

**OFFICE OF CHIEF ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICER**  
**Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Items**  
**April 15, 2021**

**OFFICE OF ACCOUNTABILITY**

05. Action: Approval by the SBE to establish deadlines related to the suspension of 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 that arose 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 was not economically feasible or practical to expect districts and schools to comply with specific state statutes, State Board of Education policies, and process standards in the *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2020* and *Mississippi Nonpublic School Accountability Standards, 2020*.

From March 2020 through February 2021 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 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.

With the exception of the 95% participation rate requirement, the ED did not issue a waiver of assessment requirements for the 2020 – 2021 school year. Therefore, all state and federal assessments will be administered during the 2020 – 2021 school year.

On March 19, 2021, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) authorized recipients and subrecipients that have not yet filed their single audits with the Federal Audit Clearinghouse as of the date of the issuance of the memorandum that have fiscal year-ends through June 30, 2021, to delay the completion and submission of the Single Audit reporting package, as required under Subpart F of 2 CFR § 200.501 to six months beyond the normal due date. The MDE is requesting a temporary suspension of the deadline set in Process Standard 4 to extend the deadline by six (6) months to reflect OMB's extension (September 30, 2021) for the Fiscal Year 2020 audits.

To ensure districts are aware of their continued responsibilities, the MDE is recommending that the SBE approve the deadlines established for waivers/rule suspensions/extensions granted during the 2019 – 2020 and the 2020 – 2021 school years outlined in the attached back-up materials. Beginning with the 2021 – 2022 school year, districts shall comply with all applicable state and federal regulations, State Board Policies and performance and process standards set forth in the current edition of the *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards*.

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

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

<b>Statutes and/or Regulation(s)</b>	<b>Rule</b>	<b>Proposed Suspension and/or Revisions of Rules</b>
<p><b>Mississippi Statewide Accountability System</b></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><b>Accreditation Policy 3.0 – Annual Performance Classification:</b> Districts and Schools are Assigned Annual Performance Classifications based on the Business Rules of the Mississippi Statewide Accountability System.</p> <p><b>School Improvement:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comprehensive Support and Improvement Schools (CSI)</li> <li>• Targeted Support and Improvement Schools (TSI)</li> <li>• Additional Targeted Support and Improvement Schools (ATSI)</li> </ul>	<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> <p>On January 21, 2021, the SBE approved the suspension of the assignment of A – F letter</p>

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		<p>grades for the 2020 – 2021 school year in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 37-17-6(5).</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> <p><b>CSI, TSI, and ATSI schools will retain their designations from the 2018 – 2019 school year, with the exception of TSI schools identified for graduation rate only.</b></p> <p><b>This waiver/rule suspension/extension expires immediately upon the conclusion of the 2020 – 2021 school year reporting period.</b></p>
<p><b>Local Board Governance</b> Miss. Code Ann. § 37-7-306 Process Standards 1 and 1.3</p>	<p><b>Process Standards 1 and 1.3:</b> The local school board and the superintendent of schools shall exercise due diligence in performing the respective duties in accordance with applicable law. Every school board member selected after July 1, 2002, shall spend at least one (1) full day in a school in the district they represent, without compensation.</p>	<p>Upon request from the Mississippi School Boards Association, on January 21, 2021, the SBE approved a one-year suspension requiring local school board members to visit each school within the district as a body during the 2019 – 2020 and 2020 – 2021 school years as a result of the impact of COVID-19.</p>

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		<p style="color: red;">This waiver/rule suspension/extension expires immediately upon the conclusion of the 2020 – 2021 school year reporting period.</p>
<p><b>Licensed Certified Staff</b></p> <p>ESEA</p> <p>Miss. Code Ann. § 37-9-7</p> <p>Miss. Admin. Code 7-3: 80.1 and 80.2, State Board Policy Chapter 80, Rules 80.1 and 80.2</p> <p>Process Standards 2, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, and 2.5</p>	<p><b>Process Standard 2:</b> All district professional positions requiring licensed staff are to be filled by staff that are properly licensed and endorsed in accordance with state and federal law.</p>	<p>On March 26, 2020, during its regularly scheduled meeting, the State Board of Education issued a one-year suspension of the requirement for districts to respond to notifications of noncompliance for licensed staff during school closures as a result of COVID-19 for the 2019 – 2020 school year.</p> <p>On June 11, 2020, the SBE approved an additional one-year suspension requiring districts to respond to accreditation personnel edits based on data submitted in MSIS to the MDE for the 2020 – 2021 school year.</p> <p>To ensure districts are aware of their continued responsibilities MDE provided additional guidance to districts regarding the approval and parameters of the waivers and suspensions approved by the SBE for the 2020 – 2021 school year. In accordance with Accreditation Policy 2.1, the district superintendent and school principals shall ensure that all data reported to the MDE are true and accurate as verified by supporting documentation on file in the school district.</p>

