eighth (8<sup>th</sup>) grade beginning in school year 2013-2014

On June 6, 2013, the Commission on School Accreditation approved the proposal to allow Carnegie unit credit in Mississippi Studies and Geography in the eighth (8<sup>th</sup>) grade beginning in school year 2013-2014.

Recommendation: Approval

Back-up material attached



**Commission on School Accreditation  
June 6, 2013**

**Item 19.B.**

**Discussion to allow Carnegie unit credit in Mississippi Studies and Geography in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade beginning school year 2013-2014.**

The Office of Career and Technical Education requests the Accreditation Commission to consider a change to allow Mississippi Studies and Geography to be taught at the 8<sup>th</sup> grade level for ½ Carnegie credit each for high school graduation purposes.

This course has been typically taught at the 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> grade level; however, there is an increasing demand for it to also be offered to 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. In addition to the demand for these classes in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade, typically in Excellence for All pilot schools, Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL) already allows for Mississippi Studies credit earned before high school to be accepted for admission provided content is the same as the high school course. The reference to Mississippi Studies pre-high school is also referenced in House Bill 425 – “Required Course Work for Student Tuition Assistance Grant.”

Allowing students, who choose to do so, to complete Mississippi Studies and/or Geography at the 8<sup>th</sup> grade will allow students to explore greater opportunities at the high school level in their selected pathways. Allowing high school credit will provide even greater incentive for students to plan their high school pathway.

**Addition Backup Materials:**

- House Bill 425
- IHL document Higher Education Legislative Plan (HELP) Scholarship