OFFICE OF CHIEF ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICER Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Items October 10, 2019

OFFICE OF ACCREDITATION

01.B. Action: Consideration of the appeals of the final accountability results in accordance with Policy 3.1.4 of the Mississippi Public Schools Accountability Standards, 2019
[Goals 1, 2, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan]

01.B. George County School District

- i. Benndale Elementary School
- ii. George County Middle School Star Academy Students
- iii. George County Middle School Transfer Students

<u>Background Information</u>: On September 19, 2019, the SBE approved the final results of the 2018-2019 Mississippi Statewide Accountability System. The Office of Accreditation received appeals of the final results in accordance with Policy 3.1.4 of the *Mississippi Public Schools Accountability Standards*, 2019. George County School District appealed the results for two (2) schools, Benndale Elementary School and George County Middle School.

On October 1, 2019, the Internal Review Committee met to consider the appeal from the George County School District and voted unanimously to deny the District's appeal.

The Commission on School Accreditation (CSA) met on October 3, 2019 and considered the Internal Review Committee's decision of the appeal. In accordance with Policy 3.1.4 of the *Mississippi Public Schools Accountability Standards, 2019*, the CSA gave each superintendent an opportunity to address the CSA during this meeting. Due to a medical emergency and in the absence of Ms. Pamela Touchard, Superintendent of the George County School District, Dr. David King, District Test Coordinator presented for the District. Following the presentations by the District and the MDE, the CSA voted to grant in part and deny in part the appeals from the George County School District.

The CSA considered the appeals of the two (2) schools within the George County School District separately. Additionally, the CSA made two (2) separate motions related to the appeal for George County Middle School. The SBE will make the final determination of the appeals' disposition.

The CSA voted unanimously to uphold the decision of the Internal Review Committee and deny the appeal for Benndale Elementary School due to general lack of participation in required assessments.

The CSA voted unanimously to grant the appeal and overturn the decision of the Internal Review Committee for the sixteen (16) students enrolled in George County Middle School's Star Academy. The MDE does not recommend the SBE uphold the decision of the CSA based on business rule 18.3 of the Mississippi Statewide Accountability System and Process Standard 21 of the Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2019.

The CSA voted unanimously to uphold the decision of the Internal Review Committee to deny the appeal of the final accountability results for the other students referenced in the appeal at George County Middle School.

This item references Goals 1, 2, 4, 5, and 6 of the *Mississippi Board of Education* 2018-2022 Strategic Plan.

Recommendation(s):

- i. Benndale Elementary School: Approval
- ii. George County Middle School Star Academy Students: Denial
- iii. George County Middle School Transfer Students: Approval

Back-up material attached



Request for Internal Review of Preliminary Data for the Mississippi Statewide Accountability System

Directions:

- 1. Districts should submit one (1) file per district.
- 2. Ensure that the cover sheet is signed and dated.
- 3. Include a detailed description of the data to be reviewed on page 2 of this form. Use a separate page per issue. (Make copies as needed.)
- 4. Complete the Request for Internal Review spreadsheet to list the MSIS ID and other related information of all students identified for consideration. Every student should be clearly identified and the specific reasons for consideration should be clearly articulated.
- 5. Include any documentary evidence to be reviewed.
- 6. Ensure that the file is uploaded to the ORS/Accountability 2019/Internal Review folder on SharePoint NO LATER THAN 3:00 p.m. on Friday, August 30, 2019. NOTE: No late submissions will be considered.

District Name:	George County School District		District Co	de:2000
Superintendent's	s Name (please print): Pam Touch	nard	\$	
Superintendent's	s email: touchardp@gcsd.us			
Superintendent's	Signature: Harm Buchwe	<u>d</u>	Date_	08/30/2019
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Contact person for	or additional information/questions:	James David	d King, Ph.D	
Phone number:	601-947-6993 #3222	Email: da	vid.king@gcsd.us	8
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Internal Review Committee,

Based on Policy 3.1.3 George County School District would like to appeal Final Accountability Results for Benndale Elementary (06) and George County Middle School (14). Please read the letters from the principals. The letters help provide some context to better understand the evidence that was submitted. Issues 2 and 3 at Benndale Elementary (06) involved two that withdrew before the testing window opened. The school had no opportunity to assess the students. The students were in the 5th grade; therefore they counted in the participation denominator for ELA, Math, and Science. If these students are not included in calculation the school has 96.04% participation rate. Issues #17-20 at George County Middle School are the same. They involved students that withdrew before testing opened. The school had no opportunity to assess the students. The remaining issues at George County Middle School involved at program called the STAR Academy. The STAR Academy is a program design to help students that are two or more years behind grade level. In additional, information about program is provided in the principal's letter. Please let me know if need any additional information or have any questions.

James David King, Ph.D.

Student Assessment Director

251-508-2552 cell



"Teach. Learn. Care."

5204 Hwy 26 W Lucedale, MS 39452 Phone: (601) 766-6341

Fax: (601) 945-2938

September 27, 2019

Dear Dr. Malone:

As the principal of Benndale Elementary School, I feel compelled to make an appeal regarding our most recent accountability rating for school year 2018-2019. The rating for our school included a letter grade deduction based on student participation in state testing, dropping our school from one point away from a C to an F rating. Upon review, we discovered that two students, MSIS numbers 001290130 and 001311145, formally withdrew on April 3, 2019 per the documents provided to your agency. This withdrawal date preceded MDE's mandated testing window beginning on April 15, 2019.

This morning George County School District personnel spoke to Mr. C. Alan Burrow, MDE Executive Director of District and School Performance via phone conference. Mr. Burrow acknowledged that these two fifth grade students, whose participation included the ELA, math, and science state tests, were the difference between our school meeting and not meeting student participation guidelines. Mr. Burrow also stated that there is no MDE policy currently in place to account for students who withdraw during the month of April but before the state testing window begins. Mr. Burrow stated that "it is just the way student participation has always been calculated" and that before 2018-2019, no school had ever been detrimentally affected by it like Benndale Elementary.

