

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

**OFFICE OF ACCREDITATION**

20. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: Approval of establishment of the Mississippi Early Exit Diploma

On June 6, 2013, the Commission on School Accreditation approved the proposal for the Mississippi Early Exit Diploma.

Recommendation: Approval

Back-up material attached



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

**Item 20**

**Discussion of State Board of Education Policy for the Mississippi Early Exit Diploma**

**Mississippi Early Exit Diploma**

In a departure from tradition, in which students advance based on "seat time" or how much time they spend in a classroom, Mississippi Early Exit Diploma offers students the opportunity to advance based on their mastery of the curriculum. A key feature of the model provided for in Mississippi State Board of Education Mississippi Early Exit Diploma, a performance-based diploma available to students on a voluntary basis beginning in the 2013-2014 academic year.

Qualification for a Mississippi Early Exit Diploma signifies to students that they are ready to do college-level work without remediation and opens up a variety of education and career pathways within and beyond high school.

**Mississippi Early Exit Diploma Requirements**

In order to qualify for a Mississippi Early Exit Diploma, students must meet college and career qualification scores in all core content areas on a series of end-of-course exams and the required benchmarks for college readiness on the ACT or Institution of Higher Learning (IHL) approved college entrance exam. Students take exams offered by Cambridge International Examinations or ACT Quality Core, depending on which of the approved aligned instructional system the school selected as part of the Early Exit initiative. These exams are typically taken during the first 2-3 years of high school.

The exams measure student progress towards college and career readiness and allow students to prove in-depth learning in a variety of ways – by demonstrating their skills in writing, analysis, and problem-solving. The exams assess whether or not students have sufficiently mastered the core subjects they have studied and tells students early in high school where they stand relative to college and career readiness.

A key feature of Early Exit is that students are able to take the time they need individually to reach the goal of college and career readiness. Students who don't yet demonstrate readiness will receive personalized additional support from their school and will have an opportunity to re-take the exams and qualify for the Mississippi Early Exit Diploma in either the 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

The Mississippi State Board of Education will adopted Mississippi Early Exit Diploma- and career-readiness qualification scores for English and Mathematics. The Board will adopt qualification scores for additional required subject areas, including history, sciences, and the arts, in 2012-2013. The qualification scores reflect the best empirical data on the actual literacy and numeracy requirements of the initial credit-bearing courses in open-admissions postsecondary institutions.

A student may qualify for a Mississippi Early Exit Diploma by meeting the following subject area requirements within an approved aligned instructional system and earning the 17.5 Carnegie Units:

- Two credits of English;
- Three credits of mathematics;
- Two credits of science, including lab-based science, engineering or information technologies;
- Two and one-half credits of social studies
- One credit of fine arts
- One credit of health and physical education
- One credit of business technology
- Five credits of electives

Credits within the Early Exit model are performance based. Students fulfill credit requirements for the Mississippi Early Exit Diploma by meeting the college readiness qualification scores on the end-of-course exams and IHL approved benchmark test.

Students that satisfy all the criteria for a Mississippi Early Exit Diploma are exempt from the minimum course of study requirements and SAPT2 test score requirements for a traditional high school diploma outlined in the *Mississippi Public School State Standards, 2012*.

### **Education Pathways Within and Beyond High School**

Once students qualify for a Mississippi Early Exit Diploma, they are able to choose freely from many education options within and beyond high school. These options include:

- Remain in high school and take an “upper division” program of demanding academic courses and exams, such as Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate or Cambridge International Examinations, that will prepare them for some of the most selective colleges in the world.
- Remain in high school and participate in programs of study already available through the home high school or district, such as dual enrollment courses or specialized STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) programs.
- Enroll in a full-time career and technical education program offered on a community college campus, a high school campus, a joint technical education district campus or any combination of these campuses.
- Graduate from high school with the Mississippi Early Exit Diploma and go to community college.

**GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS  
MISSISSIPPI EARLY EXIT DIPLOMA**

**SENIORS OF SCHOOL YEAR 2013-2014  
(Entering ninth graders in 2011-2012)**

Qualification for a Mississippi Early Exit Diploma signifies to students that they are ready to do college-level work without remediation and opens up a variety of education and career pathways within and beyond high school.

