

OFFICE OF CHIEF ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICER
Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Items
January 21, 2021

OFFICE OF ACCOUNTABILITY
OFFICE OF ACADEMIC EDUCATION

03. Action: Approval by the SBE to suspend strict compliance with specific state statutes, State Board of Education policies, manuals, and process standards 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 in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 33-15-31, 33-15-11(b)(9) and 33-15-11(c)(1) [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – 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, regulations or orders may be temporarily suspended or modified if compliance with such provisions would prevent, hinder, or delay action to cope with the outbreak. 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.

Due to the unprecedented and unique circumstances arising because of COVID-19, such as statewide school closures that occurred during the latter portion of the 2019 – 2020 school year and throughout the 2020 – 2021 school year, it is not economically feasible or practical to expect districts and schools to meet specific policies and process standards in the *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2020* and *Mississippi Nonpublic School Accountability Standards, 2020*.

Throughout the Spring and Fall of 2020 the SBE approved multiple waivers, rule suspensions, and deadline extensions as a result of the impact of COVID-19 (coronavirus) on school districts during the 2019 – 2020 and 2020 – 2021 school years. Among those included waivers to allow school districts to operate for less than 180 days, to suspend the administration of all statewide assessments required by state and federal law for the 2019 – 2020 school year, to suspend the Mississippi Statewide Accountability System for the 2019 – 2020 school year, and the submission and approval of a waiver request to the United States Department of Education (ED) as provided for in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act

(ESEA). The SBE also granted additional waivers, rule suspensions, and deadline extensions of multiple state laws, SBE policies, and process standards for the 2019 – 2020 and 2020 – 2021 school years as a result of the impact of COVID-19 to allow districts flexibility with the development of re-entry plans and class scheduling for the 2020 – 2021 school year. This flexibility allowed districts to comply with the current Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) and the Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines related to COVID-19 to ensure the health and safety of all staff and students.

ED has not issued a waiver of assessment requirements for the 2020 – 2021 school year. All state and federal assessments will be administered during the 2020 – 2021 school year. However, due to the ongoing impact of COVID-19 during the 2020 – 2021 school year, the MDE is recommending the SBE suspend strict compliance with additional state statutes State Board of Education policies, manuals, and process standards for the 2020 – 2021 school year as outlined in items 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, and 3E.

To ensure districts are aware of their continued responsibilities, the MDE will provide additional guidance to districts regarding the approval and parameters of any waivers and suspensions approved by the SBE for the 2020 – 2021 school year.

This item references Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 of the *Mississippi Board of Education 2018 – 2022 Strategic Plan*.

Recommendation: Approval

Back-up material attached

- 03.A. Action: Approval by the SBE to suspend strict compliance with specific state statutes, State Board of Education policies, manuals, and process standards for the 2020 – 2021 school year as it relates to the accountability determinations, following Governor Tate Reeves’ Proclamation of a State of Emergency as a result of the impact of COVID-19 (coronavirus) on school districts in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 33-15-31, 33-15-11(b)(9) and 33-15-11(c)(1) [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan]

All state and federal assessments within the Mississippi Statewide Assessment System will be administered during the 2020 – 2021 school year. However, the MDE will not have sufficient data to produce the accountability determinations as required by state and federal law for the 2020 – 2021 school year.

Upon State Board of Education approval the MDE will submit an Addendum to the ESEA Consolidated State Plan and an accompanying waiver request for the identification of Comprehensive Support and Improvement Schools (CSI), Targeted Support and Improvement Schools (TSI), and Additional Targeted Support and Improvement Schools (ATSI) timelines for identification for school in school improvement, long-term goals for English language proficiency (ELP) and the ELP indicator, and the assignment of A – F letter grades for the 2020 – 2021 school year.

Proficiency rates will be calculated and reported for Reading and Mathematics to the extent possible based on the administration of all statewide assessments administered during the 2020 – 2021 school year and the current business rules of the Mississippi Statewide Accountability System.