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Statutes and/or Regulation(s)	Rule	Proposed Suspension and/or Revisions of Rules
		This waiver/rule suspension/extension expires immediately upon the conclusion of the 2020 – 2021 school year reporting period.
<p><b>Personnel Appraisal System</b></p> <p>20 U.S.C. § 6311(b) (§11111(b) of ESEA)</p> <p>Miss. Code Ann. §§ 37-3-46(b) and 37-7-301</p> <p>Miss. Admin. Code 7 – 3: 14.19, State Board Policy Chapter 14, Rule 14.19</p> <p>Process Standards 3, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, and 3.7</p>	<p><b>Process Standard 3:</b></p> <p>The school district implements an annual, formal personnel appraisal system for licensed staff that includes assessment of employee on-the-job performance.</p>	<p>On March 26, 2020, during its regularly scheduled meeting, the State Board of Education issued a one-year suspension of the requirement for districts to submit annual employee performance data for the 2019 – 2020 school year via SharePoint.</p> <p>The suspension removed sanctions for districts failing to adhere to the reporting guidelines of the Educator and Administrator Professional Appraisal System for the 2019 – 2020 school year.</p> <p>Districts were not required to attend the MDE-approved Professional Growth System (PGS) training for the 2019 – 2020 school year. However, it was recommended that districts attend future PGS training in preparation for the upcoming school years in which Process Standard 3 is reinstated.</p> <p>Districts electing to submit annual personnel performance data for the 2019 – 2020 school year were provided the instructions and</p>

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		<p>timelines for the submission of data for the 2019 – 2020 school year.</p> <p>Only July 16, 2020, the SBE granted an additional one-year suspension of the requirement for districts to submit annual employee performance data for the 2020 – 2021 school year via SharePoint.</p> <p>The suspension removed sanctions for districts failing to adhere to the reporting guidelines of the Educator and Administrator Professional Appraisal System for the 2020 – 2021 school year.</p> <p>The MDE recommended that districts attend future PGS training in preparation for the upcoming school years in which Process Standard 3 is reinstated.</p> <p>The United States Department of Education (ED) provided guidance that the MDE was not required to submit a waiver for this rule suspension as outlined in Sections 1111(g)(1)(B) and 1111(h)(1)(C) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. § 6311(b)).</p>

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		<p><b>This waiver/rule suspension/extension expires immediately upon the conclusion of the 2020 – 2021 school year reporting period.</b></p>
<p><b>Annual Financial Audit</b></p> <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><b>Process Standard 4:</b></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>On March 26, 2020, during its special-called teleconference meeting, the State Board of 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) 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 outlined 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</p>



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		<p>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> <p>On January 21, 2021 the SBE granted 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>On March 19, 2021, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) authorized recipients and subrecipients that have not yet filed their single audits with the Federal Audit Clearinghouse as of the date of the issuance of the memorandum that have fiscal year-ends through June 30, 2021, to delay the completion and submission of the Single Audit reporting package, as required under Subpart F of 2 CFR § 200.501 to six (6) months beyond the normal due date.</p> <p>The MDE is requesting a temporary suspension of the deadline set in Process Standard 4 to extend the deadline by six (6) months to reflect OMB's extension (September 30, 2021) for the Fiscal Year 2020 audits.</p>

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<b>Statutes and/or Regulation(s)</b>	<b>Rule</b>	<b>Proposed Suspension and/or Revisions of Rules</b>
<p><b>Compulsory School Attendance</b></p> <p>Miss. Code Ann. § 37-13-91</p> <p>Miss. Admin. Code 7-3: 30.1 and 30.2, State Board Policy Chapter 30, Rules 30.1 and 30.2</p> <p>Process Standard 10</p>	<p><b>Process Standard 10:</b></p> <p>The school district implements procedures for monitoring and reporting student absences as specified in the Mississippi Compulsory Attendance Law.</p>	<p>On March 26, 2020, during its regularly scheduled meeting, the State Board of Education suspended the requirement for districts to monitor and submit student referrals for attendance violations, of compulsory school-age students, after March 16, 2020, the first date of school closures due to COVID-19, through the end of the 2019 – 2020 school year.</p> <p>Actions taken for petitions filed in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 37-13-91(7) and scheduled court dates prior to March 16, 2020, the first date of school closures due to COVID-19, through the 2019 – 2020 school year, fall under the jurisdiction of the courts and the MDE will continue to adhere to the courts' rules.</p> <p><b>This waiver/rule suspension/extension expired immediately upon the conclusion of the 2019 – 2020 school year reporting period.</b></p>
<p><b>180 Day School Calendar</b></p> <p>Miss. Code Ann. §§ 37-151-7(3)(c), 37-3-49, 37-13-61 through 69, and 37-15-15(j)</p> <p>Process Standard 13</p>	<p><b>Process Standard 13:</b></p> <p>The academic year provides a minimum of 180 teaching days in which both teachers and pupils are in regular attendance for scheduled classroom instruction.</p>	<p>On March 19, 2020, during its regularly scheduled meeting, the SBE suspended the requirement mandating each school district to submit a request to alter the school calendar and request forgiveness by the SBE for all days missed as a result of the impact of COVID-19 in the state of Mississippi. The SBE also approved altered school terms for school districts to</p>

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		<p>operate for less than one hundred eighty (180) days for the 2019 – 2020 school year.</p> <p>On June 11, 2020, the SBE approved the following: For the 2020 – 2021 school year, districts were provided three (3) options for school re-opening (or any combination thereof) to meet the one hundred eighty (180) teaching day requirement:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Traditional Schedule</li> <li>2) Hybrid Schedule</li> <li>3) Virtual Schedule</li> </ol> <p>A traditional schedule requires students to be physically present in school with scheduling modifications to follow Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) and Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommendations.</p> <p>A hybrid schedule combines online and face-to-face instruction for students. Schools must meet distance learning requirements.</p> <p>A virtual schedule provides instruction through distance learning. Guidance regarding how districts shall record attendance based on the scheduling options outlined above was provided to districts.</p>

