MASS 2025 Winter Conference

Paula A. Vanderford, Ph.D.
Chief Accountability Officer
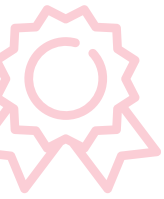
mdek12.org

MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

1 — **ALL** Students Proficient and Showing Growth in All Assessed Areas

2 — **EVERY** Student Graduates from High School and is Ready for College and Career

3 — **EVERY** Child Has Access to a High-Quality Early Childhood Program

4 — **EVERY** School Has Effective Teachers and Leaders

5 — **EVERY** Community Effectively Uses a World-Class Data System to Improve Student Outcomes

6 — **EVERY** School and District is Rated "C" or Higher

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

VISION

MISSION

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

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

MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

Accreditation

Accreditation Updates

The MDE further continues to review personnel data to compare the personnel data results from MSIS 2.0 to that of the legacy MSIS as well as state statutes, State Board Policies, accreditation standards, MSIS Course Code Search Portal, and the Approved Work Area Codes for Elementary and Secondary Schools of Mississippi. Dr. Lance Evans will be asking the Commission on School Accreditation (CSA) and the State Board of Education (SBE) to suspend the personnel edit check process for the 2024-2025 school year for the following process standards:

***Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2024*:**

- **24 , 24.1, and 24.2** – Instructional Planning Time

- **25** – Individual Course Preps for Teachers Grades 9-12

- **26** – High School Curriculum

- **28, 28.1, 28.2, 28.3, 28.4, and 28.5** – Student Teacher Ratios

Districts will continue to see flags/warnings in MSIS 2.0 for these standards as an effort to provided valuable information to both the districts and the MDE program offices.

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Accreditation Monitoring

Process Standard 2:

Additional consideration will be given to **Process Standards 2 and 2.2** (for both public and nonpublic schools) during this review and communicated as decisions are made. **Note**: Districts must still comply with process Standards 2.1, 2.3 (librarians) 2.4 (Student Support Services) 2.4.1 (Guidance Counselors) and 2.5 (Business Managers).

Districts with deficiencies noted as "current/pending" for the 2023-2024 school year for Process Standards 2, 2.2, and 2.3 through an approved **Human Capital Strategic Plan** must either clear their findings through compliance as documented in MSIS 2.0 **or** continue to implement the criteria outlined in their Human Capital Strategic Plan for the 2024-2025 school year.

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Accreditation Monitoring

Please note:

Although the Office of Accreditation will not perform an edit check through the MSIS data if this proposal is approved, districts should continue to comply with the process standards and in the event of an on-site audit/investigation or complaint, the MDE may still ask districts to provide other documentation of compliance. The MDE will resume the personnel edit check process in the 2025-2026 school year. Therefore, districts should familiarize themselves with the requirements pertaining to certification endorsement as outlined in the MSIS Course Code Search Portal, and the Approved Work Area Codes for Elementary and Secondary Schools of Mississippi to ensure staff are properly licensed and certified.

Next steps:

During the upcoming months, MDE will continue to review the data to make any needed proposed changes to State Board Policies , accreditation standards, MSIS Course Code Search Portal, and the Approved Work Area Codes for Elementary and Secondary Schools of Mississippi.

Jo Ann Malone, Ed.D.

Associate State Superintendent

Office of Accreditation

JMalone@mdek12.org

601-359-3764

mdek12.org

MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

Safe and Orderly Schools

- Applications for FY26 Mississippi Community Oriented Policing Services in Schools (MCOPS) grants are due before 2:00 p.m. on February 13, 2025. RFA − FY26 MCOPS Grant

- Services for nSide Inc. lapse March 3, 2025; however, the vendor has stated platform services will remain available until June 30, 2025.

- All cameras installed from nSide have a 3-year license that will expire 3 years from date of install. Please contact help@nside.io for subscription renewal information specific to nSide.

- Email school closures to: mdeschoolclosures@mdek12.org

Office of Teaching and Leading

Educator Workforce Specialist Supports

Standard 3.5 of the Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards states that annual employee performance data shall be submitted to the MDE.

All districts must submit annual performance data for the 2024-2025 school year by June 30, 2025, via the Mississippi Educator Career Continuum Archive (MECCA).

MECCA's PGS Observation and Development Portal generates files for the required annual PGS data submission following district verification of licensed staff in the system.

MECCA's PGS observation and data analysis features are **optional** tools offered at no cost to strengthen observation practice **and** streamline the required data submission.

MDE's Educator Workforce Specialist (EWS) team works to increase teacher recruitment and retention by offering resources such as, but not limited to:
- High school classroom visits
- Licensure pathway overviews
- PGS training for teachers
- Mentoring and induction supports

Districts may request EWS services using this QR code!

Sign up for All Teachers, All In Conference in your area

December 16, 2024 — Communications Team — A

This conference focuses on special and general education teacher collaboration for student success with topics such as:
- Co-planning
- Co-teaching
- Establishing effective groups
- Roles and responsibilities

Spaces are available for the Cleveland (2/13) and Biloxi (2/24) dates. Please share with teachers to register today!

