

Guidance for the Discontinuation of the Mississippi Occupational Diploma



State Board of Education

Vision and Mission

Vision

To create a world-class educational system that gives students the knowledge and skills to be successful in college and the workforce, and to flourish as parents and citizens

Mission

To provide leadership through the development of policy and accountability systems so that all students are prepared to compete in the global community

State Board of Education Goals

5-Year Strategic Plan for 2016-2020

- ✓ All Students Proficient and Showing Growth in All Assessed Areas
- ✓ Every Student Graduates High School and is Ready for College and Career
- ✓ Every Child Has Access to a High-Quality Early Childhood Program
- ✓ Every School Has Effective Teachers and Leaders
- ✓ Every Community Effectively Using a World-Class Data System to Improve Student Outcomes
- ✓ Every School and District is Rated “C” or Higher

Senate Bill 2432



During the 2017 legislative session, the legislature passed Senate bill 2432 to remove the Mississippi Occupational Diploma from the State statute.

Contributing Factors

- The MOD does not meet entry requirements at any university or community college for academic programs of study.
- The MOD is no longer accepted at most of the community college programs for vocational or technical programs.
- The military does not accept the MOD for entry into any of the Armed Forces.

Contributing Factors

- The U.S. Department of Education will not approve any Federal financial aid for students who exit with the MOD.
- Employers do not recognize the MOD as an equivalent to a high school diploma.
- Requests from multiple stakeholder groups made up of special education teachers, school administrators, and parents.

Discontinuation of MOD



The law became effective July 1, 2017; therefore, the MOD for students with disabilities will not be available to entering 9th grade students beginning in the 2017-18 school year.

An Important Decision



- Students on the MOD track (9th grade students prior to 2017-2018) have the option to remain on the MOD.
- IEP Committees should work to evaluate each student's transcript and determine if the current exit option continues to be appropriate

Points to Consider

- Student age and his/her right to a free appropriate public education through age 20
- Student's Least Restrictive Environment
- Transition Plan
- Accommodations and Modifications
- Parental Input

Guidance

The Office of Special Education has developed a resource packet to provide guidance for the discontinuation of the Mississippi Occupational Diploma.

Guidance for the Discontinuation of the Mississippi Occupational Diploma includes the following resources:

- Informational Flyer
- Script for IEP Committee
- Appendix A-5: Concordance Tables
- Mississippi Occupational Diploma Acknowledgement Statement
- Next Steps: Recommendations for 9th -12th grade students in 2017-2018
- Sample High School Program of Study Worksheet
- Blank High School Program of Study Worksheet

Guidance

In addition to the Guidance Packet and Resources, additional training opportunities will be available.

Date	Format	Topic	Location
May 8, 2017	A.M. Face to Face P.M. Webinar	Introduction to the Guidance Document	A.M. Central High School P.M. Online
May 10, 2017	Recordings	Multiple recordings of how to use each section of this guide	Online
August 2017	Webinar	Review of the Guidance on the Discontinuation of the MOD	Online
Fall 2017	Face to Face	Transition and Instructional Strategies to Facilitate the MOD Transition	Regional trainings across the state and in district as needed.
Fall 2017	Webinar	Q&A Sessions	Online

Informational Flyer

- The informational flyer can be used to communicate with parents of both current MOD and entering 9th grade students.
- The flyer is intended only to give a high-level overview of the changes to the program.
- Additional information must be shared with parents, students and other IEP Committee members.

Informational Flyer



RECOMMENDATION

If possible, send this flyer home with students prior to the IEP meetings in which the IEP Committee will discuss how these changes impact the individual student.

Script for IEP Committee Meetings

The OSE has developed a script that can be used to guide the discussion and selection of the appropriate graduation or exit options for students with disabilities.

- Prior to IEP Committee meetings, members should become familiar with the scripts.

Multiple Avenues for Obtaining a Standard Diploma

- Concordance Tables
- ACT
- SATP2 Assessments
- Dual Credit/Dual Enrollment/College Credit
- ASVAB
- ACT WorkKeys

Parental Acknowledgement



Parents whose child continues on the MOD will be required to sign a document acknowledging that by choosing this option the student will:

- Have limited access to post-secondary training opportunities (i.e., universities and community colleges);
- Have no access to Federal financial aid;
- Not be allowed to enroll in the military; and
- Have limited employment options.