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		<p>On August 27, 2020, the SBE voted to allow all school districts to operate for less than 180 days for the 2020 – 2021 school year by providing a ten (10) day waiver in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 37-13-63(2). Any reduction of school days must be related to COVID-19 in order for this waiver to apply. School districts may not reduce the school calendar at the end of the school year, if the ten (10) days are not utilized for COVID-related calendar adjustments during the 2020 – 2021 school year.</p> <p><b>This waiver/rule suspension/extension expires immediately upon the conclusion of the 2020 – 2021 school year reporting period.</b></p>
<p><b>330 Minutes of Instruction Per Day</b></p> <p>Miss. Code Ann. § 37-13-67</p> <p>Process Standard 13.1</p>	<p><b>Process Standard 13.1:</b>          The teaching day must provide 330 minutes of instruction per day.</p>	<p>On March 26, 2020, during its regularly scheduled meeting, the State Board of Education suspended the requirement for 330 minutes of instruction per day from March 16, 2020, the first date of school closures due to COVID-19 through the end of the 2019 – 2020 school year.</p> <p>On June 11, 2020, the SBE granted an additional one-year suspension for the 2020 – 2021 school year of Miss. Code Ann. § 37-13-67 which states, “the number of hours of actual</p>

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		<p>teaching which shall constitute a school day shall be determined and fixed by the Board of Trustees of the school district at not less than five and one-half (5½) hours. This suspension allowed districts flexibility within their re-entry plans/scheduling options in an effort to comply with the MSDH and the CDC guidelines as a result of the ongoing impact of COVID-19 during the 2020 – 2021 school year. With this suspension of the 330 minutes of instruction per day, districts shall meet a minimum of 240 minutes (4 hours) of instructional time per day.</p> <p><b>This waiver/rule suspension/extension expires immediately upon the conclusion of the 2020 – 2021 school year reporting period.</b></p>
<p><b>Instructional time for Carnegie unit credit</b></p> <p>Miss. Code Ann. § 37-16-7</p> <p>Miss. Admin. Code 7-3: 36.1-36.4, State Board Policy Chapter 36, Rules 36.1-36.4</p> <p>Process Standards 13.2 and 14</p>	<p><b>Process Standard 13.2:</b></p> <p>Districts must ensure that during the academic school year a minimum of 140 hours of instruction is provided for each Carnegie unit of credit offered and 70 hours for each one-half (½) unit offered.</p>	<p>On March 26, 2020, during its regularly scheduled meeting, the State Board of Education suspended the requirement of the minimum of 140 hours of instruction required for each Carnegie unit of credit offered and 70 hours for each one-half (½) unit offered for the 2019 – 2020 school year. School districts were required to determine a process for awarding a Carnegie unit credit for courses that were incomplete for school year 2019 – 2020. Carnegie units were not to be granted for courses where the student was never enrolled</p>

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		<p>during the 2019 – 2020 school year. Districts were not allowed to enroll a student in a Carnegie unit bearing course after March 16, 2020, the first date of school closures due to COVID-19, for the 2019 – 2020 school year for the sole purpose of awarding a Carnegie unit credit, unless one (1) of the following conditions were met:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) the district was on a 4 x 4 block schedule and the student was taking a one-half (½) credit course, or</li> <li>2) the student was enrolling in an approved online course through Mississippi Online Course Approval (MOCA) with the expectation that the student would complete the course by the end of the Spring 2020 semester.</li> </ol> <p>The conditions outlined above were not applicable to transfer students enrolling in a school district on or after March 16, 2020 for the 2019 – 2020 school year.</p> <p>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 Carnegie unit bearing course after March 16, 2020, the first date of school closures due to</p>

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		<p>COVID-19, for the 2019 – 2020 school year, if the student was previously enrolled in the course in his/her transferring school.</p> <p>Based on approved school board policy, local school districts had the authority to issue a standard high school diploma to any student who met the minimum graduation requirements as approved by the State Board of Education during the 2019 – 2020 school year. See Appendix A in <i>Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2019</i>.</p> <p>On June 11, 2020 the SBE granted an additional one-year suspension of the minimum of 140 hours of instruction required for each Carnegie unit of credit offered and 70 hours for each one-half (1/2) unit offered for the 2020 – 2021 school year. This suspension allowed districts flexibility within their re-entry plans/scheduling options in an effort to comply with MSDH and CDC guidelines as a result of the ongoing impact of COVID-19 during the 2020 – 2021 school year.</p> <p>Each district was required to develop a plan to ensure the mastery of content for each Carnegie unit awarded in lieu of meeting the 140-hour requirement for one (1) Carnegie unit</p>

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		<p>awarded and 70 hours for each one-half (1/2) unit awarded. Districts were required to have the plan approved by the local school board and posted on the district’s website no later than September 30, 2020.</p> <p><b>This waiver/rule suspension/extension expires immediately upon the conclusion of the 2020 – 2021 school year reporting period.</b></p>
<p><b>Graduation Requirements</b></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, 14.1, and 14.2</p>	<p><b>Process Standard 14.1:</b></p> <p>Each student receiving a standard high school diploma has earned the minimum number of Carnegie units as specified in Appendix A.</p>	<p>On March 19, 2020, during its regularly scheduled meeting, the State Board of Education suspended citations associated with changing local school board graduation requirements mid-year for the 2019 – 2020 school year due to the impact of school closures related to COVID-19. The local school board had the authority to suspend and/or amend the graduation requirements set forth by the local school board for the 2019 – 2020 school year. Students were not allowed to graduate with less than the minimum number of Carnegie units set forth by the State Board of Education and outlined in Appendix A.</p> <p>The student was required to meet both the minimum number of Carnegie unit requirements and the required courses as outlined in Appendix A.</p>