In light of no MDE policy for April pre-testing window withdrawals and our inability to test students before the testing window, I submit that Benndale Elementary has been unfairly penalized for circumstances we have shown to be out of our control. The demotion of our school from being one point away from a C to an F rating, despite a 10-point growth from the previous school year, has dealt a serious blow to our school community's morale, to public perception, and to faith in the MDE/state testing process. As such, we appeal to your agency to re-review our accountability rating.

Respectfully.

Sean Riley BES Principal

GEORGE COUNTY MIDDLE SCHOOL

330 Church Street Lucedale, MS 39452

Phone 601-947-3106

Fax 601-947-6004

Jason Woodruff Assistant Principal

Julie Miller Principal

Matthew Magee Assistant Principal/Athletic Director

September 27, 2019

Dr. Jo Anne Malone Mississippi Department of Education P.O. Box 771 Jackson, Mississippi 39205

Re: George County Middle School

Dear Dr. Malone:

I am writing you today seeking appeal in the decision of the Internal Review Committee regarding the participation rate of GCMS. The rating for our school included a letter grade deduction from a B to a C rating. We just recently obtained a B rating after many years of being a C almost D school. There has been a remarkable culture shift; this C ranking will be a detriment to that culture shift.

The 16 students who the committee feels incorrectly tested are part of a dropout prevention program named Star Academy. Star Academy began as a grant from the Mississippi Department of Education to George County School District 6 years ago. The students included in the program are 1-3 years behind and identified as at risk, the program consists of 7th and mostly 8th grade students. The students are not promoted until the end of the school year due to the fact that the 8th grade students in the program would not be eligible to participate in sports and extracurricular activities at the middle school level. George County is a very sports-minded community, and it is the belief of this Principal and numerous studies that student participation in extracurricular activities is a deterrent to drop out. The 7th grade group is in dire need of our attention, as they are at least 2 years behind. The 16 students in question were part of the 7th grade class of Star Academy, which means that these students where at least 2 years behind their original cohort meaning they have failed at least 2 times during their years in school. The program has helped over 400 students to get back on track and actually graduate on time with their original cohort. The climate of the State at this time is to identify these students who are behind and to enroll them in programs that provide them with the support and tools that they need to be successful while also accelerating them. The State should look individually at districts that are willing to be innovative and not penalize them for implementing programs of this nature that help students who otherwise are statistically slated for drop out. Again, the students in question are 7th grade students who have failed a grade at least 2 times and participated in an accelerated program but remained 7th grade students for the entire school year. The goal for the promotion change was to allow the students to enter into the 2019-2020 ninth grade cohort at the same time as their peers.

Respectfully

Julie Miller, Principal





September 9, 2019

GP 1-1-3

#2000

Pam Touchard GEORGE CO SCHOOL DIST 5152 Main Street Lucedale, MS 39452

Dear Superintendent:

The Internal Review Committee has reviewed your district's request for an internal review of preliminary accountability results. No changes were approved, as the data was found to be correct and consistent with the data entered in MSIS.

Should you have any additional questions or concerns, please contact me at 601-359-3514 or aburrow@mdek12.org.

Sincerely,

Alan Burrow, Executive Director District and School Performance

Office of Accountability

District ID	School			
	10	Student M212 ID	Reason for the Request for Internal Review	Description of Documentation Included
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2000	14		001352953	Student withdrew (04/02/19) before testing window opened. Student has zeros for participation in ELA and Mah. Student should not be counted the denominator for ELA and Math.	Copy of withdrawal list from GCMS.
2000	14		001133194	Student withdrew (04/01/19)before testing window opened. Student has zeros for participation in ELA and Mah. Student should not be counted the denominator for ELA and Math.	Copy of withdrawal list from GCMS.
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Criteria District:

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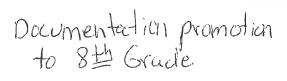
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George County School District George County Middle School

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otal Students: 16

Page 2	Issue number 17 of 20
District Name: George County School District	District Code: 2000
School Name: George County Middle School	School Code: 014
Principal's Name (please print): Julie Miller	1
Principal's Signature:	

Please describe (in detail) the data you believe to be inaccurate <u>and the supporting rationale/ documentation</u>. Reference the MSIS ID with each page of documentation. (You may make as many copies of this page as needed.)

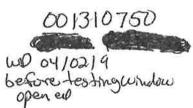
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Quick Student Information



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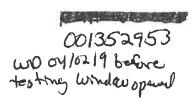
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District Name: George County School District	District Code: 2000
School Name: George County Middle School	School Code: 014
Principal's Name (please print): Julie Miller	X
Principal's Signature:	

Please describe (in detail) the data you believe to be inaccurate and the supporting rationale/ documentation. Reference the MSIS ID with each page of documentation. (You may make as many copies of this page as needed.)

Student withdrew before the testing window opened. Student has zeros for participation in ELA and Math. Student should not be counted the denominator for ELA and Math.



Quick Student Information



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Page 2	Issue number 19 of 20
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School Name: George County Middle School	School Code: 014
Principal's Name (please print): Julie Miller	
Principal's Signature:	

Please describe (in detail) the data you believe to be inaccurate <u>and the supporting rationale/ documentation</u>. Reference the MSIS ID with each page of documentation. (You may make as many copies of this page as needed.)

Student withdrew before the testing window opened. Student has zeros for participation in ELA and Math. Student should not be counted the denominator for ELA and Math.





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Page 2	Issue number 20 of 20
District Name: George County School District	District Code: 2000
School Name: George County Middle School	School Code: 014
Principal's Name (please print): Julie Miller	
Principal's Signature: Mulle	

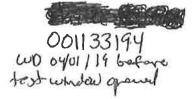
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Student withdrew before the testing window opened. Student has zeros for participation in ELA and Math. Student should not be counted the denominator for ELA and Math.