Parental Acknowledgement

- The Acknowledgement Statement should be signed for any current student on the MOD track whose IEP Committee chooses to continue the MOD track.
- It is very important that all participants fully understand the limitations of the MOD as an exit option, including the student. A copy of the Acknowledgement Statement should be given to the parent and a copy should be placed with the student's IEP.



Next Steps

The OSE has developed documents that provide a sample course flow at each grade level and considerations for determining the appropriate diploma track for students.



9th Grade NEXT STEPS

9th NEXT STEPS...



Recommendation

Students entering 9th grade in 2017-2018 should begin working toward a standard high school diploma.

9th Grade Sample Course Flow

Students Entering 9th Grade 2017-2018

- Teacher uses High School Program of Study Worksheets to identify Carnegie Units earned and courses needed
- Using Program of Study Worksheet and Course Flow Chart, develop options for student
- Conduct IEP meeting
- Teacher works with school counselor to develop student's course of study

IEP TEAM CONSIDERATIONS

- ✓ Student Age
- ✓ Current LRE
- ✓ Parent Input
- ✓ Transition Plan
- ✓ Accommodations and Modifications

9 th Grade Schedule	Courses	Location of Services	Purpose	Carnegie Units Earned
Period 1	English I (230174)	General Education	Grade-level content instruction	1
Period 2	Foundations of Biology (no course code available yet)	General Education	Grade-level content instruction	1
Period 3	MS Studies/Intro to Geography (450705/450704)	General Education	Grade-level content instruction	1
Period 4	Foundations of Algebra (270390)	General Education	Grade-level content instruction	1
Period 5	STEM/Keystone CTE Course Codes (000273/990002)	General Education	Grade-level content instruction	1
Period 6	Compensatory Reading I	Special Education	Remediation of deficit Skills, re-teaching and pre-teaching of grade-level content	1
Period 7	PE/Health (340113/340133)	General Education	Grade-level content instruction	1
Period 8	Elective (or a second special education tutorial block without a Carnegie Unit if needed) or Learning Strategies (230180)	General Education	Grade-level content instruction	1

Additional Course Options:

English

- None

Science

- Biology 1 (260131)

Social Studies

- None

Math

- Algebra 1 (270404)
- Integrated Math 1 (270731)

Technology

- Technology Foundations
 - Academic (110630)
 - CTE (992307) =
- ICT II
 - Academic (110620)
 - CTE (000272) =

9th Grade NEXT STEPS

- Students entering 9th grade in 2017 must choose the standard diploma option.
- The sample course flow is an example of what the course of study may look like for a student entering 9th grade and beginning work toward a standard high school diploma.
- The IEP Committee should consider any accommodations/modifications, course remediation, and specially-designed instruction that will provide educational benefit.

10th Grade NEXT STEPS

10th NEXT STEPS...

Students Entering 10th Grade 2017-2018

- Teacher uses High School Program of Study Worksheet to identify Carnegie Units earned and courses needed
- Using Program of Study Worksheet and Course Flow Chart, develop options for student
- Conduct IEP meeting:
 - ✓ Review MOD acknowledgement letter
 - ✓ Review options with IEP Committee
 - ✓ Determine diploma track
- Teacher works with school counselor to develop student's course of study

IEP TEAM CONSIDERATIONS

- ✓ Student Age
- ✓ Earned Carnegie Units
- ✓ Current LRE
- ✓ Parent Input
- ✓ Transition Plan
- ✓ Accommodations and Modifications

10th Grade Sample Course Flow

10th Grade Schedule	Courses	Location of Services	Purpose	Carnegie Units Earned
Period 1	English II (230110)	General Education	Grade-level content instruction	1
Period 2	Biology 1 (260131)	General Education	Grade-level content instruction	1
Period 3	World History (450835)	General Education	Grade-level content instruction	1
Period 4	Algebra I (270404)	General Education	Grade-level content instruction	1
Period 5	Fine Art	General Education	Grade-level content instruction	1
Period 6	Compensatory Reading II	Special Education	Remediation of deficit skills, re-teaching and pre-teaching of grade-level content	1
Period 7	Elective	General Education	Grade-level content instruction	1
Period 8	Elective (or a second special education tutorial block without a Carnegie Unit if needed) or Learning Strategies (230180)	General Education	Grade-level content instruction	1

RECOMMENDATION

Students entering 10th grade in 2017-2018 should begin working toward a standard high school diploma.

Additional Course Options:

Commonly offered courses are listed below. Additional courses are available in the Approved Courses for Secondary Schools Manual.