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		<p>Local districts had the authority to establish additional local requirements approved by the local school board as authorized under Miss. Code Ann. § 37-16-7. Local districts had the option of granting high school diplomas as outlined in Appendices A-1, A-2, A-3, and A-4. The waivers granted by the State Board of Education for the 2019 – 2020 school year allowed districts to amend or establish local board policy to waive additional requirements above the state minimum and allow students to graduate using the minimum requirements outlined in Appendices A-1, A-2, A-3, and A-4.</p> <p>On June 11, 2020 the SBE approved the following:</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. 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 unless the SBE grants authority.</p>

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	<p><b>Process Standard 14.2:</b>            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>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 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.             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.</li> <li>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 had passed the Algebra I, Biology, English II, and/or U.S. History course(s), but had not passed the</li> </ol>

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<b>Statutes and/or Regulation(s)</b>	<b>Rule</b>	<b>Proposed Suspension and/or Revisions of Rules</b>
		<p>corresponding EOC subject area test(s) or met one (1) of the options in lieu of passing the test(s), was 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>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 corresponding EOC assessment was not 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 was required to repeat the course in the 2020 – 2021 school year (or thereafter) to earn the Carnegie Unit credit shall be required to</p>

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<b>Statutes and/or Regulation(s)</b>	<b>Rule</b>	<b>Proposed Suspension and/or Revisions of Rules</b>
		<p>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 was not required to take and/or pass the EOC assessment or meet one (1) of the options in lieu of passing the assessment when school reconvenes regardless of their expected graduation date/year.</p> <p>6. The composite score option outlined in Appendix A-5 is not 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 were still attempting to meet the graduation requirements</p>

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<b>Statutes and/or Regulation(s)</b>	<b>Rule</b>	<b>Proposed Suspension and/or Revisions of Rules</b>
		<p>through re-test opportunities shall 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, 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,</p>

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<b>Statutes and/or Regulation(s)</b>	<b>Rule</b>	<b>Proposed Suspension and/or Revisions of Rules</b>
		<p>2020, the MDE received official approval from ED. The waiver related to federal and state assessments applied only to the 2019 – 2020 school year.</p> <p>ED did not issue a waiver of the federal assessment requirements for the 2020 – 2021 school year; therefore, all assessments within the Mississippi Statewide Assessment System shall be administered during the 2020 – 2021 school year.</p> <p>On January 21, 2021, the SBE approved the following:</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 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</p>

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<b>Statutes and/or Regulation(s)</b>	<b>Rule</b>	<b>Proposed Suspension and/or Revisions of Rules</b>
		<p>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 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,</p>

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<b>Statutes and/or Regulation(s)</b>	<b>Rule</b>	<b>Proposed Suspension and/or Revisions of Rules</b>
		<p>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> <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</p>



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<b>Statutes and/or Regulation(s)</b>	<b>Rule</b>	<b>Proposed Suspension and/or Revisions of Rules</b>
		<p>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 earned 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). 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</p>

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<b>Statutes and/or Regulation(s)</b>	<b>Rule</b>	<b>Proposed Suspension and/or Revisions of Rules</b>
		<p>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>

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Statutes and/or Regulation(s)	Rule	Proposed Suspension and/or Revisions of Rules
		This waiver/rule suspension/extension expires immediately upon the conclusion of the 2020 – 2021 school year reporting period.
<p><b>Mississippi Statewide Assessment System</b></p> <p>20 USC § 6311(6) § 111 (b) of the ESEA</p> <p>Miss. Code Ann. §§ 37-16-1 through 4 and § 37-16-9</p> <p>Miss. Admin. Code 7-3: Ch. 34, Miss. Admin. Code 7-3: 74.20, State Board Policy Chapter 74, Rule 74.20</p> <p>Miss. Admin. Code 7-3: 78.1 and 78.7, State Board Policy Chapter 78, Rules 78.1 and 78.7</p> <p>Process Standard 16 and Appendix F</p>	<p><b>Process Standard 16:</b> The school district adheres to all requirements of the Mississippi Statewide Assessment System.</p>	<p>On March 19, 2020, during its regularly scheduled meeting, the State Board of Education granted approval to suspend all federal and state requirements of the Mississippi Statewide Assessment System for the 2019 – 2020 school year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pre-K and Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (post-test);</li> <li>• Mississippi Academic Assessment Program (MAAP) and MAAP-Alternate (MAAP-A) English Language Arts, Mathematics and Science – Grades 3 - 8 and High School End-of-Course;</li> <li>• U.S. History;</li> <li>• Statewide sponsored administration of the ACT for 11th graders;</li> <li>• English Language Proficiency Test (ELPT); and</li> <li>• Career Planning and Assessment System (CPAS).</li> </ul> <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</i></p>