Educator Licensure Reminders & Important Dates to Remember

- Beginning February 1, 2025, Local School Districts and Nonpublic Schools Accredited by the Mississippi State Board of Education may begin submitting applications for the 2025-2026 school year for local district requested licenses listed below:

  - Veteran Teacher (Emergency Certificate)

  - Special Non-renewable

  - Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC)

  - Expert Citizen

- All Licensure applications submitted on or after March 1, 2025, will be issued for the upcoming 2025-2026 school year unless the applicant requests that the license be issued for the remainder of the 2024-2025 school year:

  - Local District Requested Licenses

  - Initial Licensure

  - Reinstatement

  - Entry-level Administrator

Educator Licensure Update - iTeach

- iTeach Mississippi is a newly approved Educator Preparation Provider (EPP) that offers a nontraditional pathway to teacher licensure

- Subject Areas Offered: Biology (7-12), Chemistry (7-12), Chinese (K-12), Elementary Education (4- 6), English (7-12), French (K-12), German (K-12), Latin (K-12), Mathematics (7-12), Physics (7-12), Spanish (K-12)

- Program Requirements:

  - Bachelor's degree in non-education

  - Program admittance and licensure assessments for non-traditional candidates

  - Eight self-paced virtual, pedagogical modules

  - Assignment of Mississippi-based field supervisor

  - Assignment of an effective mentor teacher

More information regarding iTeach is available at:

New Licensure Endorsement Option: 943 Career Pathway: Unmanned Aircraft Systems

This endorsement licenses a person to teach the following secondary courses:

- 991730 Basics of Advanced Manufacturing
- 991740 Fundamentals of Advanced Manufacturing
- 991750 Processes of Advanced Manufacturing
- 991755 Production in Advanced Manufacturing
- 991710 Advanced Manufacturing I
- 991711 Advanced Manufacturing II

Specific licensure requirements can be reviewed within the Career and Technical Education Licensure Guidelines Document accessible at https://mdek12.org/licensure/guidelines/

The Office of Teaching and Leading is collaborating across MDE offices and stakeholders to conduct a comprehensive policy review of current educator licensure guidelines with a particular focus on:

- Elementary Education
- Special Education
- Mathematics Education

Educator Talent

Looking for a new position?

Search open positions across the entire state of Mississippi.

BROWSE POSITIONS

Need to post a new opportunity?

Sign in or register with your organizational email address.

GET STARTED

Portal Features

- Advertise open positions statewide and nationally
- Browse open positions by subject area, grade level, and location across Mississippi
- Survey teachers and districts to assess educator workforce needs

Student Assessment

C. Alan Burrow aburrow@mdek12.org
Associate State Superintendent
District and School Performance
601-359-3514

Dr. Jackie Sampsell jsampsell@mdek12.org
State Assessment Director
601-359-5592

Melissa Beck mbeck@mdek12.org
K-3 Assessment Coordinator
601-359-5245

Elizabeth "Libby" Cook ecook@mdek12.org
Math Content Specialist/ MAAP Coordinator
601-359-1315

Dr. Jerrika Mabry
MAAP-A State Coordinator
601-359-3052

Farrah Nicholson fnicholson@mdek12.org
NAEP State Coordinator
601-359-1244

Sharon Prestridge sprestridge@mdek12.org
Testing Accommodations and English Learner
Assessment Coordinator
601-359-1970

Robert Ward rward@mdek12.org
Director of Test Security & ACT Coordinator
601-359-3995

Trishon Wilson
twilson@mdek12.org
Administrative Assistant
601-359-3052

601-359-3052

MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

Fall Assessment Reporting	Dates
Districts Access Reports	February 14, 2025
Deliver Printed ISRs and Student Labels to Districts	February 21, 2025

Spring Assessment	Testing Windows*
English Language Proficiency Test (ELPT) (K-12)	March 3 – April 16, 2025
MAAP – A (Alternate) SCD students (Grades 3-8 Math, ELA, Algebra, English; Science 5 & 8, Biology)	March 10 – May 2, 2025
Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA) End of Year (EOY)	April 1– May 9, 2025
3rd Grade MAAP (LBPA Reading) Initial Test (two retest opportunities will be provided)	March 31 – April 18, 2025 (May 16)
3rd Grade MAAP Alternative Assessment – Retest 1	May 5 – May 9, 2025
3rd Grade MAAP Alternative Assessment – Retest 2	June 16 – June 27, 2025
Early Graduate/Senior Retest Opportunity	March 31 – April 18, 2025
MAAP – ELA and Math (Grades 3-8; EOC English II & Algebra I) - **DRC**	March 31 – May 16, 2025
MAAP –SCI (Grades 5 & 8) EOC (Biology & U.S. History)	March 31 – May 16, 2025

Resources
- Testing Calendar
- Content Standards
- District and School Performance Link
- Student Assessment Navigator Link (DTCs)
- DTC Resources Link (DTCs)
- Testing Hotline Form

Documents
- Accountability Standards
- Dyslexia Accommodations

Main Web Site Links
- Home
- News
- Reports & Data
- Menu
- Directory

Assessment Program Pages

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Home   News   Reports & Data   Menu   Directory

STUDENT ASSESSMENT

The Office of Student Assessment is responsible for the development, coordination, and administration of all state and federally mandated assessments for students in Mississippi's public schools. Assessments tell you about students' progress on the path to future success, whether that's the next grade or the next course. They measure what students know and can do based on learning goals for the grade or course. In Mississippi, our first goal is all students proficient and showing growth in all assessed areas. Data from these state assessments is used to determine progress toward meeting this goal.

Student Assessment

601-359-3052

Staff

Resources

- 2024-2025 Testing Calendar
- Academic Standards
- District and School Performance
- Locally Selected Nationally Recognized High School Assessment (LSNRHSA)
- Student Assessment Navigator (Login Required)
- DTC Resources (Login Required)
- Testing Hotline Form

Search

Documents

- Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2024
- Accommodations for Students with Dyslexia- Appendix B
- Accommodations for Students with Dyslexia- Form

Contents

English Language Proficiency Test (ELPT)

K-3 Assessments

Kindergarten Readiness Assessment

Mississippi Academic Assessment Program (MAAP)

Mississippi Academic Assessment Program- Alternate (MAAP-A)

Mississippi College and Career Testing

National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)

Test Security

Data Recognition Corporation (DRC) is the vendor for ELA, Math (grades 3-8), science (grades 5 and 8), and End-of-Course (EOC) Algebra I, Biology, English II, and U.S. History. DRC accepted an emergency contract that was approved by the SBE in July 2024 and by ITS in August 2024.