English

- None

Science

- If already taken Biology, then any of the courses listed in the Approved Course Codes Manual

Social Studies

- None

Math

- Integrated Math II (270732)

10th Grade NEXT STEPS

- It is highly recommended that the IEP Committee choose the standard diploma option for students entering 10th grade in 2017.
- The IEP Committee may choose to allow the student to continue on the MOD track.

10th Grade NEXT STEPS

- The sample course flow is an example of what the course of study may look like for a student entering 10th grade and beginning work toward a standard high school diploma.
- The IEP Committee should consider any accommodations/modifications, course remediation, and specially-designed instruction that will provide educational benefit.

11th Grade NEXT STEPS

11th

NEXT STEPS...

Transition to Standard Diploma

Remaining on MOD

RECOMMENDATION

Students entering 11th Grade should consider transitioning to a standard high school diploma. The IEP Committee may choose to have the student remain on the MOD.

IEP TEAM CONSIDERATIONS FOR DETERMINING DIPLOMA TRACK FOR STUDENTS ENTERING 11TH GRADE 2017-2018

- ✓ Student Age
- ✓ Student's Least Restrictive Environment
- ✓ High School Program of Study Worksheets
- ✓ Parent Input
- ✓ Transition Plan
- ✓ Accommodations and Modifications

ACTION STEPS

- Counselor and teacher complete student's Program of Study Worksheet and determine remaining course requirements and Subject Area Assessments
- Considering the student's age, identified course requirements and Subject Area Assessments, the IEP Committee will determine the revised program of study to be implemented through age 20.

SUPPORTS TO CONSIDER

- Extended School Year services
- State Board approved alternatives to meet Subject Area Assessment requirements
- Course remediation
- Tutorial classes
- Direct instruction in Reading and/or Math

11th Grade Schedule	Courses	Location of Services	Purpose	Carnegie Units Earned
Period 1	Employment English III	Special Education	Providing students with the necessary employment/independent living skills for post-secondary success	1
Period 2	Life Skills Science III	Special Education	Providing students with the necessary employment/independent living skills for post-secondary success	1
Period 3	U.S. History	General Education	Grade-level content instruction	1
Period 4	Job Skills Math III	Special Education	Providing students with the necessary employment/independent living skills for post-secondary success	1
Period 5	ACT Prep I	General Education	Grade-level content instruction	1
Period 6	Career/Technical Course	General Education	Grade-level content instruction	1
Period 7	Vocational Course	General Education	Grade-level content instruction	1
Period 8	Elective	General Education	Grade-level content instruction	1

12th Grade NEXT STEPS

12th



NEXT STEPS...

Transition to Standard Diploma

Remain on the MOD

IEP TEAM CONSIDERATIONS FOR DETERMINING DIPLOMA TRACK FOR STUDENTS ENTERING 12TH GRADE 2017-2018

- ✓ Student Age
- ✓ Student's Least Restrictive Environment
- ✓ High School Program of Study Worksheets
- ✓ Transition Plan
- ✓ Accommodations and Modifications
- ✓ Parent Input

ACTION STEPS

- Counselor and teacher complete student's Program of Study Worksheet and determine remaining course requirements and subject-area assessments
- Considering the student's age, identified course requirements and subject-area assessments, the IEP Committee will determine the revised program of study to be implemented through age 20.

SUPPORTS TO CONSIDER

- Extended School Year services
- State Board-approved alternatives to meet subject-area assessment requirements
- Course remediation
- Tutorial classes
- Direct instruction in reading and/or math

RECOMMENDATION

Students entering 12th grade should consider transitioning to the standard high school diploma. The IEP Committee may choose to have the student remain on the MOD.

12 th Grade Schedule	Courses	Location of Services	Purpose	Carnegie Units Earned
Period 1	Employment English IV	Special Education	Providing students with the necessary employment/ independent living skills for post-secondary success	1
Period 2	Life Skills Science IV	Special Education	Providing students with the necessary employment/ independent living skills for post-secondary success	1
Period 3	Applied Career Prep	Special Education	Grade-level content instruction	1
Period 4	Job Skills Math IV	Special Education	Providing students with the necessary employment/ independent living skills for post-secondary success	1
Period 5	Computer Fundamentals	General Education	Grade-level content instruction	1
Period 6	Career/ Technical Course	General Education	Grade-level content instruction	1
Period 7	Vocational Course (if necessary) OR Elective	General Education	Grade-level content instruction	1
Period 8	Elective	General Education	Grade-level content instruction	1

- The IEP Committee should consider transitioning students currently on the MOD track and entering the 11th or 12th grade in 2017 to the standard high school diploma track.
- The IEP Committee may choose to allow the student to continue on the MOD track.

