

OFFICE OF CHIEF ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICER
Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Items
Consent Agenda
April 19, 2018

OFFICE OF ACCREDITATION

- W. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise State Board Policy Chapter 36, Rule 36.4: Assessments Required for Graduation

Background Information: In accordance with Mississippi Code Annotated § 37-16-7 and State Board Policy Chapter 36, Rule 36.4: Graduation Requirements, each student must meet the minimum requirements established by the State Board of Education and its local board of education and in order to receive a high school diploma.

Process Standard 14.2, of the *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2017* states that each student receiving a standard diploma must achieve a passing score on each of the required end-of-course Subject Area Tests or meet one of the options in lieu of a passing score in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 37-16-7 and State Board Policies, Chapter 36, Rules 36.2 and 36.4.

On June 16, 2016, the State Board of Education approved revisions to State Board Policy Chapter 36, Rule 36.4: Assessments Required for Graduation to remove passing an end-of-course Subject Area Tests as a requirement for graduation and incorporate the score on the applicable assessment into the final grade in the course effective the 2018-2019 school year.

Based on new standards and assessments for Biology I and U.S. History, a recommendation is being made to revise Rule 36.4, to include the phasing in four (4) end-of-course Subject Area Tests as follows:

- School Year 2018-2019: Algebra I and English II
- School Year 2020-2021: Biology I
- School Year 2021-2022: U.S. History

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.

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 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. The application of this score and percentage will be phased in as follows:
 - School Year 2018-2019: Algebra I and English II
 - School Year 2020-2021: Biology I
 - School Year 2021-2022: U.S. History
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 6/2016)