Plans for an RFP have been in the works for over a year for MAAP and MAAP-A to have one vendor beginning in SY 2025-2026. This RFP is expected to be released from ITS in February.
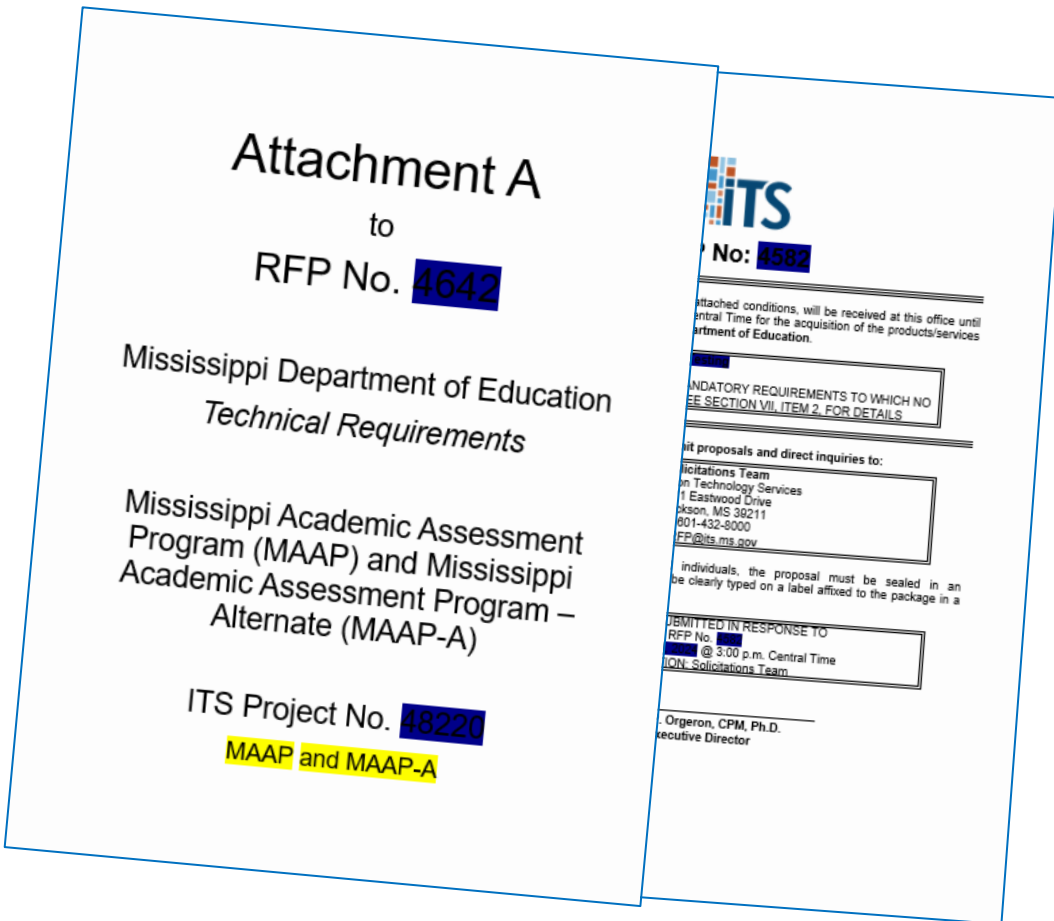
Assessment Policy Updates and Reminders

Updated Mississippi Accountability Standards, 2024

Updated June 2024

REQUIREMENTS OF THE MISSISSIPPI STATEWIDE ASSESSMENT SYSTEM STANDARD 16

   I. Purpose

   II. Definitions

   III. Reporting and Use of Test Data

   IV. Requirements

- Responsibilities of the District Test Coordinator (DTC)
- Test Materials
- Training and Testing Personnel
- Policies for Mississippi Assessments
- Accommodations and Accessibility Features
- Test Administration
- Electronic Devices
- Test Security Violations and Forensic Data

   V. Investigation

   VI. Consequences

- <mark>The DTC shall be appointed by the District's Superintendent</mark>. The DTC shall hold a current and valid Mississippi educator's license that may include an administrative endorsement and possess knowledge and experience regarding assessment procedures. The Superintendent shall notify the Office of Student Assessment in writing (email is permissible) of DTC personnel changes.

  (Superintendents, email Jsampsell@mdek12.org to notify of a change to the District's DTC.)

- The DTC shall submit to the OSA the District and School Test Security Plan each year no later than the 3rd Tuesday in January for the full calendar year. This is required, so a plan will be in place for the next school year's fall testing. The District and School Test Security Plan shall contain all components as required by the Office of Student Assessment.

- <mark>The district Superintendent and DTC are responsible for creating and completing the District Test Security plan, reviewing, updating, and verifying all information is correct each calendar year.</mark> Once approved by the district school board, the plan is signed by the district Superintendent, the DTC, and the chairman of the school board.

- The School's Principal and STC are responsible for creating and completing the School Test Security plan, reviewing, updating, and verifying all information is correct each calendar year. Once approved by the DTC, the School Test Security Plan, which is a part of the District Test Security Plan, is signed by the school Principal, STC, and the DTC.

All students are tested.

Section III. Number 12:

The Mississippi Statewide Assessment System ensures the ==inclusion of all students in the assessment programs== {Miss. Code Ann. § 37-16-3(2)}; Literacy-Based Promotion Act, {Miss. Code Ann. §37-177-11}; e-CFR 200.5 (a)(1)(2)(3); Mississippi English Learner Guidelines: Regulations, Funding Guidance, and Instructional Supports, 2018R.