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<b>Statutes and/or Regulation(s)</b>	<b>Rule</b>	<b>Proposed Suspension and/or Revisions of Rules</b>
		<p><i>and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (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.</i></p> <p>ED did not issue a waiver of assessment requirements for the 2020 – 2021 school year. All state and federal assessments shall be administered during the 2020 – 2021 school year.</p> <p><b>This waiver/rule suspension/extension expired immediately upon the conclusion of the 2019 – 2020 school year reporting period.</b></p>
<p><b>Pre-K Programs</b></p> <p>Miss. Code Ann. §§ 37-3-301(ss) and 37-3-301(zz)</p> <p>Miss. Admin. Code 7-3: 28.4, State Board Policy Chapter 28, Rule 28.4</p> <p>Process Standard 17.2</p>	<p><b>Process Standard 17.2:</b> Early Childhood Programs (kindergarten and teacher assistant) [Districts Meeting the Highest Levels of Performance are exempted from provisions of subsection (4) of Miss. Code § 37-21-7.]</p>	<p>Due to the impact of school closures related to COVID-19 and the impact on professional development opportunities, on April 16, 2020, during its regularly scheduled meeting, the State Board of Education suspended the required pre-kindergarten teacher assistant requirements by one (1) school year, such that requirements are as outlined below:</p> <p>By August 1, 2021, 50% of regular education pre-kindergarten teachers, special education</p>

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<b>Statutes and/or Regulation(s)</b>	<b>Rule</b>	<b>Proposed Suspension and/or Revisions of Rules</b>
<p>Mississippi Early Learning Guidelines for Classrooms Serving Three- and Four-Year-Old Children</p>		<p>pre-kindergarten teachers, and assistant teachers in each district will meet the requirements described in the Early Learning Guidelines for Classrooms Serving Three- and Four-Year-Old Children.</p> <p>By August 1, 2023, 100% of regular education pre-kindergarten teachers, special education pre-kindergarten teachers, and assistant teachers in each district will meet the requirements described in the Early Learning Guidelines for Classrooms Serving Three- and Four-Year-Old Children.</p> <p>One June 11, 2020, the SBE granted an additional one-year extension of the requirements for Early Childhood Programs:</p> <p>By August 1, 2022, 50% of regular education pre-kindergarten teachers, special education pre-kindergarten teachers, and assistant teachers in each district will meet the requirements described in the Early Learning Guidelines for Classrooms Serving Three- and Four-Year-Old Children.</p> <p>By August 1, 2024, 100% of regular education pre-kindergarten teachers, special education pre-kindergarten teachers, and assistant</p>

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<b>Statutes and/or Regulation(s)</b>	<b>Rule</b>	<b>Proposed Suspension and/or Revisions of Rules</b>
		<p>teachers in each district will meet the requirements described in the Early Learning Guidelines for Classrooms Serving Three- and Four-Year-Old Children.</p> <p>The revised deadlines approved by the SBE for this waiver/rule suspension/extension for the suspension of the required pre-kindergarten teacher and assistant teacher requirements as a result of the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on professional development opportunities still apply.</p>
<p><b>Gifted Education Programs</b></p> <p>Process Standard 17.8</p> <p><i>Regulations for Gifted Education Programs 2013</i></p>	<p><b>Process Standard 17.8</b></p> <p>In accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 37-23-197, the board shall specifically promulgate rules, regulations and guidelines which establish model programs of gifted education and also establish minimum criteria for gifted education programs.</p> <p>Miss. Admin. Code 7-3: 35.1, State Board Policy Chapter 35, Rule 35.1 establishes the operation of the State gifted program is governed by the <i>Regulations for Gifted Education Programs in Mississippi</i> and the <i>Standards of Gifted Education Programs</i></p>	<p>On August 27, 2020, the SBE approved a reduction in the minimum service time provided to intellectually gifted students to 150 minutes per week for the 2020 – 2021 school year.</p> <p>This waiver/rule suspension/extension expires immediately upon the conclusion of the 2020 – 2021 school year reporting period.</p>

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Statutes and/or Regulation(s)	Rule	Proposed Suspension and/or Revisions of Rules
	<p><i>in Mississippi. The Regulations for Gifted Education Programs 2013, p. 22, require that:</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">A group of all intellectually gifted students is provided services by a properly endorsed teacher in a self-contained room for a recommended 300 minutes per week, or a minimum of 240 minutes per week.</p>	
<p><b>Instructional Management System &amp; Literacy Based Promotion Act</b></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><b>Process Standard 20.2:</b></p> <p>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 regularly scheduled 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 3<sup>rd</sup> grade Reading assessment as required by the <i>Literacy Based Promotion Act (LBPA)</i>.</p> <p>For the 2020 – 2021 school year, the MDE recommends extending the timeline for the administration of the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment and the literacy and numeracy screeners for grade K-3 from 30 school days to 45 school days from the first day of school.</p> <p>On August 27, 2020, the SBE granted a waiver of the requirements to meet and document Good Cause Exemptions (GCEs) and a waiver</p>

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<b>Statutes and/or Regulation(s)</b>	<b>Rule</b>	<b>Proposed Suspension and/or Revisions of Rules</b>
		<p>of LBPA district reporting requirements, for enrollment in the 2020 – 2021 school year, as it was not feasible to maintain documentation or administer assessments during the school closure in the spring of 2020.</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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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>There was no waiver of assessment requirements for the 2020 – 2021 school year. On January 21, 2021, the SBE approved the following:</p> <p>All students enrolled in Grade 3 during the 2020 – 2021 school year shall be administered the statewide assessment in English Language</p>