It is the recommendation of the MDE that the SBE suspend strict compliance with specific requirements within the following state statutes, or policies, manuals, and process standards for the 2020 – 2021 school year:

- Mississippi Statewide Accountability System: Miss. Code Ann. § 37-17-6(5)
- Miss. Admin. Code 7-24: *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2020*
- Accreditation Policy 3.0: Annual Performance Classifications

- 03.B. Approval by the SBE to suspend strict compliance with specific state statutes, State Board of Education policies, manuals, and process standards for the 2020 – 2021 school year as it relates to 3rd Grade English Language Arts/Reading Assessment, following Governor Tate Reeves’ Proclamation of a State of Emergency as a result of the impact of COVID-19 (coronavirus) on school districts in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 33-15-31, 33-15-11(b)(9) and 33-15-11(c)(1) [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan]

All state and federal assessments within the Mississippi Statewide Assessment System will be administered during the 2020 – 2021 school year.

The MDE is recommending that all eligible students take the 3rd Grade English Language Arts/Reading assessment but not be required to meet a passing score to be promoted to the 4th Grade.

It is the recommendation of the MDE that the SBE suspend strict compliance with specific requirements within the following state statutes, or policies, manuals, and process standards for the 2020 – 2021 school year:

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- Instructional Management System and Literacy Based Promotion Act: Miss. Code Ann. §§ 37-177-1 through 21
- Miss. Admin. Code 7-24: *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2020*
- Process Standard 20.2: Instructional Management System and Literacy Based Promotion Act requirements

- 03.C. Approval by the SBE to suspend strict compliance with specific state statutes, State Board of Education policies, manuals, and process standards for the 2020 – 2021 school year as it relates to the End-of-Course Subject Areas Tests, following Governor Tate Reeves’ Proclamation of a State of Emergency as a result of the impact of COVID-19 (coronavirus) on school districts in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 33-15-31, 33-15-11(b)(9) and 33-15-11(c)(1) [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan]

All state and federal assessments within the Mississippi Statewide Assessment System will be administered during the 2020 – 2021 school year.

The MDE is recommending that all eligible students take End-of-Course Subject Areas Tests, but not be required to meet a passing score to meet high school graduation requirements.

It is the recommendation of the MDE that the SBE suspend strict compliance with specific requirement within the following State Board of Education policies, manuals, and process standards for the 2020 – 2021 school year:

- Graduation Requirements: Miss. Code Ann. § 37-17-6
- Miss. Admin. Code 7-24: *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2020*
- Process Standards 14, 14.1, and 14.2: Graduation Requirements

- 03.D. Approval by the SBE to suspend strict compliance with specific state statutes, State Board of Education policies, manuals, and process standards for the 2020 – 2021 school year as it relates to submission of the FY 2020 Single Audit reporting package, following Governor Tate Reeves’ Proclamation of a State of Emergency as a result of the impact of COVID-19 (coronavirus) on school districts in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 33-15-31, 33-15-11(b)(9) and 33-15-11(c)(1) [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan]

In December 2020, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) authorized recipients and subrecipients that received COVID-19 funding with original due dates from October 1, 2020, through June 30, 2021, an extension for up to three (3) months beyond the normal due date in the completion and submission of the FY 2020 Single Audit reporting package. Therefore, the MDE is requesting a temporary suspension of the deadline set in Process Standard 4 to extend the deadline by three (3) months to reflect OMB's extension (June 30, 2021) for the Fiscal Year 2020 audits.

It is the recommendation of the MDE that the SBE suspend strict compliance with specific requirement within the following State Board of Education polices, manuals, and process standards for the 2020 – 2021 school year:

- Annual Financial Audit: Miss. Code Ann. § 37-7-211(3)
- Miss. Admin. Code 7-24: *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2020*
- Process Standard 4: Annual Financial Audits

- 03.E. Approval by the SBE to suspend strict compliance with specific state statutes, State Board of Education policies, manuals, and process standards for the 2020 – 2021 school year as it relates to the required training for MCOPS recipients and SROs, following Governor Tate Reeves’ Proclamation of a State of Emergency as a result of the impact of COVID-19 (coronavirus) on school districts in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 33-15-31, 33-15-11(b)(9) and 33-15-11(c)(1) [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan]

Due to the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on training opportunities during the 2020 – 2021 school year, the MDE is requesting an extension of the June 30, 2021 deadline until December 31, 2021, for the submission of the annual 40 hours of training for FY 2022 Mississippi Community Oriented Policing Services in Schools (MCOPS) grant recipients and School Resource Officers (SROs) employed with school districts that created their own police departments.