- **The student <u>MUST be enrolled</u> in school to use this table for a graduation requirement.**

- **A student can use the Universal Concordance Table for multiple assessments.**

- **A student should use their highest score.**

This information is found in Appendix A-5 and on OSA Website under the MAAP page.

APPENDIX A-5

Composite (Combined) Score
MISS. ADMIN. CODE 7-3: 36.4(3) State Board Policy Chapter 36, Rule 36.4(3)
(EFFECTIVE 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR)

Composite (Combined) Score Calculations provide opportunities for students who do not obtain a passing score on one or more EOC assessments. Students may utilize an additional graduation option by taking the average of all EOC assessments and achieving a minimal combined score of 1050. The student must have four scores (Algebra I, English II, Biology, and U.S. History). These four scores are added together and divided by 4. The student must have a 1049.5 or above. If a student has a COVID-related waiver from the 2019-2020 or 2020-2021 school year(s) for any required EOC assessment, the student is not eligible to use this option. Students shall be enrolled in school to utilize the composite score option.

Example

Calculate the student's composite (combined) score by determining the average score across all four assessments.

Assessment	Scale
Algebra (EOC)	1039
English II (EOC)	1048
Biology (EOC)	1055
US History (EOC)	1056

Average Composite (Combined) Score = (1039+1048 +1055 +1056)/4 = 4,198/4 = 1049.5 = 1050

In the example above, the student can use the Composite Combined Score for Algebra I and English II.

Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2024   52

- All EOC tests are now based on the Passing Score of 1050. Therefore, the **AVERAGE OF ALL 4 EOC SCORES is 1050 (≥ 1049.5).**

$$\frac{Algebra\ I + English\ II + Biology + U.S.History}{4} \geq 1050$$

- **ALL** students **MUST have four (4) valid test scores** to utilize this option.

- Remember, an invalidated test score is NOT considered a "valid test score."

  This information is found in Appendix A-5 and on OSA Website under the MAAP page.

Key Testing Program Descriptions

ASSESSMENT	Population	Federal Law	MS State Law	MS State Board Policy
National Assessment for Educational Progress (NAEP)*	Representative samples of Mississippi Districts are selected to assess grades 4, 8, and !2.	✔		
English Language Proficiency Test (ELPT)	English Learners Grades K-12	✔		✔
Mississippi Academic Assessment Program-Alternate (MAAP-A)	Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities (SCD) in Grades 3-8 & EOC	✔	✔	
Mississippi Academic Assessment Program (MAAP)	English Language Arts (Grades 3-8) Math (Grades 3-8) Science (Grades 5 & 8)	✔	✔	
Mississippi Academic Assessment Program MAAP End-of-Course (EOC) Algebra I	Any student in grades 7-12 that is enrolled in Algebra I EOC	✔	✔	✔
Mississippi Academic Assessment Program MAAP End-of-Course (EOC) English II	Any student in grades 9-12 that is enrolled in English II EOC	✔	✔	✔
Mississippi Academic Assessment Program MAAP End-of-Course (EOC) Biology	Any student in grades 7-12 that is enrolled in Biology EOC	✔	✔	✔
Mississippi Academic Assessment Program MAAP End-of-Course (EOC) U.S. History	Any student in grades 9-12 that is enrolled in U.S. History EOC		✔	✔
ACT	State funded for Grade 11 students only		$	✔
ACT WorkKeys	State provides reimbursement upon request for students in Grades 10 - 12		$	✔
Kindergarten Readiness Assessment	Pre-Kindergarten & Kindergarten		✔	
MS Dyslexia Screener *	Kindergarten & Grade 1		✔	
Universal Screener*	Kindergarten - Grade 3		✔	
3rd Grade Reading for LBPA (Initial Assessment is the Reading Session of MAAP)	Any MS Public School student enrolled in Grade 3		✔	
Pre-K Assessment*	If school offers Pre-K			✔
Brigance Pre-K *	If school offers Pre-K			✔

*Assessments/Screeners not directly administered by the Office of Student Assessment (OSA).

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Program	Vendor	Administration Platform
ACT	**ACT** ACT Now	**Administration:** ACT Now **Reporting:** ACT Success for Organizations
ACT WorkKeys	**ACT** WorkKeys Online	**Validus** (see district specific links in email from ACT)
ELPT	**Cambium Assessment** **https://www.cambiumassessment.com/**	**Mississippi ELPA21 Portal** **https://ms.portal.cambiumast.com/index.html**
K-Readiness	**Istation** **https://www.istation.com/**	**Kindergarten Readiness Portal** Administrator
MAAP	**Data Recognition Corporation (DRC)** https://www.datarecognitioncorp.com/	**DRC Insight Portal** https://www.drcedirect.com/all/eca-portal-v2-ui/#/login
MAAP-A	**NWEA-Questar** https://www.questarai.com/readiness/	**Nextera** https://ms.nextera.questarai.com/admin/Accounts/Login
Test Security	**Caveon** https://caveon.com/	**Caveon Core** https://core.caveon.com/

ACT State Testing

The ACT assessment is a curriculum- and standards-based educational planning tool that assesses students' academic readiness for college. For Spring 2025, we will have a traditional ACT Test. New ACT changes will be implemented statewide in 2026.