In order to qualify for a Mississippi Early Exit Diploma, in addition to the earning the Carnegie Units listed below students must meet college and career qualification scores in all core content areas on a series of end-of-course exams and/or the required benchmarks for college readiness on the ACT or Institution of Higher Learning (IHL) approved college entrance exam.

<b>CURRICULUM AREA</b>	<b>CARNEGIE UNITS</b>	<b>REQUIRED SUBJECTS</b>
<b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>2</b>	English II (equivalent Course)
<b>MATHEMATICS</b>	<b>3</b>	Algebra I (Equivalent Course)
<b>SCIENCE</b>	<b>2</b>	Biology I (Equivalent Course)
<b>SOCIAL STUDIES</b>	<b>2.5</b>	1 World History 1 U.S. History (Equivalent Courses) ½ Mississippi Studies
<b>HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION</b>	<b>1</b>	Any combination of health and Physical Education
<b>BUSINESS &amp; TECHNOLOGY</b>	<b>1</b>	ICT II,/STEM/Technology Discovery
<b>THE ARTS</b>	<b>1</b>	Any approved 500.000 course or completion of the 2-course sequence for Computer Graphics Technology I and II
<b>ELECTIVES</b>	<b>5</b>	(Should focus on college admission or national certification requirements)
<b>TOTAL UNITS REQUIRED</b>	<b>17.5</b>	

ACT HIGH SCHOOL CURRICULUM EQUIVALENCE CHART

MISSISSIPPI CURRICULUM	CORRESPONDING ACT QUALITY CORE CURRICULUM	SUBSTITUTE ASSESSMENT ACT QUALITY CORE
<b>SCIENCE</b>		
BIOLOGY	ACT QUALITY CORE BIOLOGY	BIOLOGY QUALITY CORE/ACT
CHEMISTRY	ACT QUALITY CORE CHEMISTRY	CHEMISTRY QUALITY CORE/ACT
<b>SOCIAL STUDIES</b>		
WORLD HISTORY	ACT QUALITY CORE WORLD HISTORY	WORLD HISTORY QUALITY CORE/ACT
AMERICAN HISTORY	ACT QUALITY CORE AMERICAN HISTORY	AMERICAN HISTORY QUALITY CORE/ACT
<b>ENGLISH</b>		
ENGLISH I	ACT QUALITY CORE ENGLISH I	ENGLISH I QUALITY CORE/ACT
ENGLISH II	ACT QUALITY CORE ENGLISH II	ENGLISH II QUALITY CORE/ACT
<b>MATHEMATICS</b>		
ALGEBRA I	ACT QUALITY CORE ALGEBRA I	ALGEBRA I QUALITY CORE/ACT
GEOMETRY	ACT QUALITY CORE GEOMETRY	GEOMETRY QUALITY CORE/ACT
ALGEBRA II	ACT QUALITY CORE ALGEBRA II	ALGEBRA II QUALITY CORE/ACT

CAMBRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCE CHART

MISSISSIPPI CURRICULUM	CORRESPONDING CAMBRIDGE CURRICULUM	SUBSTITUTE ASSESSMENT CAMBRIDGE
<b>SCIENCE</b>		
BIOLOGY 1	SBES - AICE BIOLOGY	
CHEMISTRY	SBES - AICE CHEMISTRY - CAMBRIDGE	
BIOLOGY 1	SBES - BIOLOGY - CAMBRIDGE IGCSE	CAMBRIDGE BIOLOGY
	SBES - CAREER EXPLORATION	
CHEMISTRY	SBES - CHEMISTRY - CAMBRIDGE IGCSE	
	SBES - COORDINATED SCIENCE I - CAMBRIDGE IGCSE	CAMBRIDGE BIOLOGY
	SBES - COORDINATED SCIENCE II - CAMBRIDGE IGCSE	
<b>SOCIAL STUDIES</b>		
	SBES - AICE CLASSICAL STUDIES	
	SBES - AICE ECONOMICS	
	SBES - GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES - CAMBRIDGE IGCSE	
WORLD HISTORY	SBES - HISTORY (WORLD) - CAMBRIDGE IGCSE	
AMERICAN HISTORY	SBES - AICE U. S. HISTORY	
	SBES - AMERICAN HISTORY - CAMBRIDGE IGCSE	CAMBRIDGE AMERICAN HISTORY
	SBES - AICE PSYCHOLOGY I	
	SBES - AICE PSYCHOLOGY II	
<b>ENGLISH</b>		
	SBES - AICE ENGLISH LANGUAGE	
ENGLISH I	SBES - AICE ENGLISH LITERATURE I	
ENGLISH II	SBES - AICE ENGLISH LITERATURE II	
	SBES - AICE GENERAL WRITING PAPER	
	SBES - ENGLISH LANGUAGE - CAMBRIDGE IGCSE	CAMBRIDGE ENGLISH
	SBES - ENGLISH LANGUAGE EXTENDED - CAMBRIDGE	
	SBES - LITERATURE IN ENGLISH - CAMBRIDGE IGCSE	
<b>MATHEMATICS</b>		
	SBES - AICE MATHEMATICS I	
	SBES - AICE MATHEMATICS II	
	SBES - MATHEMATICS I - CAMBRIDGE IGCSE	
	SBES - MATHEMATICS I EXTENDED - CAMBRIDGE	
	SBES - MATHEMATICS II - CAMBRIDGE IGCSE	
	SBES - MATHEMATICS II EXTENDED - CAMBRIDGE IGCSE	CAMBRIDGE MATH (sequence)

CAMBRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCE CHART

	SBES - AICE THINKING SKILLS I	
	SBES - AICE THINKING SKILLS II	



INNOVATIVE HIGH SCHOOL CURRICULUM EQUIVALENCE CHART

MISSISSIPPI CURRICULUM	CORRESPONDING INNOVATIVE HIGH SCHOOLS CURRICULUM	SUBSTITUTE ASSESSMENT ACT
<b>SCIENCE</b>		
PHYSICAL SCIENCE	SBES - INTEGRATED SCIENCE I	
BIOLOGY	SBES - INTEGRATED SCIENCE II	ACT/PLAN
CHEMISTRY	SBES - INTEGRATED SCIENCE III	
EARTH SCIENCE	SBES - INTEGRATED SCIENCE IV	
	SBES-ACADMIC INSTITUE SCIENCE I	
	SBES-ACADMIC INSTITUE SCIENCE II	
<b>SOCIAL STUDIES</b>		
WORLD HISTROY	SBES - INTEGRATED HISTORY I	
AMERICAN HISTORY	SBES - INTEGRATED HISTORY II	ACT/PLAN
	SBES - INTEGRATED HISTORY III	
	SBES- ACADEMIC INSTITUE HISTORY I	
	SBES- ACADEMIC INSTITUE HISTORY II	
<b>ENGLISH</b>		
ENGLISH I	SBES - ENGLISH LANGUAGE I	
ENGLISH 11	SBES - ENGLISH LANGUAGE II	ACT/PLAN
ENGLISH III	SBES - ENGLISH LANGUAGE III	
ENGLSIH IV	SBES - ENGLISH LANGUAGE IV	
	SBES- ACADEMIC INSTITUE ENGLISH I	
	SBES- ACADEMIC INSTITUE ENGLISH II	
<b>MATHEMATICS</b>		
ALGEBRA II	SBES - INTEGRATED MATHEMATICS I	ACT/PLAN
GEOMETRY	SBES - INTEGRATED MATHEMATICS II	
ALGEBRA II	SBES - INTEGRATED MATHEMATICS III	
ADVANCED ALGEBRA/ACT PREP	SBES - INTEGRATED MATHEMATICS IV	
	SBES- ACADEMIC MATHEMATICS I	
	SBES- ACADEMIC MATHEMATICS II	