It is the recommendation of the MDE that the SBE suspend strict compliance with specific requirement within the following State Board of Education polices, manuals, and process standards for the 2020 – 2021 school year:

- Miss. Admin. Code 7-24: *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2020*
- Process Standard 31: School Safety
- Miss. Admin. Code 7-192: *Mississippi School Safety Standards*

**Rule Suspensions Pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. §§ 33-15-31, 33-15-11(b)(9) and 33-15-11(c)(1)
Executive Order 1460
School Years 2019 – 2020 and 2020 – 2021 Related to COVID-19 (Coronavirus)**

Statutes and/or Regulation(s)	Rule	Proposed Suspension and/or Revisions of Rules
<p>Mississippi Statewide Accountability System</p> <p>20 USC §6311(b) (§ 1111(b) of the ESEA)</p> <p>Miss. Code Ann. § 37-17-6(5)</p> <p>Accreditation Policy 3.0</p>	<p>Accreditation Policy 3.0 – Annual Performance Classification: Districts and Schools are Assigned Annual Performance Classifications based on the Business Rules of the Mississippi Statewide Accountability System.</p> <p>School Improvement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehensive Support and Improvement Schools (CSI) • Targeted Support and Improvement Schools (TSI) • Additional Targeted Support and Improvement Schools (ATSI) 	<p>On March 19, 2020, during its regularly scheduled meeting, the State Board of Education granted approval for districts and schools to maintain the same accountability designation in the 2020 – 2021 school year as assigned in the 2019 – 2020 school year with no cumulative impact for cases where multiple years with the same designation may lead to a more severe consequence.</p> <p>On March 20, 2020 the MDE submitted an expedited waiver to the United States Department of Education (ED) to waive certain requirements in Section 1111 of the <i>Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965</i> (20 U.S.C §6311(b)) related to assessment and accountability requirements. On March 27, 2020, the MDE received official approval from ED.</p> <p>For the 2019 – 2020 school year, schools and districts retained the same designations for CSI, TSI, and ATSI from the 2018 – 2019 school year. The three-year average performance used in identification will exclude the 2019 – 2020 school year.</p>

**Rule Suspensions Pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. §§ 33-15-31, 33-15-11(b)(9) and 33-15-11(c)(1)
Executive Order 1460
School Years 2019 – 2020 and 2020 – 2021 Related to COVID-19 (Coronavirus)**

Statutes and/or Regulation(s)	Rule	Proposed Suspension and/or Revisions of Rules
		<p>The MDE requests approval to suspend the assignment of A – F letter grades for the 2020 – 2021 school year in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 37-17-6(5).</p> <p>Upon approval by the SBE, the MDE will submit an Addendum to the ESEA Consolidated State Plan regarding timelines for academic achievement, graduation rate, progress toward English language proficiency, and the identification of CSI and ATSI schools. According to ESSA, TSI schools must be identified annually. MDE will submit a waiver request indicating that TSI identification in the Fall of 2021 will be based on data from the 2018 – 2019 school year.</p> <p>Proficiency rates will be calculated and reported for Reading and Mathematics to the extent possible based on the administration of all statewide assessments administered during the 2020 – 2021 school year and the current business rules of the Mississippi Statewide Accountability System.</p>
Annual Financial Audit	Process Standard 4:	On March 26, 2020, during its special-called teleconference meeting, the State Board of