- State ACT (Spring) is paid for by the State for all Students classified as 11th grade students in MSIS.
  - Note: There is a difference between the State and District ACT Portals in the ACT Now platform.
- Students will test during one of the three available windows
  - 2/25/25(Paper); 2/25/25 – 3/7/25 (Online and Accommodations)
  - 3/25/25(Paper); 3/25/25 – 4/4/25(Online and Accommodations)
  - 4/22/25(Paper); 4/22/25- 5/2/25 (Online and Accommodations)
- **ACT Success**: Platform used for Score reports and Accommodation Request Submissions ACT Success for Organizations
- ACT's Mississippi state testing page
  - Training Videos and Resources Available
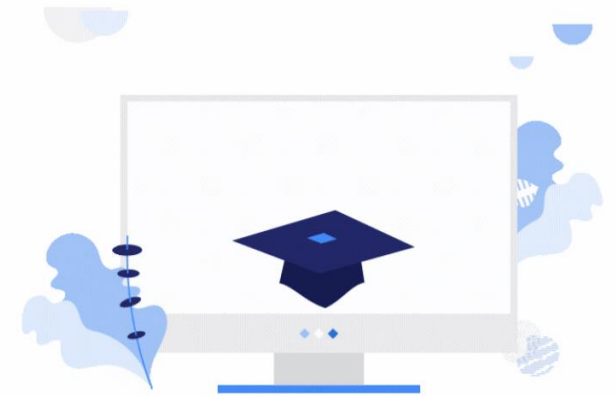
ACT WorkKeys Trainings
    Beginning February 3:
    All Spring Trainings available
    On-Demand

Spring 2025 Testing:
    Online: March 3 - April 18
    Paper: March 3 - March 28

- Career readiness assessment, comprised of three tests measuring foundational skills necessary for success in today's workforce
  - Applied Math
  - Graphic Literacy
  - Workplace Documents
- Students can earn an ACT WorkKeys National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC)
  - Bronze
  - Silver
  - Gold
  - Platinum

- School districts and charter schools participating in the statewide testing agreement are eligible to receive grant funds for students in grades 10-12 for one administration of the ACT WorkKeys assessment series.

- Only WorkKeys tests administered under the state realm during the administration windows are eligible for reimbursement.

- Submit application, testing rosters, and documentation of expenditures prior to requesting reimbursement.

- Reimbursement applications are due first week of June 2025

- The English Language Proficiency Test is a secure, large-scale, assessment administered to **Kindergarten through Grade 12** students who have been officially identified as English learners (EL).

- As mandated by the ESEA, English learners are tested in four (4) domains: Speaking, Listening, Reading, and Writing.

- Annual ELPT: **Cambium Assessment, Inc. (CAI)/ELPA21** The annual ELPT is for all ELs and ELs with disabilities (including ELs with SCD) in grades K-12. Students officially in monitored status do not take the ELPT. Both the general and the alternate ELPT will be administered in Spring 2025.

- Annual ELPT Window: **March 3 – April 16, 2025**
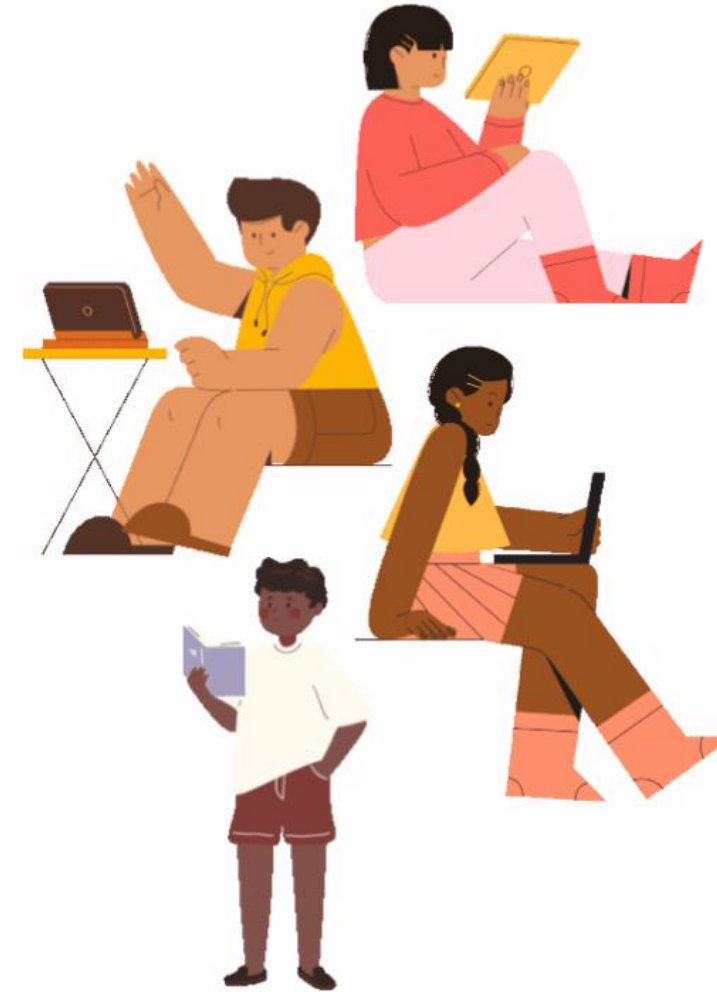
- Passed during the 2013 legislative session, the Literacy-Based Promotion Act (LBPA) places an emphasis on grade-level reading skills, particularly as students' progress through grades K-3.