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		<p>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.</p> <p>On February 25, 2021, the SBE approved an additional one-year extension of the waiver of LBPA district reporting requirements, as waivers for other LBPA requirements will impact the data needed to report this information for the 2021 – 2022 school year. Districts will still be required to document interventions and supports for struggling students and communication with parents.</p> <p><b>This waiver/rule suspension/extension expires immediately upon the conclusion of the 2020 – 2021 school year reporting period.</b></p>
<p><b>Academic Promotion/ Progression/ Retention of Students &amp; Uniform Grading Policy</b></p> <p>Miss. Code Ann. §§ 37-11-64 and 37-11-36</p>	<p><b>Process Standard 21:</b> The district follows an established board policy that defines criteria for the academic promotion/progression/retention of students.</p>	<p>On March 26, 2020, during its regularly scheduled meeting, the State Board of Education suspended citations associated with changing local school board policies mid-year during the 2019 – 2020 school year related to the academic promotion/progression/retention of students or the district’s uniform grading</p>

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<p>Miss. Admin. Code 7-3: 2.3, State Board Policy Chapter 2, Rule 2.3</p> <p>Process Standards 21 and 21.1</p>	<p><b>Process Standard 21.1:</b> The school district implements a uniform grading policy.</p>	<p>policies due to the impact of school closures related to COVID-19.</p> <p>The local school board was required to establish criteria for the academic promotion/progression/ retention of students for the 2020 – 2021 school year prior to the first day of school. The local school board lacks the authority to suspend and/or amend the local district’s criteria for academic promotion/progression/ retention of students for school year 2020 – 2021 mid-year unless the SBE grants authority.</p> <p>The local school board had the authority to amend the local school board policy for the promotion/progression/retention of students (Process Standard 21) and uniform grading policies (Process Standard 21.1) for the 2019 – 2020 school year. The amendment(s) shall be applied equitably to all students.</p> <p>The local school board was required to establish uniform grading policies for the 2020 – 2021 school year prior to the first day of school. The local school board lacks the authority to suspend and/or amend the local district’s grading policies for school year 2020 – 2021 mid-year unless the SBE grants authority.</p>

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Statutes and/or Regulation(s)	Rule	Proposed Suspension and/or Revisions of Rules
		This waiver/rule suspension/extension expires immediately upon the conclusion of the 2020 – 2021 school year reporting period.
<p><b>Student Teacher Ratios</b></p> <p>Miss. Code Ann. § 37-151-77</p> <p>Miss. Admin. Code 7-3: 19.1, State Board Policy Chapter 19, Rule 19.1</p> <p>Process Standards 28.1, 28.2, 28.3, 28.4, and 28.5</p> <p>Mississippi Kindergarten Guidelines</p>	<p><b>Process Standard 28:</b> Student Teacher Ratios do not exceed the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Process Standard 28.1</b> Student teacher ratios do not exceed 22 to 1 in kindergarten, except in instances in which a full-time assistant teacher is in the classroom. If a full-time assistant teacher is employed, 27 may be enrolled.</li> <li>• <b>Process Standard 28.2</b> Student teacher ratios do not exceed 27 to 1 in classrooms serving grades 1 through 4 unless approved by the State Board of Education.</li> <li>• <b>Process Standard 28.3</b> Student teacher ratios do not exceed 30 to 1 in self-contained classrooms serving grades 5 through 8. A one-year waiver may</li> </ul>	<p>On March 26, 2020, during its regularly scheduled meeting, the State Board of Education issued a one-year suspension requiring districts to request waivers to the State Board of Education or the Commission on School Accreditation to comply with student-teacher ratios for Process Standards 28.1, 28.2, 28.3, 28.4, and 28.5 for the 2019 – 2020 school year.</p> <p>Requiring districts to respond to notifications of noncompliance of student-teacher ratios during school closures due to the state of emergency produced an undue burden on districts during the emergency closures for the 2019 – 2020 school year.</p> <p>On June 11, 2020, the SBE granted an additional one-year suspension requiring districts to request waivers to the SBE or the Commission on School Accreditation to comply with student-teacher ratios for Process Standards 28.1, 28.2, 28.3, 28.4, and 28.5 for the 2020 – 2021 school year. This suspension allowed districts flexibility within their re-entry</p>

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<b>Statutes and/or Regulation(s)</b>	<b>Rule</b>	<b>Proposed Suspension and/or Revisions of Rules</b>
	<p>be requested for classes that do not exceed more than two (2) students beyond the allowable student teacher ratio.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Process Standard 28.4</b> Student teacher ratios do not exceed 33 to 1 in departmentalized academic core classes serving grades 5 through 12. A one-year waiver may be requested for classes that do not exceed more than two (2) students beyond the allowable student teacher ratio.</li> <li>• <b>Process Standard 28.5</b> The total number of students taught by an individual teacher in academic core subjects at any time during the school year shall not exceed 150. A teacher who provides instruction through intra-district or inter-district distance learning or supervises students taking virtual courses will be exempt from the 150-student limitation. A lab facilitator or principal designee will be responsible for the assignment of</li> </ul>	<p>plans/scheduling options in an effort to comply with MSDH and CDC guidelines as a result of the ongoing impact of COVID-19 during the 2020 – 2021 school year.</p> <p><b>This waiver/rule suspension/extension expires immediately upon the conclusion of the 2020 – 2021 school year reporting period.</b></p>