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Statutes and/or Regulation(s)	Rule	Proposed Suspension and/or Revisions of Rules
<p>2 C.F.R. Part 200</p> <p>Miss. Code Ann. § 7-7-211(e)</p> <p>Miss. Admin. Code 7-3: 10.1, State Board Policy Chapter 10, Rule 10.1</p> <p>Process Standard 4</p>	<p>Local school boards are required to obtain an annual financial audit of the school district, as conducted under the guidelines of the Office of the State Auditor, no later than nine (9) months after the end of the district’s fiscal year (March 31).</p>	<p>Education suspended the requirement for school boards to obtain an annual financial audit, as conducted under the guidelines of the Office of the State Auditor, no later than nine (9) months after the end of the district’s fiscal year (March 31).</p> <p>The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has authorized recipients and subrecipients with fiscal year-ends through June 30, 2020, to delay the completion and submission of the Single Audit reporting package, to six (6) months beyond the normal due date.</p> <p>In consultation with the Office of the State Auditor, the MDE temporarily suspended the deadline set in Process Standard 4 and extended the deadline by six (6) months to reflect the OMB’s extension (September 30, 2020) for the Fiscal Year 2019 audits.</p> <p>In December 2020, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) authorized recipients and subrecipients that received COVID-19 funding with original due dates from October 1, 2020, through June 30, 2021, an extension for up to three (3) months beyond the normal due date in the completion and submission of the Fiscal Year 2020 Single Audit reporting package.</p>

**Rule Suspensions Pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. §§ 33-15-31, 33-15-11(b)(9) and 33-15-11(c)(1)
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Statutes and/or Regulation(s)	Rule	Proposed Suspension and/or Revisions of Rules
		<p>The MDE is requesting a temporary suspension of the deadline set in Process Standard 4 to extend the deadline by three (3) months to reflect OMB's extension (June 30, 2021) for the Fiscal Year 2020 audits.</p>
<p>Graduation Requirements</p> <p>Miss. Code Ann. § 37-17-6</p> <p>Miss. Admin. Code 7-3: 34.1 and 36.1-36.4, State Board Policies Chapter 34, Rule 34.1 and Chapter 36, Rules 36.1 – 36.4</p> <p>Process Standards 14 and 14.2</p>	<p>Process Standard 14.2: Each student receiving a standard diploma has met assessment requirements on each of the required high school end-of-course (EOC) subject area tests or met one (1) of the options in lieu of passing the test as outlined in Appendix A-5.</p>	<p>The local school board was required to establish graduation requirements for the 2020 – 2021 school year prior to the first day of school. <i>Such requirements shall meet the minimum number of Carnegie units set forth by the SBE and outlined in Appendix A. The local school board lacks the authority to suspend and/or amend the local district's graduation requirements for school year 2020 – 2021 mid-year.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Any student grades 7 through 12 that was enrolled in Algebra I, Biology, English II and/or U. S. History during the 2019 – 2020 school year and earned the Carnegie Unit credit for the course was not required to take and/or pass the corresponding EOC subject area test(s) or meet one (1) of the options in lieu of passing the test(s) in order to meet the graduation requirements regardless of their expected graduation date/year.

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Statutes and/or Regulation(s)	Rule	Proposed Suspension and/or Revisions of Rules
		<p>The student must have earned the Carnegie unit credit for the course prior to the end of the 2019 – 2020 school year. If the Carnegie unit credit for the course was not earned by the end of the Spring 2020 semester or prior to the summer MSIS data submission deadline through credit recovery, extended school year, and/or summer school, etc., this rule suspension does not apply.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Any student grades 7 through 12 enrolled in school during the 2019 – 2020 school year as of March 16, 2020, the first date of school closures due to COVID-19, that has passed the Algebra I, Biology, English II, and/or U.S. History course(s), but has not passed the corresponding EOC subject area test(s) or met one (1) of the options in lieu of passing the test(s), will be allowed to graduate, if all other state and local graduation requirements have been met regardless of their expected graduation date/year. These students are typically referred to as “retesters”. 3. Any student in grades 7 through 12 who took a Fall 2019 EOC assessment as a first-time test taker (4x4 districts) and failed the