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Quick Student Information



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Summer	Transfer	Hickory

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Page 2	Issue number 1 of 3
District Name: George County School District	District Code: 2000
School Name: Benndale Elementary	School Code: 06
Principal's Name (please print): Sean Riley	3
Principal's Signature:	

Please describe (in detail) the data you believe to be inaccurate <u>and the supporting rationale/ documentation</u>. Reference the MSIS ID with each page of documentation. (You may make as many copies of this page as needed.)

Student Tested for MAAP ELA and Math. Student has zero for participation ELA and Math.

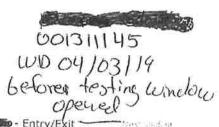
Page 2	Issue number 3 of 3
District Name: George County School District	District Code: 2000
School Name: Benndale Elementary	School Code: 06
Principal's Name (please print): Sean Riley	
Principal's Signature:	

Please describe (in detail) the data you believe to be inaccurate <u>and the supporting rationale/ documentation</u>. Reference the MSIS ID with each page of documentation. (You may make as many copies of this page as needed.)

Student withdrew on (04/03/19) before testing window opened. Student has zeros for participation in ELA, Math, and Science. Student should not be counted the denominator for ELA, Math, and Science.



Quick Student Information



Enrollment View Student Folder

- Staff or

Enrollment	Enrollment			
Print Screen				
Search				
General 1				
General 2				
Address/Phone	1			
Parent & Guardian	Ì			
Immunization	ĺ			
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Activities				
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Discipline History				
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Discipline Referrals				
History Sessions				
Grade Scripts				

Misc. Documents
Devices
ISP View
Standardized Tests
SB Grades View
History SB Grades
Online Registration
Surveys

Student Folder - Entry/Exit -

State ID: 001311145

School	Grade	Code	Date	Days Off Roll	Comments	Ga Ta Eni Farmer/Next School	- //
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006	05	E1	01/08/2019	1			
006	05	E1	08/03/2017	Ô		Home School	
006	04	E1	08/04/2016	0			
006	01	T8	10/09/2014	0			
)0a	01	E1	08/06/2014	0			
106	NS	E1	08/02/2013	0			
06	NS	E1	08/01/2012	0			

Summer Transfer History

Former School	Receiving School	Code	Date	Comments	
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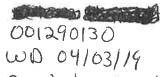
Page 2	Issue number 2 of 3
District Name: George County School District	District Code: 2000
School Name: Benndale Elementary	School Code: 06
Principal's Name (please print): Sean Riley	
Principal's Signature:	

Please describe (in detail) the data you believe to be inaccurate and the supporting rationale/ documentation. Reference the MSIS ID with each page of documentation. (You may make as many copies of this page as needed.)

Student withdrew on (04/03/19) before testing window opened. Student has zeros for participation in ELA, Math, and Science. Student should not be counted the denominator for ELA, Math, and Science.



Quick Student Information



Enrollment View Student Folder

before testing window
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- Entry/Exit Next Suggest

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General 2
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Parent & Guardian
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Surveys

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Summer Transfer History

Former School	Receiving School	Code	Date	Comments	
			No Records Found		

(Excerpt from Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2019)

2.11 If a student has concurrent enrollment in more than one (1) school/district, the period of concurrent enrollment will be included in FAY calculations at both locations.

3. N-Count Minimums

3.1 School Totals

- 3.1.1 In order for a school to earn a performance classification, the school must have a minimum of ten (10) valid test scores in each of the required components. Schools that do not have the minimum of ten (10) valid test scores for each of the components will have data from prior years combined with the current year [up to three (3) years of data] in order to achieve the minimum N-count. See Sections 15, 22, and 24 for exceptions to this rule.
- 3.2 N-Count Minimums for the Lowest Performing Twenty-Five Percent Student Subgroup
 - 3.2.1 This subgroup must have a minimum of ten (10) valid test scores. If there are less than ten (<10) students in the Lowest Performing Twenty-Five Percent Student subgroup, the subgroup will consist of all students except for the students scoring at the highest achievement level. If this calculation still results in a number less than ten (<10), then all students will be included in the calculation of the Lowest Performing Twenty-Five Percent Student subgroup.
 - 3.2.2 At the grade-level, a minimum of four (4) students with valid scale scores are required to identify the Lowest Performing Twenty-Five Percent Students subgroup. If a grade has less than four (<4) students with valid scale scores for the subject, there will be no students identified as being in the subgroup for that grade level for that subject.

Note: See Section 7 for more information on the Lowest Performing Twenty-Five Percent Student subgroup.

4. Participation Rates

- 4.1 If a school/district does not meet an overall 95% participation rate, the school/district will automatically be dropped one (1) performance classification and will have 95% of its enrollment included in proficiency calculations, as required by federal regulation. Participation rates are not rounded.
- 4.2 Elementary schools with no assessments (K, 1, and 2) will not be assigned a participation rate. Therefore, these schools will not be impacted by the participation rate minimum requirements.
- 4.3 Students may be removed from the denominator of testing participation calculations if he/she meets the criteria set forth by the Office of Student Assessment as having a Significant Medical Emergency which made participation in the state testing impossible. For details regarding the definition of Significant Medical Emergency and the process of requesting a student be removed from the calculations, please contact the Office of Student Assessment.
- 4.4 High School participation rates will be calculated based on the Senior Snapshot. Data from all statewide end-of-course, subject area assessments will be used in the participation calculations.
 - 4.4.1 For the 2013-2014 school year, the Senior Snapshot process used for calculating participation rates in end-of-course, subject area assessments will remain consistent with previous years. Beginning with the 2014-2015 school year, U.S. History will be included in the participation rate calculations.
- 4.5 Students with significant cognitive disabilities (SCD) with no U.S. History assessment scores will be removed from the denominator for the participation rate calculation for U.S. History.
- 4.6 Beginning with the 2015-2016 academic year, the ACT assessment will be included in participation rate calculations. See Section 25.
- 4.7 If a student is expelled but is still enrolled in MSIS for the school/district during the testing window, he/she will be included in the denominator. If the student does not test, the student will count as "not tested."

