

OFFICE OF CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER
Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Items
September 24, 2020

OFFICE OF ACADEMIC EDUCATION

01. Action: Approval by the SBE to suspend strict compliance with Miss. Admin. Code 7-3: 28.6, State Board Policy Chapter 28, Rule 28.6 for the 2020 - 2021 school year following Governor Tate Reeves' Proclamation of a State of Emergency as a result of the impact of COVID-19 (coronavirus) on school districts during the Spring of 2020 in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. §§ 33-15-31, 33-15-11(b)(9), and 33-15-11(c)(1) [Goals 1, 2, and 4 – MBE Strategic Plan]

President Donald Trump declared a national emergency on March 13, 2020, in response to the COVID-19 (coronavirus) outbreak. On March 14, 2020, Governor Tate Reeves issued a Declaration of a State of Emergency for the state of Mississippi. Included in his Proclamation, Governor Reeves directed that pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. § 33-15-11(c), the provisions of state statutes, rules, regulation or order may be temporarily suspended or modified if compliance with such provisions would prevent, hinder, or delay action to cope with the outbreak. Furthermore, on March 19, 2020, Governor Reeves issued Executive Order 1460, and on April 22, 2020, Governor Reeves issued Executive Order 1476, which in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. §§ 33-15-31, 33-15-11(b)(9), and 33-15-11(c)(1), authorizes and empowers the State Board of Education to suspend the provisions of any regulatory statutes, and to make, amend, rescind such orders, rules and regulations that it deems necessary to assist Mississippi public schools to cope with the COVID-19 emergency.

Mississippi Admin. Code 7-3: 28.6, State Board Policy Chapter 28, Rule 28.6, establishes the *Essentials for College Math and Essentials for College Literacy Requirements*. The purpose of the Essentials for College Math and Essentials for College Literacy Requirements is to provide the Local Education Agencies (LEAs) with the policies needed at the school level to teach either course and for students to earn the necessary scores for non-postsecondary remediation.

In an effort to better prepare high school students for the transition to postsecondary study, Mississippi – in conjunction with Southern Region Educational Board and seventeen other states – has developed two courses that align with college and career readiness standards. Based on Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL) Policy 608, students who complete one or both of these courses with an 80 or above will not be required to take the corresponding remedial courses for College Algebra or English Composition I at any of the eight public Mississippi universities.

Part II(d) of this Policy requires that in order for a senior to enroll in either class they must enter the course with an ACT sub-score of 15-18 in the respective

content area (Mathematics or English, respectively). However, strict compliance of the sub-score requirement is not feasible for seniors of the 2020-2021 school year that were unable to take the ACT during the Spring 2020 or Summer 2020 due to the impact of COVID-19 (coronavirus).

It is the recommendation of the MDE that the SBE eliminate the ACT sub-score enrollment requirement for the 2020-2021 school year. This recommendation of elimination would further align with the *System Guidelines for IHL Admission and Placement for AY 2020-2021 and AY 2021-2022 in Response to COVID-19* set on July 29, 2020 by the State of Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning Office of Academics and Student Affairs.

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

Recommendation: Approval

Back-up material attached

**Rule Suspension Pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. §§ 33-15-31, 33-15-11(b)(9), and 33-15-11(c)(1)
Executive Orders 1460 and 1476
School Year 2020-2021 Related to COVID-19 (Coronavirus)**

Statutes and/or Regulation(s)	Rule	Proposed Suspension and/or Revisions of Statutes/Rules
<p><i>Curriculum and Course of Study</i></p> <p><i>Essentials for College Math and Essentials for College Literacy Requirements</i></p>	<p>Miss Admin. Code 7-3: 28.6, State Board Policy Chapter 28, Rule 28.6 establishes the policies needed at the school level to teach either course and for students to earn the necessary scores for non-postsecondary remediation.</p> <p>Senior students eligible for this class must enter with an ACT sub-score of 15-18 in the respective content area (English or mathematics).</p>	<p>The MDE requests eliminating the ACT sub-score enrollment requirement for the 2020-2021 school year.</p>