- The IEP Committee should consider the following when making determinations:
 - The student's age
 - Identified course and subject area assessment requirements
 - The number of years remaining for the program of study to be implemented with the understanding the student can remain enrolled through age 20.

11th and 12th Grade NEXT STEPS

- The sample course flow is an example of what the course of study may look like for a student entering 11th or 12th grade and beginning work toward a standard high school diploma.
- The IEP Committee should consider any accommodations/modifications, course remediation, and specially-designed instruction that will provide educational benefit.

High School Program of Study Worksheet

- The OSE has developed a worksheet that gives IEP committees a tool to analyze a student's current program of study.
- The worksheet will help determine what courses a student needs in order to move from the MOD track to the standard diploma track.



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High School Program of Study Worksheet

High School Program of Study Worksheet

Student Name: Jane Doe
Current Grade Status: 10th

Anticipated Graduation Year: 2019
Current School Year:

Curriculum Content Area	Carnegie Units Earned		Courses Needed		Units Earned	Units Remaining
English	9 th	English I	9 th		2	2
	10 th	English II	10 th			
	11 th		11 th	Technical Writing		
	12 th		12 th	Foundations of Journalism		
Math	9 th	MOD Math	9 th		1	3
	10 th	Algebra I	11 th	Foundations to Algebra		
	11 th		11 th	Geometry		
	12 th		12 th	Algebra II		
Science	9 th	MOD Science			1	2
	10 th	Biology I	11 th	Physical Science		
			12 th	Earth & Space		
Social Studies	9 th	MS Studies			2	2
	10 th	World Hist.	11 th	U.S. History		
			12 th	Gov't & Economics		
Health and PE	9 th	PE			½	½
			11 th	Health		
Technology	9 th	ICAP			2	0
	10 th	Business & Computer Technology				
Additional Electives	9 th	JROTC			2	3
	10 th	JROTC				
			11 th	Compensatory Reading I		
			12 th	Compensatory Reading II		
Art			11 th	JROTC	0	1
			12 th	Theater		

Summary

Grade	9 th	10 th	11 th	12 th
Carnegie Units Earned/Projected	4.5	6	7.5	6
Progression towards Graduation with Standard Diploma	4.5	10.5	18	24

High School Program of Study Worksheet - Sample

The sample worksheet was created for our fictional 10th grade student, Jane Doe. She is preparing to enter her 11th grade year. We have included the courses already taken and those she will need to take her remaining years in school. The IEP Committee has decided that she will not continue to pursue the MOD. Rather, they have chosen to pursue the route to earning a standard high school diploma.

High School Program of Study Worksheet - Sample

Jane has taken English I and II, and has received credit for those courses. But, take a look at Math, Science and Social Studies. In Math, she has one credit for Algebra, but has also taken MOD Math, for which she did not receive a Carnegie Unit. As an incoming Junior, it is perceived that she has fallen behind in earning the necessary credits she needs to graduate. The IEP Committee will need to address this concern.



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High School Program of Study Worksheet

High School Program of Study Worksheet

Student Name:

Anticipated Graduation Year:

Current Grade Status:

Current School Year:

Curriculum Content Area	Carnegie Units Earned		Courses Needed		Units Earned	Units Remaining
English						
Math						
Science						
Social Studies						
Health and PE						
Technology						
Additional Electives						
Art						

Summary

Grade	9 th	10 th	11 th	12 th
Carnegie Units Earned/Projected				
Progression towards Graduation with Standard Diploma				

High School Program of Study Worksheet

- Always be sure to consider the student's age in his or her progression toward completion of required Carnegie Units
- Counselor participation is strongly encouraged. In order to explain the "Units Earned" column, a look into classes taken prior to high school may be necessary.

High School Program of Study Worksheet

- During IEP meetings make available a list of all courses offered by the district. This will help identify options.
- Take time during the meeting to explain that MOD courses are not credit bearing and will need to be replaced by credit bearing courses to move toward a standard diploma.

Dedicated Email



The OSE has set up a dedicated email address for questions regarding the discontinuation of the MOD. Please email any questions to:

SpecialEducation2@mdek12.org

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