(Excerpt from Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2019)

- 18.1 Students with invalid test scores will be counted as "not tested" for participation calculations.18.1.1 Following an invalidated score, when a student retests, the first valid test score will be
 - used in the proficiency, growth, and participation calculations.
- 18.2 If an invalid score is validated after the accountability calculations are performed and final school/district performance classifications have been assigned, the school/district's performance classifications will not be recalculated and adjusted to reflect the validated score. If during the next year, the student tests again and has a valid test score, that test score, although it was not the student's first test score, will be used during the next year's calculations. Please refer to the Office of Student Assessment regarding deadlines for appealing invalid test scores.
- 18.3 For students in 3rd grade through eighth 8th grade, if a student's MSIS grade level (or peer grade level for ungraded students) does not match his/her assessment grade level, the student's scores will not be included in the numerator for participation, growth, or proficiency calculations, and the student will count as not proficient, not meeting growth, and not tested. Likewise, the student's scores will not be used the following year in growth calculations.
 - Note: This rule does not apply to end-of-course, subject area assessments or high school alternate assessments.

19. Rounding

19.1 In the calculation of each of the components in the statewide accountability system that are reported to schools, the final value of each component will be rounded to one (1) decimal place (tenths place). After the components are summed, the total value will be rounded to a whole number and reported for the final performance classification calculation.

Example:

Reading Proficiency	80.5
Reading Growth – All Students	80.5
Reading Growth – Lowest Performing Students	80.5
Math Proficiency	80.5
Math Growth – All Students	80.5
Math Growth – Lowest Performing Students	80.5
Science Proficiency	80.5
Total Score	564

Note: Other rounding rules are embedded in the explanations of the specific components.

20. School Reconfigurations or Redrawing of District Lines

- 20.1 A school's accountability calculations will be based on the grade configuration of the school (and the students in that school) on the date that corresponds with the FAY at the time of testing. See Section 2 for details on FAY. The calculations are applied to the school the following year, regardless of any reconfigurations or redistricting that takes place during the summer after testing or during the school year before testing.
- 20.2 Consolidated districts/schools who maintain the same grade configuration and/or student population as existing in the previous school district will receive the eligible scores or statuses of students who previously attended the school in the previous school district.

21. Alternative, Career, Technical, and Child Development Centers

21.1 Effective before and with the 2017 – 2018 academic year, no performance classifications-will be assigned to alternative, career and/or technical programs, or child development centers authorized in Miss Code Ann. §37-23-91. Scores of students attending these programs will be

(Excerpt from Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2019)

- 19. The school district is compliance with state law and State Board of Education policies for state adopted textbooks. Miss. Code Ann. §§ 37-43-1, 37-43-24, 37-43-31(2), 37-43-51, 37-9-14(2)(b), and 37-7-301(ff) (7 Miss. Admin. Code 7-3: 79.1 and 79.2, State Board Policy Chapter 79, Rules 79.1 and 79.2, Refer to the current edition of the *Textbook Administration Handbook Rules and Regulations*.
 - 19.1 Each school district provides students in each school with access to current or otherwise appropriate textbooks that are in good condition. See glossary for definition of textbook. Miss. Code Ann. § 37-43-1, § 37-9-14(2)(b), and § 37-7-301(ff).
 - 19.2 Each school district shall keep an active and surplus inventory for each school in the district to be completed by June 15 of each year. The district shall report the inventory in the Textbook Inventory Management System. Miss. Code Ann. § 37-43-51. Refer to the current edition of the Textbook Administration Handbook Rules and Regulations.
- 20. The school district meets the following instructional management requirements Miss. Code Ann. §§ 37-3-49(2)(a-c) and 37-3-49(5), Miss. Admin. Code 7-3: 41.1, State Board Policy Chapter 41, Rule 41.1.
 - 20.1 The school district implements an instructional management system that has been adopted by the school board and includes, at a minimum, the competencies and objectives required in the curriculum frameworks approved by the State Board of Education that are available to all teachers in each school. (Districts Meeting the Highest Levels of Performance are exempted.)
 - 20.2 The instructional management system includes a tiered instructional model in accordance with Miss. Admin. Code 7-3: 41.1, State Board Policy Chapter 41, Rule 41.1, including academic interventions, behavioral interventions, and *Literacy-Based Promotion Act* requirements.
- 21. The district follows an established board policy that defines criteria for the academic promotion/progression/retention of students. Such criteria prohibit the retention of students for extracurricular purposes.
 - 21.1 The school district implements a uniform grading policy. Miss. Admin. Code 7-3: Ch. 2, R. 2.3, State Board Policy Chapter 2, Rule 2.3, Miss. Code Ann. § 37-11-64 and 37-11-66.
 - 21.2 A student who is enrolled in any grade higher than Grade 6 in a school district must be suspended from participation in any extracurricular or athletic activity sponsored or sanctioned by the school district after a semester in which the student's cumulative grade point average is below 2.0 on a 4.0 scale in accordance with the Mississippi High School Activities Association (MHSAA). This portion of the standard will be jointly monitored and enforced by the State Board of Education and the MHSAA. Miss. Code Ann. § 37-11-65.
- The school district provides access to an alternative education program that meets the program guidelines outlined in Miss. Code Ann. § 37-13-92 and the guidelines established by the State Board of Education. Miss. Admin. Code 7-3:7.1, State Board Policy, Chapter 7, Rule 7.1. See guidelines for Alternative/GED School Programs.
- 23. The school district, in its discretion, may provide access to a GED Option program that meets the program guidelines outlined in Miss. Code Ann. § 37-13-92(4) and Miss. Admin Code 7-3: 7.2, State Board Policy Chapter 7, Rule 7. See guidelines for Alternative/GED Programs.
- 24. Each classroom teacher, excluding career-technical teachers whose class periods exceed 50 minutes, has an unencumbered period during the teaching day to be used for individual or departmental planning.
 - 24.1 If the school utilizes a traditional six-period or seven-period day schedule, the instructional planning time provided for secondary teachers is a minimum of 225 minutes per week, exclusive of lunch period. If the school utilizes any form of a modular/block schedule, the instructional planning time



