

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

OFFICE OF DISTRICT ACCREDITATION

07. Action: Revise Part 3, Chapter 36, Rule 36.4: Assessments Required for Graduation [Goals 1, 2, 3, and 4 – MBE Strategic Plan]
(Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process with public comments)

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 9th 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 9th 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 9th 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)

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.

**PROPOSED REVISION
TO SBE POLICY-CH. 36,
R.36.4: ASSESSMENT
REQUIRED FOR
GRADUATION**

APA COMMENTS

May 6, 2016 – May 31, 2016

Rule	Narrative of Rule	Topic	Comments		
			Supporting	Concerns	Total
PART 3, CH. 36, R. 36.4: ASSESSMENT 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.	Revision to Part 3, Ch. 36, R. 36.4: Assessment Required for Graduation	0	2	2
TOTAL COMMENTS			0	2	2

PROPOSED REVISIONS TO SBE POLICY-CH. 36, R. 36.4

APA Comments Summary Chart

Role	Number of Commenters
Superintendents/Conservators	
Assistant Superintendents	
District School Board Members	
Teachers	
Librarians/Media Specialists	
Federal Programs Directors	1
Curriculum Directors	
Special Education Directors	
Principals	
Assistant Principals	
Vocational School Directors	
Other District Personnel	
Instructional Specialists/Academic Coaches	
Advocacy Groups	
MDE Offices	
Citizens (Parents)	1
Unknown	
State Organizations	
TOTAL	2

Zero (0) school districts were represented through the APA comments received.

PROPOSED REVISIONS TO SBE POLICY-CH. 36, R. 36.4: ASSESSMENT REQUIRED FOR GRADUATION

APA COMMENTS

May 6 – May 31, 2016

APA Comments Summary Chart

Veronica Barton

From: Chris Murphy <chris.murphy@smithcountyschools.net>
Sent: Thursday, May 26, 2016 11:04 AM
To: Accreditation; Paula Vanderford
Subject: APA Part 3, Chapter 36, Rule 36.4: Assessment Required for Graduation.
Attachments: Ch 36 Rule 36.4.pdf

If the implementation of the 25% is being moved to 2018-2019 (#4), then #5 should also be changed to correspond to allow students to have the ability to retest if they took the test prior to 2018-2019. The current language only allows retesting for students prior to 2016-2017.

See attached.

Chris Murphy
Smith County Schools
Federal Programs Director
Curriculum Director - Math/Science
Office: 601-782-4296
Fax: 601-782-9895

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Chapter 36: Graduation Requirements

Rule 36.4 Assessments Required for Graduation

1. All students enrolled in one of the four 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** of the following options:
 - Passing the applicable end-of-course Subject Area Test, or
 - Using options outlined in State Board Policy 3804, 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 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 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 State Board Policy 3803 for Students Graduation Prior to School Year 2014-2015:

Academic end-of-course tests were phased in during the 2001-2002 school year to replace the (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 9th 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 9th 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.

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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.
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Archived Information Regarding State Board Policy 3803 for Students Graduation Prior to School Year 2014-2015:

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

6. Students who began 9th grade PRIOR to 1999-2000 must pass the Functional Literacy Examination (FLE).
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. 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.
10. Students who began 9th 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 9th 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 37-1-3, 37-17-6, 37-16-7 (Revised 4/2016)

Veronica Barton

From: Charles Araujo <araujogarner@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, May 30, 2016 11:47 AM
To: Accreditation
Cc: Washington Cole; Walt Drane; Cedrick Gray; Beneta Burt; Otha Burton; Jed Oppenheim; rilind@jackson.k12.ms.us; khobbs@jackson.k12.ms.us; ricjones@jackson.k12.ms.us; cstutts@jackson.k12.ms.us
Subject: MAP Assessment and SATP Test Scores constituting 25% of final grade, Public Comment
Attachments: Letter to State Board of Education - MAP.pdf

To: MS Dept of Education

Re: MAP Assessment and SATP Test Scores constituting 25% of final grade/Public Comment

Please see the attachment (scanned letter) for the State Board of Education in which I am publically commenting on the above subject. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Charles Araujo, Public School Parent
4519 Brook Drive
Jackson , MS 39206
601-874-9875 (cell)

PS: I have cc'ed my local superintendent and local school board for their information only.

May 30, 2016

Dear MS State Board of Education and Dr. Carey M. Wright, State Superintendent

Re: MAP Assessment and SATP Test Scores constituting 25% of final grade, Questions and Suggetions

My name is Charles Araujo and I am a parent of two sons in public school (one going into 10th grade and one going into 6th grade). I have been reading assessment information from the MDE website and have some questions of MDE regarding the use of the 2016-17 SATP assessment. This is from the MDE website "Starting in the 2016-2017 school year, SATP test scores will constitute 25 percent of a student's final grade in the applicable course. This policy will affect every student who enrolls in Algebra I, Biology I, English II, and U.S. History for the first time in 2016-2017 and thereafter".

This policy affects my son who will be taking English II for the first time in 2016-17 and later U.S. History as well as will affect my younger son. I have three main questions regarding implementation of this policy followed by suggestions.

Questions:

1. (Factoring test into grade) How are the SATP test results going to be "factored" in order to constitute 25% of a student's final grade?
2. (Turnaround time) What will be the turnaround time for the SATP test score in order for the score to be used in constituting 25% of the final grade? Getting the report card to the parent in a timely fashion is important.
3. (Changing date of test) Will the SATP test be moved closer to the end of school year across the state in order to offer the student more instructional time to cover the subject and do as well on the standardized test as possible?

Suggestions:

1. (Factoring test into grade) Since this is a new assessment; delay for at least an additional year the implementation of the 25% grading feature. MDE needs time and most importantly data to figure out appropriate performance score levels on the tests; that when added to the teacher grade results in the student earning an "A", "B", "C", "D" or "F" for that course. As a parent I want to know the overall performance of my child on that test as well as how my child did in comparison to other students across the state; and how much the test score impacted my child's final grade in the course.
2. (Turnaround time) An issue I have always had with standardized testing (MCT all the way to SATP testing) is getting the test results when we return to school in the fall. Regardless of the reason from MDE, local school district or the test vendor I would like to have the score results as soon after taking the test as possible. If students are taking the tests online the turnaround time should be very, very short. Waiting for the test results over the summer is too long, and for me the test results lose importance. If my child shows a weakness through the score results I want to start addressing the weakness as soon as school starts. In order to do that we need to have some form of individual academic plan laid out based upon my child's tests results. In other words, I want to make more individual use of the standardized test results than we have done in the past.
3. (Changing date of testing) With the SATP, as well as the other standardized tests; I want them as near the end of school as possible. I have noticed year after year that after standardized testing is completed there is a loss of motivation for learning during the last days of school. Based on conversations I have had with parents from other areas of the state this appears common.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide input. Additionally, I appreciate what MDE as well as my local school district do for the children each day.

Charles Araujo, Public School Parent
4519 Brook Drive, Jackson, MS 39206
601-874-9875 (cell)



PS: I wanted to share that I was a school social worker for 21 years and retired a couple years ago; and I have worked part time teaching social welfare policy in the School of Social Work at Jackson State University. My wife is a teacher; however, she has not been involved in my correspondence with MDE, the above are my thoughts. I have cc'ed (via email) my local superintendent as well as my local school board members for their information only.