By: Representatives Crawford, Bennett,  
DeLano, Holloway, Mettetal

To: Universities and  
Colleges

HOUSE BILL NO. 425  
(As Sent to Governor)

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-157-1, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,  
2 TO REVISE THE HIGH SCHOOL COURSE WORK REQUIREMENTS FOR THE STUDENT  
3 TUITION ASSISTANCE GRANTS FOR STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER  
4 LEARNING; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

6 **SECTION 1.** Section 37-157-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
7 amended as follows:

8 37-157-1. (1) The tuition at any institution of higher  
9 education in the state shall be paid by the state on behalf of any  
10 student who enrolls in such a school to pursue an academic  
11 undergraduate degree, who applies for the payment thereof, and who  
12 meets all of the following qualifications:

13 (a) Actual residence in Mississippi during the  
14 twenty-four (24) months immediately preceding university  
15 enrollment. For the purposes of this paragraph, residency shall  
16 be demonstrated by proof of the following as required by the  
17 administering agency:

18 (i) If registered to vote, being registered in  
19 Mississippi.



20 (ii) If licensed to drive a motor vehicle, being  
21 in possession of a Mississippi driver's license.

22 (iii) If owning a motor vehicle located within  
23 Mississippi, being in possession of Mississippi registration for  
24 that vehicle.

25 (iv) If earning an income, having filed a  
26 Mississippi state income tax return and having complied with state  
27 income tax laws and regulations.

28 (b) Having a parent or guardian who is a domiciliary of  
29 Mississippi.

30 (c) Graduation from high school within the two (2)  
31 years preceding the application with a minimum cumulative grade  
32 point average of 2.5 calculated on a 4.0 scale.

33 (d) Successful completion of seventeen and one-half  
34 (17-1/2) units of high school course work \* \* \* that includes the  
35 College Preparatory Curriculum approved by the Board of Trustees  
36 of State Institutions of Higher Learning and required for  
37 admission into a state university, plus one (1) unit of art (may  
38 include one (1) unit or two (2) one-half (1/2) units) from the  
39 approved Mississippi Department of Education Arts-Visual and  
40 Performing series, and one (1) additional advanced elective unit,  
41 which may include Foreign Language II.

42 \* \* \*



43 (e) Having a composite score on the American College  
44 Test of at least twenty (20) on the 1989 version or an equivalent  
45 concordant value on an enhanced version of such test.

46 (f) Having no criminal record, except for misdemeanor  
47 traffic violations.

48 (g) Being in financial need.

49 (2) For purposes of this section:

50 (a) "Institution of higher education" shall mean any of  
51 the following institutions of higher learning or community or  
52 junior colleges located in Mississippi: Alcorn State University,  
53 Delta State University, Jackson State University, Mississippi  
54 State University, Mississippi University for Women, Mississippi  
55 Valley State University, University of Mississippi, University of  
56 Southern Mississippi, Coahoma Community College, Copiah-Lincoln  
57 Community College, East Central Community College, East  
58 Mississippi Community College, Hinds Community College, Holmes  
59 Community College, Itawamba Community College, Jones County Junior  
60 College, Meridian Community College, Mississippi Delta Community  
61 College, Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, Northeast  
62 Mississippi Community College, Northwest Mississippi Community  
63 College, Pearl River Community College, Southwest Mississippi  
64 Community College, Belhaven College, Blue Mountain College,  
65 Millsaps College, Mississippi College, Rust College, Tougaloo  
66 College, William Carey College, Mary Holmes College, Magnolia  
67 Bible College and Wood College.



68           (b) "Tuition" shall mean the semester or trimester or  
69 term charges and all required fees imposed by an institution of  
70 higher education as a condition of enrollment by all students.  
71 However, for a two-year nonpublic institution of higher education  
72 defined in paragraph (a), the tuition payments shall not exceed  
73 the average charges and fees required by all of the two-year  
74 public institutions of higher education defined in paragraph (a),  
75 and for a four-year nonpublic institution of higher education  
76 defined in paragraph (a), the tuition payments shall not exceed  
77 the average charges and fees required by all of the four-year  
78 public institutions of higher education defined in paragraph (a).