Office of Accountability
Paula A. Vanderford, Ph.D.,
Chief Accountability Officer
Office of Accreditation
Jo Ann Malone, Ed.D.,
Executive Director

September 27, 2019

Ms. Pamela Touchard, Superintendent George County School District 5152 Main Street Lucedale, MS 39452

Re: Consideration of Appeals of the 2018-2019 Final Accountability Results

Dear Ms. Touchard:

The Mississippi Department of Education's Office of Accreditation is in receipt of the George County School District's appeal of the 2018-2019 final accountability results. In accordance with Accreditation Policy 3.1.4 of the Mississippi Public Schools Accountability Standards, 2019, the district superintendent may request to address the Commission on School Accreditation regarding the appeal of the final results.

The next regularly-scheduled meeting of the Commission on School Accreditation (Commission) is scheduled for **Thursday**, **October 3**, **2019 at 10:00 a.m.** at which time they will consider the appeals and the decision of the Internal Review Committee. If you wish to address the Commission, you will be given a time limit of forty-five (45) minutes to do so. We are asking you please confirm by noon on October 1, 2019 if you wish to address the Commission at the meeting on October 3, 2019.

Regards,

Jo Ann Malone, Executive Secretary Commission on School Accreditation

CC:

Dr. Paula A. Vanderford

Erin Meyer, Special Assistant Attorney General



Office of Accountability
Paula A. Vanderford, Ph.D.,
Chief Accountability Officer
Office of Accreditation
Jo Ann Malone, Ed.D.,
Executive Director

October 1, 2019

Ms. Pamela Touchard, Superintendent George County School District 5152 Main Street Lucedale, MS 39452

Re: Meeting of the Commission on School Accreditation

Dear Ms. Touchard:

The Mississippi Department of Education's Internal Review Committee met on October 1, 2019 to consider the George County School District's appeal of the 2018-2019 final accountability results. The committee voted unanimously to deny the George County School District's appeal of the final accountability results for Benndale School and George County Middle School.

In accordance with Accreditation Policy 3.1.4 of the *Mississippi Public Schools Accountability Standards*, 2019, the district superintendent may request to address the Commission on School Accreditation (Commission) regarding the appeal of the final results. Based on your request, you will be placed on the agenda and given forty-five (45) minutes to address the members of the Commission at the upcoming regularly scheduled meeting scheduled for **Thursday**, **October 3**, **2019 at 10:00 a.m**.

Regards,

Jo Ann Malone, Executive Secretary Commission on School Accreditation

CC:

Dr. Paula A. Vanderford

Alan Burrow

Erin Meyer, Special Assistant Attorney General

MEMORANDUM

TO:

INTERNAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

FROM:

PAM TOUCHARD, SUPERINTENDENT

JAMES DAVID KING, PH.D. DIRECTOR OF STUDENT ASSESSMENT

GEORGE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

SUBJECT:

INTERNAL REVIEW APPEAL

DATE:

OCTOBER 3, 2019

Based on Policy 3.1.4 George County School District would like to appeal the Final Accountability Results for Benndale Elementary (06) and George County Middle School (14). Please read the letters from the principals. The letters help provide some context to better understand the evidence that was submitted. Issues 2 and 3 at Benndale Elementary (06) involved two that withdrew before the testing window opened. The school had no opportunity to assess the students. The students were in the 5th grade; therefore they counted in the participation denominator for ELA, Math, and Science. If these students are not included in calculation the school has 96.04% participation rate. Issues #17-20 at George County Middle School are the same. They involved students that withdrew before testing opened. The school had no opportunity to assess the students. The remaining issues at George County Middle School involved in a program called the STAR Academy. The STAR Academy is a program design to help students that are two or more years behind grade level. Please find the following information which will serve as additional documentation in support of our appeal.

- Documentation from Questar regarding percentage of students tested.
- Letter from the Principal at George County Middle School.
- Information about the Star Academy program.
- Documentation from Questar regarding percentages of students tests at Benndale Elementary School.
- Letter from the Principal at Benndale Elementary School.
- Spring 2018/2019 Statewide Testing Calendar

In closing, a couple of points to consider:

Is there a written policy that MDE will use month 8 MSIS roster when the testing window opens at a later date? If not, we respectfully request the committee to reconsider the decision based on the effect it has on schools with small populations.

Based on the information available, which included the pre-ID file provided by MDE to Questar and the procedures implemented in the past, George County Middle School had no reason to believe that these students were being tested off grade level.

Thank you in advance for your attention in this matter.

George County Middle School



Why STAR Academy?