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Statutes and/or Regulation(s)	Rule	Proposed Suspension and/or Revisions of Rules
		<p>corresponding EOC assessment will not be required to re-take the corresponding EOC assessment or meet one (1) of the options in lieu of passing the test(s), in any future school year to meet graduation requirements regardless of their expected graduation date/year.</p> <p>4. Any student enrolled in Algebra I, Biology, English II, or U.S. History in the 2019 – 2020 school year who failed the course in the 2019 – 2020 school year and must repeat the course in the 2020 – 2021 school year (or thereafter) to earn the Carnegie Unit credit will be required to pass the corresponding EOC assessment or meet one (1) of the options in lieu of passing the assessment as outlined in Appendix A-5.</p> <p>5. Any student enrolled in school in the 2019 – 2020 school year who earned a Carnegie Unit credit in Algebra I, Biology, English II or U.S. History in a school year prior to 2019 – 2020, but took the test as a first time test taker in the Fall 2019 or was planning to take the assessment as a first-time test taker in Spring 2020 will not be required to take and/or pass the EOC assessment or meet one (1) of the options in lieu of passing the</p>

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Statutes and/or Regulation(s)	Rule	Proposed Suspension and/or Revisions of Rules
		<p>assessment when school reconvenes regardless of their expected graduation date/year.</p> <p>6. The composite score option outlined in Appendix A-5 will not be available to students who do not have four (4) EOC subject area test scores.</p> <p>7. Students who were not enrolled in the 2019 – 2020 school year, but are still attempting to meet the graduation requirements through re-test opportunities will be required to pass the EOC assessment or meet one (1) of the options in lieu of passing the assessment as outlined in Appendix A-5.</p> <p>“Enrolled” refers to students enrolled in a public school (in-state or out-of-state) or a nonpublic school accredited by the MDE or other regionally accrediting agency to be determined by the local school district. Students transferring from a public school (in-state or out-of-state) or a nonpublic school accredited by the MDE or other regionally accrediting agency to be determined by the local school district was eligible to enroll in a subject area tested course unit bearing course after March 16, 2020, the first date of school closures due to COVID-19,</p>

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Statutes and/or Regulation(s)	Rule	Proposed Suspension and/or Revisions of Rules
		<p>through the 2019 – 2020 school year, if the student was previously enrolled in the course in his/her transferring school.</p> <p>On March 20, 2020 the MDE submitted an expedited waiver to the United States Department of Education (ED) to waive certain requirements in Section 1111 of the <i>Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965</i> (20 U.S.C §6311(b) related to assessment and accountability requirements. On March 27, 2020, the MDE received official approval from ED. The wavier related to federal and state assessments applied only to the 2019 – 2020 school year.</p> <p>ED has not issued a waiver of the federal assessment requirements for the 2020 – 2021 school year; therefore, all assessments within the Mississippi Statewide Assessment System will be administered during the 2020 – 2021 school year.</p> <p>Any student grades 7 through 12 enrolled in Algebra I, Biology, English II and/or U. S. History during the 2020 – 2021 school year will be required to take the corresponding EOC subject area test(s); but, will not be</p>

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Statutes and/or Regulation(s)	Rule	Proposed Suspension and/or Revisions of Rules
		<p>required to meet a minimum score on the assessment or meet one (1) of the options in lieu of passing the test(s) in order to meet the graduation requirements regardless of their expected graduation date/year.</p> <p>The above criteria outlined in items 1 through 7 for Process Standard 14.2 and approved by the SBE on March 26, 2020, for the 2019 – 2020 school year remains in effect. Additionally, the following criteria will apply to the 2020 – 2021 school year:</p> <p>8. Any student grades 7 through 12 enrolled in Algebra I, Biology, English II and/or U. S. History on January 21, 2021 and earns the Carnegie Unit credit for the course will not be required to pass the corresponding EOC subject area test(s) or meet one (1) of the options in lieu of passing the test(s) in order to meet the graduation requirements regardless of their expected graduation date/year.</p> <p>The student must earn the Carnegie unit credit for the course prior to the end of the 2020 – 2021 school year. If the Carnegie unit for the course is not earned by the end of the Spring 2021 semester or prior to the</p>

