

**OFFICE OF CHIEF ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICER**  
**Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Items**  
**Consent Agenda**  
**August 16, 2018**

**OFFICE OF DISTRICT AND SCHOOL PERFORMANCE**

- E. Approval to revise State Board Policy Chapter 36, Rule 36.4: Assessments Required for Graduation  
(Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process without public comments)

Background Information: In accordance with Mississippi Code Annotated § 37-16-7 and State Board Policy Chapter 36, Rule 36.4: Assessments Required for Graduation, 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, 2018* 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 (1) 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: Policies for Subject Area Testing and 36.4: Assessments Required for Graduation.

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.

On April 19, 2018, the State Board Education granted approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process to revise State Board Policy Chapter 36, Rule 36.4: Assessments Required for Graduation to phase in the implementation of this policy. The public comment period was open through May 25, 2018, and 14 comments were received. Based on the comments received, the MDE is recommending that the assessment scores not be used as 25% of the student's final grade.

The temporary rule and final action is necessary to implement the policy revisions immediately upon its filing with the Secretary of State in accordance with Mississippi Code Annotated § 25-43-3.113(2)(b)(ii). For a rule to become effective immediately upon its filing, the Board is required to make a finding that the rule only confers a benefit or removes a restriction on the public or some segment therefore. The public comment period was open through July 16, 2018. This item has cleared the APA process with no public comments.

The Commission on School Accreditation met in a special-called meeting on June

14, 2018 and approved the MDE's recommendation to repeal Section 4 of Rule 36.4: Assessments Required for Graduation.

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. 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 4/2016, 6/2018)*