

**OFFICE OF CHIEF OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT**  
**Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Items**  
**April 21, 2016**

**OFFICE OF DISTRICT ACCREDITATION**

05. Action: Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process to revise Part 3, Chapter 36, Rule 36.4: Assessments Required for Graduation [Goals 1, 2, 3, and 4 – MBE Strategic Plan]

Background Information: In accordance with MS Code 37-16-7 and Part 3, Chapter 36: Graduation Requirements, each student must meet the minimum requirements established by the State Board of Education and its local board of education in order to receive a high school diploma.

Process Standard 14.2, of the *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards*, states that each student receiving a standard diploma must achieve a passing score on each of the required high school exit examinations in accordance with MS Code 37-16-7 and State Board Policies, Part 3, Chapter 36, Rules 36.2 and 36.4.

The graduation requirements for Carnegie Unit credit and passing of the four (4) subject area tests in Algebra I, Biology I, English II, and U.S. History are graduation requirements independent of one another.

As outlined in Rule 36.4, end-of-course Subject Area Tests were phased in beginning with the 2001-2002 school year to replace the Functional Literacy Examination (FLE). Students who enrolled in 9<sup>th</sup> grade in 2003-2004 and each year thereafter are required to earn a passing score on all required end-of-course subject area tests in order to earn a high school diploma.

In addition to meeting graduation requirements, the four (4) end-of-course Subject Area Tests are required in the Mississippi Statewide Accountability System for schools with Grade 12.

On March 20, 2015, the State Board of Education approved revisions to Rule 36.4 – Assessments Required for Graduation to remove passing an end-of-course Subject Area Test as a requirement for graduation and incorporate the score on the applicable assessment into the final grade in the course.

The Commission on School Accreditation (CSA) met in a special-called meeting on April 19, 2016 and approved the proposed revisions to Rule 36.4 – Assessments Required for Graduation.

The proposed revisions will provide guidance to the Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) regarding the assessments required for graduation and reestablishing the

implementation of the assessment score constituting 25% of the student's final grade in the course.

This item references Goals 1, 2, 3, and 4 of the *Mississippi Board of Education 2016-2020 Strategic Plan*.

Recommendation: Approval

Back-up material attached

## Chapter 36: Graduation Requirements

### *Rule 36.4 Assessments Required for Graduation*

1. All students enrolled in one of the four (4) end-of-course Subject Area Test courses **must** pass the course and participate in the applicable end-of-course Subject Area Test in order to earn the Carnegie Unit.
2. Beginning with school year 2014-2015, students shall graduate by passing the course and meeting **one** (1) of the following options:
  - Passing the applicable end-of-course Subject Area Test, or
  - Using options outlined in Chapter 36, Rule 36.5, or
  - Using the end-of-course Subject Area Test score with the overall course grade based on the Concordance Table for each of the four (4) end-of-course Subject Area Tests as provided to school districts by the Mississippi Department of Education. (Students must be enrolled in order to utilize this option.)
3. Beginning with school year 2015-2016, in addition to number two (2) above, all students enrolled may achieve a combined minimum score from the end-of-course Subject Area Tests to meet the requirement for graduation in lieu of passing the applicable end-of-course Subject Area Test.
4. Beginning with school year ~~2016-2017~~ 2018-2019, all students who are enrolled in an end-of-course Subject Area Test course for the first time must participate in the assessment in order to earn the Carnegie Unit. The assessment score will constitute 25% of the student's final grade in the course.
5. Any Mississippi public school student who fails to pass a required end-of-course Subject Area Test, prior to school year 2016-2017, will be offered opportunities to retake the test.

### **Archived Information Regarding Chapter 36, Rule 36.4 for Students Graduating Prior to School Year 2014-2015:**

Academic end-of-course tests were phased in during the 2001-2002 school year to replace the Functional Literacy Examination (FLE) as a requirement for graduation.

1. Students who began 9th grade PRIOR to 1999-2000 must pass the Functional Literacy Examination (FLE).
2. Students who began 9th grade in school year 1999-2000 must pass the Functional Literacy Examination (FLE) plus the Subject Area Test in U.S. History.
3. Students who began 9th grade in school year 2000-2001 must pass the mathematics section of the FLE plus the Subject Area Tests in U.S. History and English II.
4. Students who began 9th grade in 2001-2002 must pass the mathematics section of the FLE plus the Subject Area Tests in U.S. History, English II, and Biology I.

5. Students who began 9<sup>th</sup> grade in 2002-2003 must pass the end-of-course Subject Area Tests in U. S. History, English II, Biology I, and Algebra I. Students who began 9<sup>th</sup> grade in 2003-2004 and each year thereafter must pass all required end-of-course Subject Area Tests in U.S. History, English II, Biology I, and Algebra I.

Source Code: MS Code 37-17-6, 37-16-7 (Revised 4/2015)

*Miss. Code Ann. § 37-16-7*

MISSISSIPPI CODE of 1972

\*\*\* Current through HB 1, 2016 1st Extraordinary Session and SB 2808, 2016 Regular Session. \*\*\*

TITLE 37. EDUCATION  
CHAPTER 16. STATEWIDE TESTING PROGRAM

Miss. Code Ann. § 37-16-7 (2016)

§ 37-16-7. Establishment of graduation standards established by district school boards; standard diploma

(1) Each district school board shall establish standards for graduation from its schools which shall include as a minimum:

(a) Mastery of minimum academic skills as measured by assessments developed and administered by the State Board of Education.

(b) Completion of a minimum number of academic credits, and all other applicable requirements prescribed by the district school board.

(c) By school, information on high school graduation rates. High schools with graduation rates lower than eighty percent (80%) must submit a detailed plan to the Mississippi Department of Education to restructure the high school experience to improve graduation rates.

(2) A student who meets all requirements prescribed in subsection (1) of this section shall be awarded a standard diploma in a form prescribed by the State Board of Education.

(3) The State Board of Education may establish student proficiency standards for promotion to grade levels leading to graduation.

**HISTORY:** SOURCES: Laws, 1982, Ex Sess, Ch. 17, § 30(4, 6); Laws, 1987, ch. 446, § 2; Laws, 1999, ch. 421, § 2; Laws, 2013, ch. 494, § 2, eff from and after July 1, 2013.