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Statutes and/or Regulation(s)	Rule	Proposed Suspension and/or Revisions of Rules
		<p>summer MSIS data submission deadline through credit recovery, extended school year, and/or summer school, etc., this rule suspension does not apply.</p> <p>9. Any student grades 7 through 12 enrolled in school on January 21, 2021 that has passed the Algebra I, Biology, English II, and/or U.S. History course(s), but has not passed the corresponding EOC subject area test(s) or met one (1) of the options in lieu of passing the test(s), will be allowed to graduate, if all other state and local graduation requirements have been met regardless of their expected graduation date/year. These students are typically referred to as “retesters”.</p> <p>10. Any student in grades 7 through 12 who took a Fall 2020 EOC assessment as a first-time test taker (4x4 districts) and failed the corresponding EOC assessment will not be required to re-take the corresponding EOC assessment or meet one (1) of the options in lieu of passing the test(s), in any future school year to meet graduation requirements regardless of their expected graduation date/year.</p>

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Statutes and/or Regulation(s)	Rule	Proposed Suspension and/or Revisions of Rules
		<p>11. Any student enrolled in Algebra I, Biology, English II, or U.S. History in the 2020 – 2021 school year who fails the course in the 2020 – 2021 school year and must repeat the course in the 2021 – 2022 school year (or thereafter) to earn the Carnegie Unit credit for the course will be required to pass the corresponding EOC assessment or meet one (1) of the options in lieu of passing the assessment as outlined in Appendix A-5.</p> <p>12. Any student enrolled in school in the 2020 – 2021 school year who earns a Carnegie Unit credit for the course in Algebra I, Biology, English II or U.S. History during the first semester of the 2020 – 2021 school year (4X4 districts), but did not take the test as a first time test taker in the Fall 2020 will be required to take the assessment as a first-time test taker in Spring 2021 but will not be required to pass the EOC assessment or meet one (1) of the options in lieu of passing the assessment regardless of their expected graduation date/year.</p> <p>13. The composite score option outlined in Appendix A-5 will not be available to students who do not have four (4) EOC subject area test scores. (See item #6).</p>

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Statutes and/or Regulation(s)	Rule	Proposed Suspension and/or Revisions of Rules
		<p>However, because all EOC assessments will be administered during the 2020 – 2021 school year, any student that was unable to take one (1) or more assessments during the 2019 – 2020 school year has the option of taking the assessment(s) in order to utilize the composite score option.</p> <p>14. Students who were not enrolled in the 2020 – 2021 school year, but are still attempting to meet the graduation requirements through re-test opportunities will be required to pass the EOC assessment or meet one (1) of the options in lieu of passing the assessment as outlined in Appendix A-5.</p> <p>“Enrolled” refers to students enrolled in a public school (in-state or out-of-state) or a nonpublic school accredited by the MDE or other regionally accrediting agency to be determined by the local school district. Students transferring from a public school (in-state or out-of-state) or a nonpublic school accredited by the MDE or other regionally accrediting agency to be determined by the local school district are eligible to enroll in a subject area tested course unit bearing course after January 21, 2021 if the student was previously enrolled in the course in his/her transferring school.</p>

**Rule Suspensions Pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. §§ 33-15-31, 33-15-11(b)(9) and 33-15-11(c)(1)
Executive Order 1460
School Years 2019 – 2020 and 2020 – 2021 Related to COVID-19 (Coronavirus)**