Some Factors Associated with Dropping out:

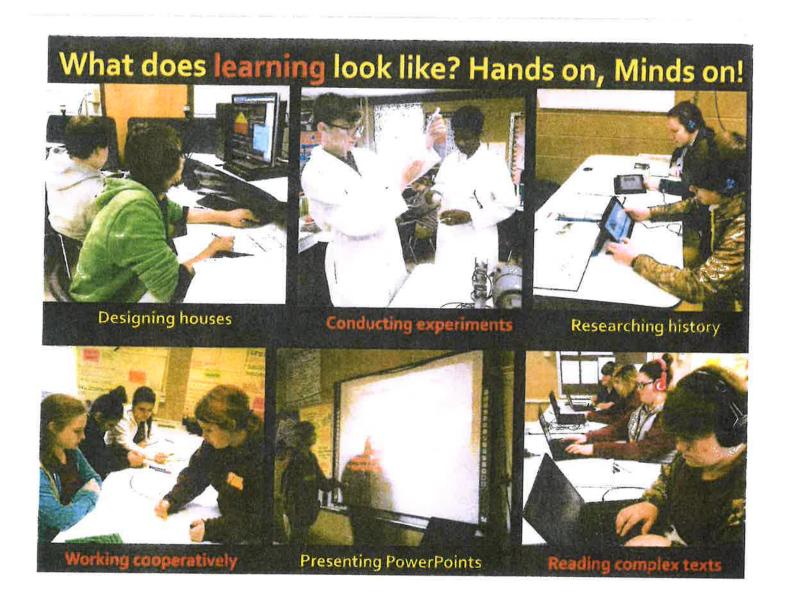
- Over aged for ones' grade
- Poor Attendance
- Low-Income Family
- Lack of Credits Earned
- Lack of Engagement
- Classes not interesting/relevant
- Low Expectations

How STAR Academy Addresses these Factors:

- The ability to "catch up".
- Hands on Curriculum
- High Expectations
- Lower Student Teacher Ratio
- Family/Team Approach
- Sense of Belonging
- Goal Focused
 Communication

Why STAR Academy?

- "80% of students who are categorized as "at risk" eventually drop out of high school."
- "To keep students from dropping out, we need to know which students are at risk and we need effective intervention programs." (Burrus and Roberts, 2012)



Addressing Their Needs...

- Acceleration with remediation
 - Fast tracking them with the supports they need to be successful.
- Addressing behavior issues
 - specific procedures and expectations
- Addressing social issues
 - socialization with specific expectations
 - regaining confidence

Transitioning to the High School

- Visits from the CTE directors and counselors at the beginning and throughout the school year versus end of the year visits only.
- Tour of the CTE department.
- Tour of the High School.
- Better efforts to get the students involved in band, CTE, ROTC, sports, etc...
- Active involvement in monitoring grades and providing feedback.

How are STAR Students doing at the High School? Class of 2018

- 51% Graduated on time within the 3 year Star plan.
- 5 students returned to graduate the following year.
- 2 of those football players choosing to stay. Those 5 students did graduate the following school year.
- 58% of the first star cohort graduated by the end of the 2018-2019 school year.

Class of 2018 - First Graduating Class State Testing Final Data

69% passed Algebra I first opportunity.

69% passed Biology I first opportunity.

62% passed English II first opportunity.

61% passed US History first opportunity.

Class of 2019 - 2nd Graduating Class

- 88% of the students transitioned to the High School with enough credits to be classified as a 10th grade student.
- 92% of the STAR students became involved in sports, CTE, band or ROTC.
- 80% of passed Algebra I first opportunity.
- 84% passed Biology I first opportunity.
- 84% passed English II first opportunity.
- 68% passed US History first opportunity.

Class of 2019 - 2nd Graduating Class

- 1 out of 43 received her GED.
- 2 out of 43 became a "no show"
- 2 out of 43 are on track to graduate next year.

72% of the 2nd Star Academy Group graduated in 3 years with their original kindergarten cohort.

Class of 2020 - 3rd Graduating Class

- 78% of the STAR students are involved in sports, CTE, band or ROTC.
- 78% of passed Algebra I first opportunity.
- 51% passed Biology I first opportunity.
- 48% passed English II first opportunity.
- 48% passed US History first opportunity.

2019 Spring 3-8 | George Co School District (2000) | George County Middle School (014) | N... Change

Mississippi Academic Assessment Program

Your Profile

Shipping Address

Name: James King Email: david.king@gcsd.us Associated with: George County Middle School (014) Phone: (601) 947-6993 Mailing Address 330 Church Street Lucedale, MS-39452

AL-

Administration Quick Links

District Test Coordinator Checklist

What's New

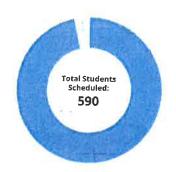
Mississippi Academic Powered by Nextera™

https://ms.nextera.questarai.com/AdmIn/Dashboard

Testing Status Dashboard

You're Viewing: George Co School District (2000) | George County Middle.School (014)

Not Yet Testing 4%



Finished Testing 96%

Data last updated 05/15/2019 at 11:42 AM.

Nextera Testing System Maintenance

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2019 Spring 3-8 | George Co School District (2000) | George County Middle School (014) | N... Change

James King Sign Out

🛵 Questar,

Mississippi Academic Assessment Program

Dr. Carey Wright, State Superintendent of Education

No System Maintenance in the last 7 days.

School Information

District:

District Test Coordinator James King

Schools:

School

Create an Account

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2019 Spring 3-8 | George Co School District (2000) | George County Middle School (014) | N... Change

Mississippi Academic Assessment Program

Your Profile

Namê: James King Email: david_king@gcsd.us Associated with: George County Middle School (014) Phone: (601) 947-6993 Mailing Address 330 Church Street Lucedale, MS-39452

. AL-

Shipping Address

Administration Quick Links

Testing Status Dashboard

You're Viewing: George Co School District (2000) | George County Middle School (014)

Not Yet Testing 14%



Currently Testing 1%

Finished Testing 85%

District Test Coordinator Checklist

Data last updated 05/13/2019 at 07:13 AM.