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<b>Statutes and/or Regulation(s)</b>	<b>Rule</b>	<b>Proposed Suspension and/or Revisions of Rules</b>
	grades and related activities at the receiving school.	
<p><b>Pupil Transportation</b></p> <p>Miss. Code Ann. §§ 37-41-53 and 63-3-615</p> <p>Miss. Admin. Code 7-3: 81.3 and 81.4 State Board Policy Chapter 81, Rules 81.3 and 81.4</p> <p>Process Standards 29, 29.2, and 29.4</p> <p>Mississippi Pupil Transportation Handbook</p>	<p><b>Process Standard 29:</b> The school district complies with the applicable policies of the State Board of Education and state and federal laws in the operation of its transportation program.</p>	<p>On June 11, 2020, the SBE granted a one-year suspension of the SBE requirement for certified bus drivers to renew the two-year MDE Bus Driver Certification Card. This one-year suspension is applicable to all certified bus drivers with a valid MDE Bus Driver Certification Card with an expiration date of July 31, 2020, or July 31, 2021.</p> <p>The district shall ensure each certified bus driver has a valid bus driver certificate and commercial driver’s license (CDL) with “P” and “S” endorsements on file in the district. The district shall also have on file a yearly motor vehicle report on each driver and evidence that each driver has received two (2) hours of in-service training per year.</p> <p>Upon the approval of the one-year suspension of the requirement to renew the two-year MDE Bus Driver Certification Card for certified bus drivers, the required two (2) hours of in-service bus driver training per semester provided by the district shall include bus driver safety regulations regarding loading and unloading (at home and on campus) and railroad crossings.</p>

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<b>Statutes and/or Regulation(s)</b>	<b>Rule</b>	<b>Proposed Suspension and/or Revisions of Rules</b>
		<p>The two (2) required bus evacuation drills per year shall be conducted for the 2020 – 2021 school year 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 bus evacuation drills are modified or the district is unable to conduct the drills within the specified timelines in the Mississippi Pupil Transportation Handbook as a result of the impact of COVID-19.</p> <p>All certifications for new (first-time) bus drivers will be conducted in accordance with state statute, State Board Policy, and the Mississippi Pupil Transportation Handbook and in accordance with all MSDH and CDC guidelines in place at the time of the training/certification.</p> <p><b>The revised deadlines approved by the SBE for this waiver/rule suspension/extension still apply.</b></p>
<p><b>School Safety</b> Miss. Code Ann. §§ 37-3-81, 37-3-82, 37-3-83, 37-7-321, and 37-11-5</p>	<p><b>Process Standard 31:</b> 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</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</p>

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<b>Statutes and/or Regulation(s)</b>	<b>Rule</b>	<b>Proposed Suspension and/or Revisions of Rules</b>
<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>file that has been approved annually by the local school board.</p>	<p>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>On January 21, 2021, the SBE granted 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>

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<b>Statutes and/or Regulation(s)</b>	<b>Rule</b>	<b>Proposed Suspension and/or Revisions of Rules</b>
		<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> <p><b>This waiver/rule suspension/extension expires immediately upon the conclusion of the 2020 – 2021 school year reporting period. However, the deadline of 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 still applies.</b></p>
<p><b>Youth Detention Centers</b> Miss. Code Ann. § 42-21-321</p>	<p><b>Process Standard 32:</b> The school district complies with state statute and State Board of Education policy for education of juveniles in youth detention centers.</p>	<p>On March 26, 2020, during its regularly scheduled meeting, the State Board of Education suspended citations associated with the education of juveniles in youth detention centers due to the impact of school closures related to COVID-19. The educational services</p>



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<b>Statutes and/or Regulation(s)</b>	<b>Rule</b>	<b>Proposed Suspension and/or Revisions of Rules</b>
<p>Miss. Admin. Code 7-3: 30.6, State Board Policy Chapter 30, Rule 30.6</p> <p>Process Standards 32 and 32.1</p>	<p><b>Process Standard 32.1:</b> Educational requirements of Miss. Code Ann. § 42-21-321 and Miss. Admin. Code 7-3: 30.6, State Board Policy Chapter 30, Rule 30.6</p>	<p>provided to youth in detention centers shall be commensurate to the services provided to their peers in the sponsoring school district (i.e. online content or instructional packets) after March 16, 2020, through the end of the 2019 – 2020 school year.</p> <p>The educational services provided to youth in detention centers shall be commensurate to the services provided to their peers in the sponsoring school district (i.e. online content or instructional packets) for the 2020 – 2021 school year.</p> <p><b>This waiver/rule suspension/extension expired immediately upon the conclusion of the 2019 – 2020 school year reporting period.</b></p>
<p><b>Early Learning Collaborative Act</b></p> <p>Miss. Code Ann. § 37-21-51</p>	<p><b>Miss. Code Ann. § 37-21-51 (3)(c)(iv):</b> The department will evaluate the effectiveness of each early childhood collaborative and each prekindergarten provider. If the State Department of Education adopts a statewide kindergarten screening that assesses the readiness of each student for kindergarten, the State Department of Education shall adopt a minimum rate of readiness that each prekindergarten</p>	<p>On April 16, 2020, during its regularly scheduled meeting, the State Board of Education suspended the required Effectiveness Evaluation Plan for the 2019-2020 school year due to the impact of school closures related to COVID-19 and the cancellation of statewide assessments. Grantees shall remain eligible for funding in the 2020 – 2021 school year.</p>