Universal Screener	Kindergarten Readiness	3rd Grade MAAP-ELA	Parental Notification	Good Cause Exemption Webinar

Istation

DATA RECOGNITION
DRC
CORPORATION

MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

The Mississippi Academic Assessment Program (MAAP) measures students' knowledge, skills, and academic growth from elementary through high school.
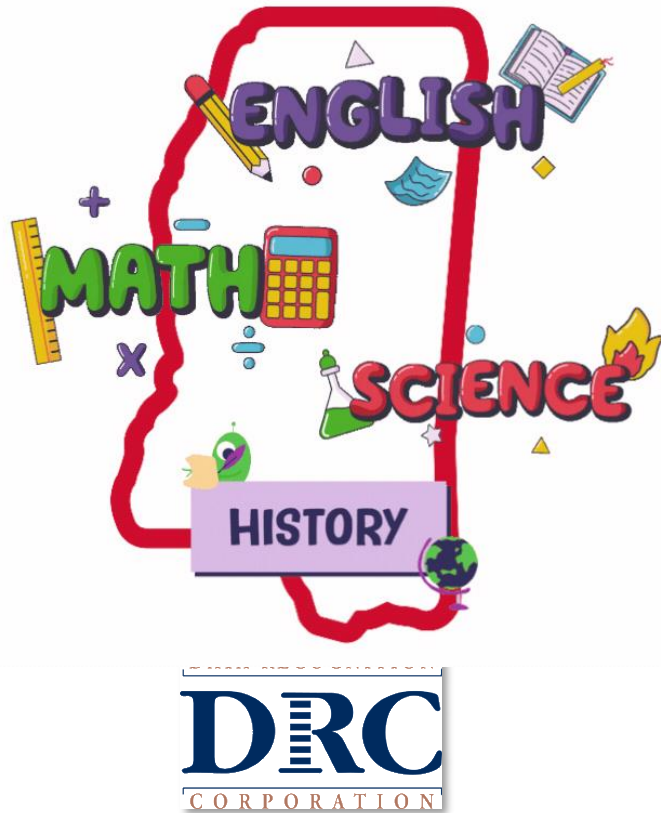
- Student progress is measured from annual assessments in Grades 3 through 8 Mathematics and English Language Arts (ELA), Grades 5 and 8 Science, and in End-of-Course (EOC) assessments in Algebra I, English II, Biology, and U.S. History.
- MAAP is administered online for all students. Students with Individual Education Plans (IEP), 504 Plans, or Language Service Plans (LSP) may be assessed via Paper/Pencil, Large Print, or Braille according to their plans.
- MAAP results are reported in two ways for Mathematics, ELA, Science, and U.S. History. Each student receives a scale score and a performance level between 1 and 5 (1-Minimal, 2-Basic, 3-Pass, 4-Proficient, or 5-Advanced).
- MAAP assessments are designed to inform parents about how their child is progressing and to provide teachers with information to guide instruction.

- The Mississippi Academic Assessment Program-Alternate (MAAP-A) is administered to students with the **most significant cognitive disabilities (SCD) who meet grade level and eligibility criteria** that are determined by the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) using State Board Policy Chapter 74, Rule 74.19 established eligibility criteria.

- Per the Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, the MAAP-A students taking end-of-course subjects (Alternate Biology, Alternate English II, Alternate Algebra I) must be enrolled in the course when they take the assessment.

What is NAEP?

- The <u>only</u> assessment that measures what U.S. students know and can do in various subjects across the nation, states, and in some cases, urban districts.

- NAEP measures overall student performance, performance changes over time, and differences between the nation, states, and urban districts.

- NAEP results are released as "The Nation's Report Card"

- Results from tests administered in 2024 will be released January 28, 2025

- <u>www.nationsreportcard.gov</u>

MISSISSIPPI TESTING ACCOMMODATIONS MANUAL

JULY 1, 2022
OFFICE OF STUDENT ASSESSMENT
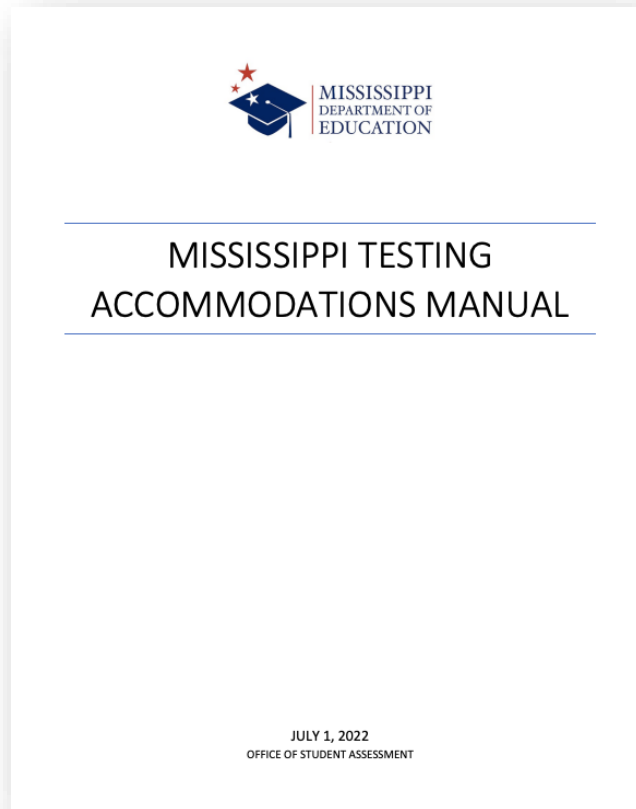
All state testing accommodations are classroom accommodations.

Not all classroom accommodations are state testing accommodations.

The Mississippi Testing Accommodations Manual (MTAM) establishes guidelines to use for the selection and administration of accessibility features and accommodations for the assessment of all students: students with disabilities (including students with significant cognitive disabilities [SCD]), English learners (ELs), ELs with disabilities (including ELs with SCD), students with a diagnosis of dyslexia, and students without an identified disability or EL status.

- The (IEP, 504 Plan, or LSP) **team** makes decisions about accommodations and/or accessibility features for the respective assessment(s) the student will take during the current academic year.

- Please make sure the team members are using the Mississippi Testing Accommodations Manual, July 2022 when making decisions about accommodations and accessibility features.

- Accommodations selected must neither alter the construct of the assessment nor interfere with what the assessment purports to measure.