Nextera Testing System Maintenance

What's New

Mississippi Academic A sandaman Powered by Nextera^M

https://ms.nextera.questarai.com/Admin/Dashboard

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2019 Spring 3-8 | George Co School District (2000) | Benndale Elementary School (006) | No., Change

Mississippi Academic Assessment Program



Your Profile

Name: James King

Email: david.king@gcsd.us

Associated with: Benndale Elementary School (006)

Phone: (601) 947-6993 Malling Address 5204 HWY 26 West

Lucedale, MS-39452

Shipping Address

. AL-

Administration Quick Links

Testing Status Dashboard

You're Viewing: George Co School District (2000) | Benndale Elementary School (006) | Charage



Finished Testing 100%

District Test Coordinator Checklist

Testing ended on 05/20/2019 at 05:00 PM.

Nextera Testing System Maintenance

What's New

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2019 Spring 3-8 | George Co School District (2000) | George County Middle School (014) | N... Change

James King Sign Out

🚣 Questar,

Mississippi Academic Assessment Program

Dr. Carey Wright, State Superintendent of Education

No System Maintenance in the-last 7 days.

School Information

District: .= ¿

District Test Coordinator James King

Schools:

School:

Create an Account

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TEST MANAGEMENT

JM

, Manage Test Sessions 🍦 Upload Multiple Test Sessions

The data for this Administration is read-only.

Instructions

* Indicates required fields

Administration MAAP Spring 2019	v *	District GEORGE CO SCHOOL DI	ST -	School GEORGE COUNTY MIDDLE S
Last Name		First Name		MSIS ID
Session		Teacher		
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Content Area		Assessment		
(All)		(All)	[4]	

Sessions Status Summary

Instructions

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10-262×100=3.81 - 100% = 96.18%

47

2019 Spring 3-8 | George Co School District (2000) | Benndale Elementary School (006) | No.. Change

James King Sign Out

Mississippi Academic Assessment Program

Questar

Dr. Carey Wright, State Superintendent of Education

No System Maintenance in the last-7 days.

School Information

District: George Co School District (2000)

District Test Coordinator James King

Schools:

School: Bennuale Elementary School (006)

Create an Account

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2018-2019 Statewide Testing Calendar

		T	esting Windo	ow	Testing Population	
Test Name	Details	Start Date	Finish Date	Maximum Duration in Minutes	Grade Levels	Retest
Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA)	Pretest	8/13/2018	9/21/2018	41	PK-K	No
3rd Grade MS Academic Assessment Program ELA	Posttest	4/8/2019	5/17/2019	41	PK-K	Yes
3rd Grade Reading Alternative Assessment	Initial	4/15/2019		113	3	Yes
3rd Grade Reading Alternative Assessment	1st Retest	5/13/2019	5/17/2019	92	3	Yes
MS Academic Assessment Program for Biology and U.S. History	2nd Retest	6/24/2019	7/12/2019	92	3	Yes
MS Academic Assessment Program for English II & Algebra	Fall	11/26/2018	12/14/2018	Untimed	9-12	Yes
MS Academic Assessment Program for El.A & Math		11/26/2018	12/14/2018	207-257	English II, Algebra I	Yes
MS Academic Assessment Program for ELA & Math	Spring	4/15/2019	5/17/2019	207-257	3-8, English II, Algebra I	Yes
MS Academic Assessment Program for Science, Grade 5 and Grade 8		4/15/2019	5/17/2019	180	5 & 8	No
MS Academic Assessment Program for Biology and U.S. History		4/15/2019	5/17/2019	Untimed	9-12	Yes
	Science				SCD 3-17	Ma
IS Academic Assessment Program - Alternate	ELA & Math	3/18/2019	5/17/2019	Untimed	200	
		3/18/2019	5/17/2019	THE RESERVE OF THE PERSON NAMED IN	SCD 3-12	No
AS Links-English Language Proficiency Test	Ovience	3/18/2019	5/17/2019 4/16/2019	Untimed	5, 8, 11	No
AS Links-English Language Proficiency Test ational Assessment Educational Progress Assessment (NAEP) his assessment is for a sample population only.	Swiene		5/17/2019 4/16/2019 3/8/2019	THE RESERVE OF THE PERSON NAMED IN		
ational Assessment Educational Progress Assessment (NAEP)	Paper	3/4/2019	4/16/2019	Untimed 120-125 60-90	5, 8, 11 K - 12 4,8,12	No No No
ational Assessment Educational Progress Assessment (NAEP)	Paper Online	3/4/2019 1/28/2019	4/16/2019 3/8/2019	Untimed 120-125 60-90 175	5, 8, 11 K - 12 4,8,12	No No No
ational Assessment Educational Progress Assessment (NAEP) his assessment is for a sample population only.	Paper	3/4/2019 1/28/2019 2/20/2019	4/16/2019 3/8/2019 2/20/2019	Untimed 120-125 60-90 175 175	5, 8, 11 K - 12 4,8,12 11	No No No No
ational Assessment Educational Progress Assessment (NAEP) his assessment is for a sample population only.	Paper Online Paper-only Make-up Make-up	3/4/2019 1/28/2019 2/20/2019 2/20/2019	4/16/2019 3/8/2019 2/20/2019 2/28/2019	Untimed 120-125 60-90 175	5, 8, 11 K - 12 4,8,12 11 11	No No No No No No
ational Assessment Educational Progress Assessment (NAEP) his assessment is for a sample population only.	Paper Online Paper-only Make-up Make-up Fall	3/4/2019 1/28/2019 2/20/2019 2/20/2019 4/2/2019	4/16/2019 3/8/2019 2/20/2019 2/28/2019 4/2/2019	Untimed 120-125 60-90 175 175 175	5, 8, 11 K - 12 4,8,12 11 11 11	No No No No No No Yes
ational Assessment Educational Progress Assessment (NAEP) his assessment is for a sample population only.	Paper Online Paper-only Make-up Make-up Fall Make-up	3/4/2019 1/28/2019 2/20/2019 2/20/2019 4/2/2019 5/7/2019	4/16/2019 3/8/2019 2/20/2019 2/28/2019 4/2/2019 5/7/2019	Untimed 120-125 60-90 175 175 175 175	5, 8, 11 K - 12 4,8,12 11 11 11 11 Secondary	No No No No No No Yes
Assessment Educational Progress Assessment (NAEP) his assessment is for a sample population only. CT S Carcer Planning Assessment System, Third Edition	Paper Online Paper-only Make-up Make-up Fall Make-up Performance-Based Assessment	3/4/2019 1/28/2019 2/20/2019 2/20/2019 4/2/2019 5/7/2019 11/12/2018	4/16/2019 3/8/2019 2/20/2019 2/28/2019 4/2/2019 5/7/2019 11/15/2018	Untimed 120-125 60-90 175 175 175 175 TBD	5, 8, 11 K - 12 4,8,12 11 11 11 Secondary Secondary	No N
ational Assessment Educational Progress Assessment (NAEP) his assessment is for a sample population only.	Paper Online Paper-only Make-up Make-up Fall Make-up	3/4/2019 1/28/2019 2/20/2019 2/20/2019 4/2/2019 5/7/2019 11/12/2018 11/16/2018	4/16/2019 3/8/2019 2/20/2019 2/28/2019 4/2/2019 5/7/2019 11/15/2018 11/16/2018	Untimed 120-125 60-90 175 175 175 175 TBD TBD	5, 8, 11 K - 12 4,8,12 11 11 11 Secondary Secondary Secondary	No No No No No No No Yes No No
Assessment Educational Progress Assessment (NAEP) his assessment is for a sample population only. CT S Career Planning Assessment System, Third Edition his assessment is for Career and Technical Education students only.	Paper Online Paper-only Make-up Make-up Fall Make-up Performance-Based Assessment	3/4/2019 1/28/2019 2/20/2019 2/20/2019 4/2/2019 5/7/2019 11/12/2018 11/16/2018 4/1/2019	4/16/2019 3/8/2019 2/20/2019 2/28/2019 4/2/2019 5/7/2019 11/15/2018 11/16/2018 4/26/2019	Untimed 120-125 60-90 175 175 175 175 TBD TBD TBD	5, 8, 11 K - 12 4,8,12 11 11 11 Secondary Secondary Secondary Secondary	No N
Assessment Educational Progress Assessment (NAEP) his assessment is for a sample population only. CT S Career Planning Assessment System, Third Edition his assessment is for Career and Technical Education students only. E NA = Not Applicable, TBD = To be determined:	Paper Online Paper-only Make-up Make-up Fall Make-up Performance-Based Assessment National Certifications Testing Spring	3/4/2019 1/28/2019 2/20/2019 2/20/2019 4/2/2019 5/7/2019 11/12/2018 11/16/2018 4/1/2019 4/1/2019 4/8/2019	4/16/2019 3/8/2019 2/20/2019 2/28/2019 4/2/2019 5/7/2019 11/16/2018 4/26/2019 5/10/2019	Untimed 120-125 60-90 175 175 175 175 TBD TBD TBD TBD	5, 8, 11 K - 12 4,8,12 11 11 11 Secondary Secondary Secondary	No No No No No No Yes No No
Assessment Educational Progress Assessment (NAEP) his assessment is for a sample population only. CT S Career Planning Assessment System, Third Edition his assessment is for Career and Technical Education students only.	Paper Online Paper-only Make-up Make-up Fall Make-up Performance-Based Assessment National Certifications Testing Spring	3/4/2019 1/28/2019 2/20/2019 2/20/2019 4/2/2019 5/7/2019 11/12/2018 11/16/2018 4/1/2019 4/1/2019 4/8/2019	4/16/2019 3/8/2019 2/20/2019 2/28/2019 4/2/2019 5/7/2019 11/16/2018 4/26/2019 5/10/2019	Untimed 120-125 60-90 175 175 175 175 TBD TBD TBD TBD	5, 8, 11 K - 12 4,8,12 11 11 11 Secondary Secondary Secondary Secondary	No N