79           (3) The tuition at any institution of higher education in  
80 the state shall be paid by the state on behalf of any student who  
81 enrolls in such a school to pursue an academic undergraduate or  
82 associate degree, who applies for the payment thereof, and who  
83 meets the qualifications enumerated in paragraphs (a), (b), (f)  
84 and (g) of subsection (1) but who fails to meet one (1) of the  
85 particular requirements established by paragraph (c), (d) or (e)  
86 of subsection (1) by an amount of ten percent (10%) or less.

87           (4) To maintain continued state payment of tuition, once  
88 enrolled in an institution of higher education, a student shall  
89 meet all of the following requirements:

90           (a) Make steady academic progress toward a degree,  
91 earning not less than the minimum number of hours of credit



92 required for full-time standing in each academic period requiring  
93 such enrollment;

94 (b) Maintain continuous enrollment for not less than  
95 two (2) semesters or three (3) quarters in each successive  
96 academic year, unless granted an exception for cause by the  
97 administering agency;

98 (c) Have a cumulative grade point average of at least  
99 2.5 calculated on a 4.0 scale at the end of the first academic  
100 year and thereafter maintain such a cumulative grade point average  
101 as evaluated at the end of each academic year;

102 (d) Have no criminal record, except for misdemeanor  
103 traffic violations; and

104 (e) Be found to be in financial need.

105 (5) The provisions of this chapter shall be administered by  
106 the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning in  
107 conjunction with the \* \* \* Mississippi Community College Board.  
108 The board may provide by rule for all matters necessary for the  
109 implementation of this chapter.

110 (6) By rule, the board shall provide for:

111 (a) A mechanism for informing all students of the  
112 availability of the assistance provided pursuant to this chapter  
113 early enough in their schooling that a salutary motivational  
114 effect is possible.



115 (b) Applications, forms, financial audit procedures,  
116 eligibility and other program audit procedures and other matters  
117 related to efficient operation.

118 (c) A procedure for waiver through the 1996-1997  
119 academic year of the program eligibility requirement for  
120 successful completion of a specified core curriculum upon proper  
121 documentation by the applicant that failure to comply with such  
122 requirement is due solely to the fact that the required course or  
123 courses were not available to the applicant at the school  
124 attended.

125 (7) An applicant shall be found to be in financial need if:

126 (a) The family has one (1) child under the age of  
127 twenty-one (21), and the two-year average annual adjusted gross  
128 income of the family is less than Thirty-six Thousand Five Hundred  
129 Dollars (\$36,500.00); or

130 (b) The family has a two-year average annual adjusted  
131 gross income of less than Thirty-six Thousand Five Hundred Dollars  
132 (\$36,500.00) plus Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) for each  
133 additional child under the age of twenty-one (21).

134 The two-year average annual adjusted gross income of the  
135 family shall be verified by Internal Revenue Service returns or by  
136 certified affidavits in cases of income that cannot be verified by  
137 such returns.

138 As used in this subsection, the term "family" for an  
139 unemancipated applicant means the applicant, the applicant's



140 parents, and other children under age twenty-one (21) of the  
141 applicant's parents. The term "family" for an emancipated  
142 applicant means the applicant, an applicant's spouse, and any  
143 children under age twenty-one (21) of the applicant and spouse.

144 (8) An appropriation of funds may annually be made to the  
145 board sufficient to cover, in addition to any other available  
146 funds, the costs of tuition required to be paid, both initial and  
147 continuing, for the coming academic year. All such payments shall  
148 be made directly to the institution to which such tuition is due  
149 after notice to the school that the state shall pay the tuition of  
150 a student and after notice from the school that the student has  
151 actually enrolled.

152 (9) The board may seek, accept and expend funds from any  
153 source, including private business, industry, foundations and  
154 other groups as well as any federal or other governmental funding  
155 available for this purpose.

156 (10) No student shall receive a grant pursuant to this  
157 chapter in an amount greater than the tuition charged by the  
158 school. The student must apply for a federal grant prior to  
159 receiving state funds.

160 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
161 and after its passage.