- **What is it?**
  - The primary goal of test security is to protect the integrity of the examination and to assure that results are valid and reliable.
- **Why is it important?**
  - Accurate assessment results depend upon the security and integrity of the tests administered through the Mississippi Statewide Assessment System.
- **Who is Responsible for Test Security?**
  - Everyone who works with the high-stakes assessments, communicates test results, and/or receives testing information is responsible for test security. This includes:
    - Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) staff;
    - District Administrators;
    - District Test Coordinators (DTCs);
    - School Test Coordinators (STCs);
    - Students, parents, and the community at large; and
    - Certified and non-certified public-school staff.

For additional information, please refer to Appendix F of the Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards.

What is a testing irregularity?

A testing irregularity is any occurrence during a test administration that meets one or more of the following criteria:

- constitutes a breach in test security

- inappropriately influences student performance

- inappropriately influences the reporting of student performance

- results in the improper implementation of statewide student testing

- We've had reports and tips in the past about districts allowing food in the testing area during a test to guide students in how to respond to test questions or the writing prompt.

  - ✓ Ensure that no food is allowed in the testing area during testing (i.e., Oreo cookies, Krabby Patties during ELA writing, etc.,).

  - ✓ Drinks are okay for staff- No labels on plastic water bottles for students

  - ✓ Food needed to treat a medically diagnosed condition is fine (i.e., glucose tablets or comparable food item),

- NO CELLULAR COMMUNICATION DEVICES

  - ✓ Cell phones used to capture, and post-test content is still an issue

Social Media

Pictures on various social media platforms

What is Caveon?
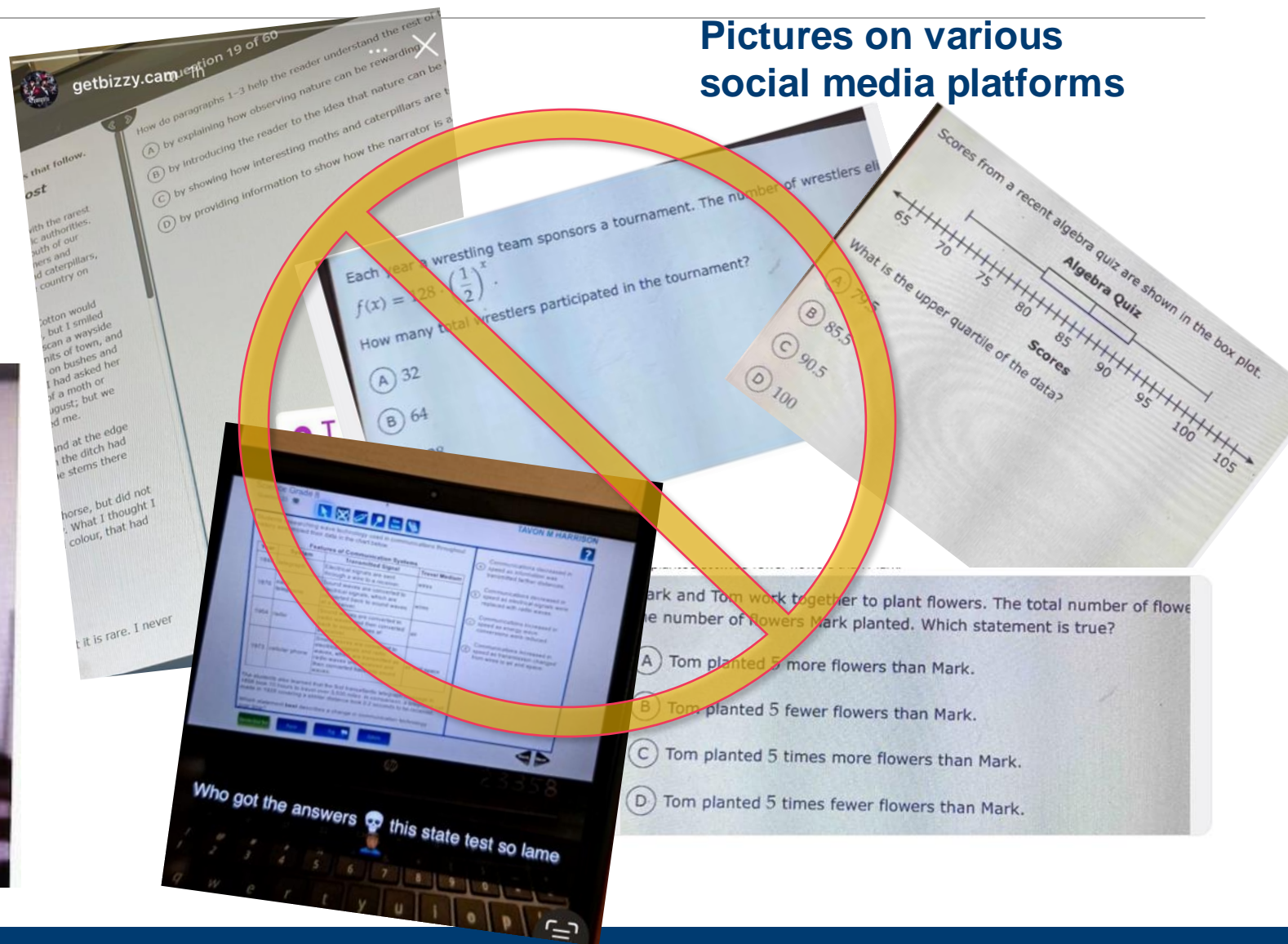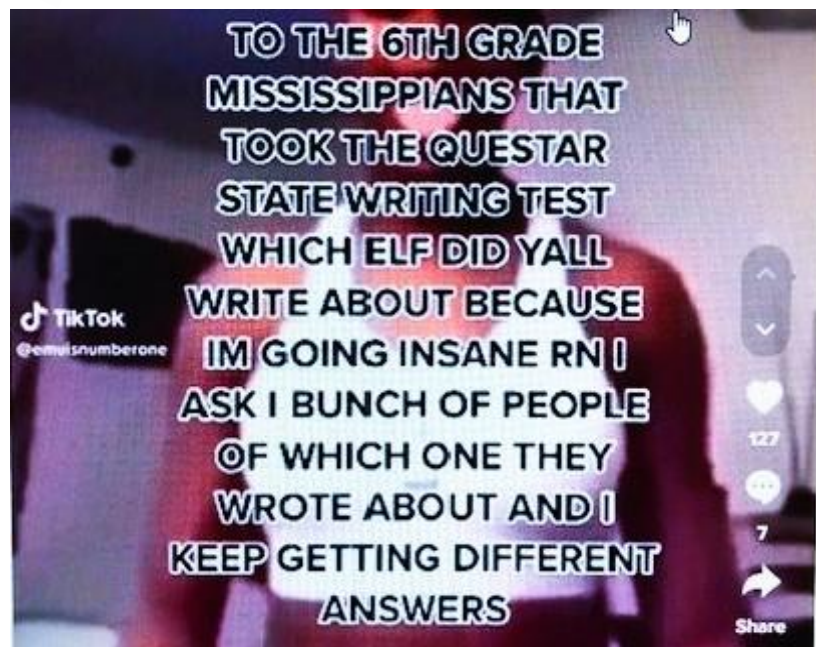
- **Caveon Inc.** is a data forensics company which uses standard and proprietary methods of data forensic analysis to provide a comprehensive test security evaluation of Mississippi's statewide assessment data.