Statutes and/or Regulation(s)	Rule	Proposed Suspension and/or Revisions of Rules
<p>Instructional Management System & Literacy Based Promotion Act</p> <p>Miss. Code Ann. § 37-177-1 through 21</p> <p>Miss. Admin. Code 7-3: 41.1, State Board Policy Chapter 41, Rule 41.1</p> <p>Process Standard 20.2</p>	<p>Process Standard 20.2: The instructional management system includes a tiered instructional model including academic interventions, behavior interventions, and <i>Literacy Based Promotion Act</i> requirements.</p>	<p>On March 26, 2020, during its special-called teleconference meeting, the State Board of Education granted approval to suspend all requirements of the Mississippi Statewide Assessment System for the 2019 – 2020 school year including the 3rd grade Reading assessment as required by the <i>Literacy Based Promotion Act (LBPA)</i>.</p> <p>All students enrolled in Grade 3 in the 2019 – 2020 school year were to be promoted to Grade 4 for the 2020 – 2021 school year, if the student met all other district requirements for promotion.</p> <p><i>There has been no waiver of assessment requirements for the 2020 – 2021 school year. All students enrolled in Grade 3 during the 2020 – 2021 school year shall be administered the statewide assessment in English Language Arts/Reading and Mathematics but will not be required to meet the requirements of the LBPA. Therefore, all students enrolled in Grade 3 in the 2020 – 2021 school year shall be promoted to Grade 4 for the 2021 – 2022 school year, if the student meets all other district requirements for promotion.</i></p>

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School Years 2019 – 2020 and 2020 – 2021 Related to COVID-19 (Coronavirus)**

Statutes and/or Regulation(s)	Rule	Proposed Suspension and/or Revisions of Rules
<p>School Safety</p> <p>Miss. Code Ann. §§ 37-3-81, 37-3-82, 37-3-83, 37-7-321, and 37-11-5</p> <p>Process Standard 31</p> <p>Mississippi School Safety Manual, Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) Occupational Safety and Crisis Response Planning, Mississippi Community Oriented Policing Services in Schools (MCOPS) Grant Requirements</p>	<p>Process Standard 31:</p> <p>The school district complies with State Board Policies and State and Federal laws to provide Safe Schools. Each school has a comprehensive School Safety Plan on file that has been approved annually by the local school board.</p>	<p>On April 16, 2020, during its regularly scheduled meeting, the State Board of Education suspended the deadline of June 30, 2020 and extended the deadline for submission of the annual 40 required hours of training for MCOPS grant recipients from June 30, 2020 until August 1, 2020 in order to be compliant with Fiscal Year 2021 MCOPS grant requirements.</p> <p>The State Board of Education also suspended the deadline of June 30, 2020 and extended the deadline for submission of the annual 40 required hours of training until August 1, 2020 for school resource officers (SROs) employed with school districts that created their own police departments.</p> <p>On June 11, 2020, the SBE granted approval of an additional extension of the August 1, 2020 deadline, granted on April 16, 2020, until December 31, 2020, for the submission of the annual 40 hours of training for Fiscal Year 2021 MCOPS grant recipients and SROs as a result of the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on training opportunities.</p> <p>As a result of the ongoing impact of COVID-19 during the 2020 – 2021 school year, the MDE is</p>

**Rule Suspensions Pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. §§ 33-15-31, 33-15-11(b)(9) and 33-15-11(c)(1)
Executive Order 1460
School Years 2019 – 2020 and 2020 – 2021 Related to COVID-19 (Coronavirus)**

Statutes and/or Regulation(s)	Rule	Proposed Suspension and/or Revisions of Rules
		<p>requesting an extension of the June 30, 2021 deadline until December 31, 2021, for the submission of the annual 40 hours of training for Fiscal Year 2022 MCOPS grant recipients and SROs as a result of the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on training opportunities.</p> <p>The district shall conduct all required drills as outlined in the Mississippi School Safety Manual for the 2020 – 2021 school year, specifically, fire drills, tornado drills, and active shooter drills. All drills shall be conducted under the MSDH and the CDC guidelines in place at the time the drills are conducted.</p> <p>The district will not be cited for noncompliance, if the drills are modified or the district is unable to conduct the drills within the timelines outlined in the Mississippi School Safety Manual as a result of the impact of COVID-19.</p>

Process standard numbers refer to the Process Standards outlined in the *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2020*. Any waivers granted by the State Board of Education will also be granted as applicable to nonpublic schools accredited by the Mississippi Department of Education.