MDE-Office of Student Assessment

Page 1 of 1

(Highlighted cells reflect changes) Revised March 14, 2017



Office of Accountability
Paula A. Vanderford, Ph.D.,
Chief Accountability Officer
Office of Accreditation
Jo Ann Malone, Ed.D.,
Executive Director

October 4, 2019

Ms. Pamela Touchard, Superintendent George County School District 5152 Main Street Lucedale, MS 39452

Re:

Commission on School Accreditation's Review of Appeals of Final 2018-2019 Accountability Results

Dear Ms. Touchard:

The Commission on School Accreditation (CSA) met on October 3, 2019 to consider the Internal Review Committee's decision regarding the George County School District's appeal of the 2018-2019 final accountability results.

The CSA voted unanimously to uphold the Internal Review Committee's decision to deny the George County School District's appeal of the final accountability results for Benndale Elementary School due to general lack of participation in required assessments.

The CSA voted unanimously to grant the appeal and overturn the Internal Review Committee's decision of the George County School District's appeal of the final accountability results for the sixteen (16) students enrolled in the George County Middle School's Star Academy. The CSA voted unanimously to uphold the Internal Review Committee's decision to deny the George County School District's appeal of the final accountability results for the other students referenced in the appeal at George County Middle School.

In accordance with Accreditation Policy 3.1.4 of the *Mississippi Public Schools Accountability Standards*, 2019, the State Board of Education makes the final determination on the appeal's decision. The CSA's decision will be provided to the State Board of Education at its upcoming regularly scheduled meeting Thursday, October 10, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.

George County School District October 4, 2019 – Page 2

During the meeting of the State Board of Education, the superintendent of each district submitting an appeal will be given ten (10) minutes to address the members of the Board.

Regards,

Jo Ann Malone, Executive Secretary Commission on School Accreditation

Cc: Dr. Carey M. Wright

Dr. Paula A. Vanderford

Alan Burrow

Erin Meyer, Special Assistant Attorney General, Counsel to the CSA