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<b>Statutes and/or Regulation(s)</b>	<b>Rule</b>	<b>Proposed Suspension and/or Revisions of Rules</b>
	<p>provider must meet in order to remain eligible for prekindergarten program funds.</p> <p><b>Miss. Code Ann. § 37-21-51 (3)(d):</b> Prekindergarten program funds shall be awarded to early childhood collaboratives whose proposed programs meet the program criteria. The criteria shall include: (xiii) The number of instructional hours to be provided, which shall equal no less than five hundred forty (540) instructional hours per school year for half-day programs and one thousand eighty (1,080) instructional hours per school year for full-day programs.</p>	<p>On February 25, 2021, the SBE granted an additional one-year suspension of the Effectiveness Evaluation Plan for the 2020 – 2021 school year for Early Learning Collaboratives. Programs will continue to conduct student assessments, but not the CLASS observation(s). Grantees shall remain eligible for funding in the 2021 – 2022 school year.</p> <p>Due to the impact of school closures related to COVID-19, the MDE will allow reimbursement for Early Learning Collaboratives at the full-time and part-time rate for children in the program. Grantees may continue to receive grant funds from March 16, 2020, the first date of school closures due to COVID-19, through the 2019 – 2020 school year.</p> <p>On February 25, 2021, the SBE granted an additional one-year suspension of the instructional time requirement and student membership requirement for Early Learning Collaboratives in the 2020 – 2021 school year. Grantees shall remain eligible for funding in the 2021 – 2022 school year.</p>

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Statutes and/or Regulation(s)	Rule	Proposed Suspension and/or Revisions of Rules
		This waiver/rule suspension/extension expires immediately upon the conclusion of the 2020 – 2021 school year reporting period.
<p><b>Mississippi Dyslexia Therapy Scholarship for Students with Dyslexia Program</b></p> <p>Miss. Code Ann. § 37-173-1 et seq.</p>	<p><b>Miss. Code Ann. § 37-173-13(2)(b):</b> The Mississippi Department of Education will disburse payments to nonpublic schools under this program in twelve (12) substantially equal installments. The initial payment shall be made after department verification of admission acceptance, and subsequent payments shall be made upon verification of continued enrollment and attendance at the nonpublic school.</p> <p><b>Miss. Code Ann. § 37-173-17(1)(d):</b> To be eligible to participate in the Mississippi Dyslexia Therapy Scholarship for Students with Dyslexia Program, a nonpublic school must: (d) Maintain in this state a physical location where a scholarship student regularly attends classes.</p>	<p>On April 16, 2020, during its regularly scheduled meeting, the State Board of Education suspended the requirement for continued attendance at a physical school location from March 16, 2020, the first date of school closures due to COVID-19, through the 2019 – 2020 school year.</p> <p>On February 25, 2021, the SBE granted a one-year suspension of the requirement for continued attendance at a physical school location for the 2020 – 2021 school year.</p> <p style="color: red;">This waiver/rule suspension/extension expires immediately upon the conclusion of the 2020 – 2021 school year reporting period.</p>
<p><b>Mississippi Speech-Language Therapy Scholarship for Students with Speech-Language Impairment Program (Nate Rogers Scholarship for</b></p>	<p><b>Miss. Code Ann. § 37-175-17(1)(d):</b> To be eligible to participate in the Mississippi Speech-Language Therapy Scholarship for Students with Speech-</p>	<p>On April 16, 2020, during its regularly scheduled meeting, the State Board of Education suspended the requirement for continued attendance at a physical school location from March 16, 2020, the first date of</p>

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<b>Statutes and/or Regulation(s)</b>	<b>Rule</b>	<b>Proposed Suspension and/or Revisions of Rules</b>
<p><b>Students with Disabilities Program)</b></p> <p>Miss. Code Ann. § 37-175-1 et seq.</p>	<p>Language Impairment Program, a nonpublic school must:</p> <p>(d) Maintain in this state a physical location where a scholarship student regularly attends classes.</p>	<p>school closures due to COVID-19, through the 2019 – 2020 school year.</p> <p>On February 25, 2021, the SBE granted a one-year suspension of the requirement for continued attendance at a physical school location for the 2020 – 2021 school year.</p> <p><b>This waiver/rule suspension/extension expires immediately upon the conclusion of the 2020 – 2021 school year reporting period.</b></p>
<p><b>Cursive Writing</b></p> <p>Miss. Code Ann. § 37-13-10</p>	<p><b>Miss. Code Ann. § 37-13-10:</b></p> <p>The standard course of study shall include the requirement that the public schools provide instruction in cursive reading and writing, implemented across the curriculum, so that students create readable documents through legible cursive handwriting by the end of the fifth grade, and that students pass with proficiency a teacher-constructed test demonstrating the students competency in both reading and writing cursive.</p>	<p>On May 21, 2020, during its regularly scheduled meeting, the State Board of Education suspended the requirement that students pass with proficiency a teacher-constructed test demonstrating competency in both reading and writing cursive, from March 16, 2020, the first date of school closures due to COVID-19, through the date classes resume following the state of emergency. This test shall be suspended for students who would have taken it during the 2019 – 2020 school year based on district practice.</p> <p>On February 25, 2021, the SBE granted an additional one-year suspension of the requirement that students pass with proficiency a teacher-constructed test demonstrating</p>

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<b>Statutes and/or Regulation(s)</b>	<b>Rule</b>	<b>Proposed Suspension and/or Revisions of Rules</b>
		<p>competency in both reading and writing cursive for the 2020 – 2021 school year.</p> <p><b>This waiver/rule suspension/extension expires immediately upon the conclusion of the 2020 – 2021 school year reporting period.</b></p>
<p><b><i>Curriculum and Course of Study</i></b></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>On September 24, 2020, the SBE approved the elimination of the ACT sub-score enrollment requirement for the 2020 – 2021 school year.</p> <p><b>This waiver/rule suspension/extension expires immediately upon the conclusion of the 2020 – 2021 school year reporting period.</b></p>

Process standard numbers refer to the Process Standards outlined in the current edition of the *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards*. 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.