- Testing data analyzed by Caveon includes but is not limited to, a student's score, the similarity of responses amongst tests of the same subject and grade level at each school, timing (total time to take test, time on each question, pacing, etc.), answer changes, and other keystroke data.

- Our testing vendors for MAAP submit a "keystroke" file of each student taking a test. Caveon, Inc. takes these huge files and carefully analyzes the unique keystroke data to identify statistical anomalies that identify possible testing irregularities.

- For End-of-Course Testing, Caveon analyzes all data files right after Fall and Spring test administrations and submits a report of suspect scores and automatically issues invalidation letters for EOC students whose tests exhibit similar patterns of responses. This practice has been ongoing for many years.

- For All grades and subjects, Caveon develops and provides MDE a report detailing schools of whose testing data demonstrates occurrences of possible testing irregularities. Caveon utilizes several types of statistical measures (flags) in their analysis.

- The two statistical measures detailed in the Caveon report which provide the strongest indications of test collusion.

- These reports are delivered to the MDE in early July.

- We also collect district self-reporting, anonymous tips and letters, and reports from auditors along with our own auditing on vendor systems. Sometimes all evidence collected leads to requiring the district to conduct their own investigations.

- If one of your schools is identified as having possible irregularities, OSA will notify you via letter to initiate a formal investigation. The letter will contain two attachments:

  - Attachment A: List of tests identified in analysis; Provides Student MSIS number subject area test

  - Attachment B: Copy of *Appendix F* from current year Public School Accountability Standards

- Appendix F provides the District fifteen (15) working days to complete and submit their investigation to OSA (Section V of Document)

1. Form an Investigation team

- Led by the District; can include administrators from the school and legal personnel to advise *People you Trust*

- Assign roles and responsibilities to each member of the team

2. Develop your plan:
Gather and review preliminary information

- Seating charts
- Testing rosters
- Staff Involved

- Develop a questionnaire
  - ➢ One for Students
  - ➢ One for Staff

- Subject area considerations
  - ➢ Grade 3 v. EOC

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

3. Conduct Interviews

- Interviews are conducted in a neutral and non-confrontational manner

- Adhere to the advice of the District's attorney when conducting any interviews

- Do not conduct the interview alone
  - You need a witness to the interview
  - Second person can record responses
  - If interviewee writes a statement, make sure they sign and date it. Have interviewer or witness sign the statement as well.

- Conduct interviews at a time, manner, and place to prevent interviewees the opportunity to collude OR compel others involved to provide false statements. (AKA: Get our story straight/ witness intimidation)

MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

4. Document the Investigation

- Create a comprehensive report outlining the investigation process, findings, and outcomes

- Ensure student confidentiality and sensitivity in the documentation

- Include the District's conclusions

5. Communicate Findings

- Submit the cumulative investigation to the OSA

- Local School Board

- Parents/ Guardians

- OEM (If necessary)

Questions

Accountability

- Resetting A-F rating standards for schools and districts

- New Readiness component to replace Acceleration and CCR

- Possible changes to growth measures in PL3 (3A, 3B, 3C)

- Updated annual goals for the EL progress component

- Removal of US History from accountability measures

- Changes to exit requirements for CSI and ATSI schools

MS Code Ann. Section 37-17-6(5)(c)

Standards for student, school and school district performance will be increased when student proficiency is at a seventy-five percent (75%) and/or when sixty-five percent (65%) of the schools and/or school districts are earning a grade of "B" or higher, in order to raise the standard on performance after targets are met

	2022	2023	2024
Districts	55.9%	71.2%	70.3%
Schools	61.2%	73.8%	66.7%

General Approaches

- **Norm-referenced**
  - Standards are based on the desired distribution of performance for schools or districts
  - For example: Only 10% of schools should get an "A"

- **Criterion-referenced**
  - Standards are based on a performance definition or profile
  - For example: to get an "A," 90% of students must be proficient or meet growth targets.

- **Hybrid**
  - Combines elements of both norm and criterion-referenced approaches
  - The federal requirements to determine the threshold for CSI is an example of a hybrid approach.
    - Must include all high schools with graduation rates less than 67% (criterion)
    - Must be at least 5% (normative)

Readiness Component

READING	MATH	OTHER SUBJECTS	GRADUATION 4-YEAR	ACCELERATION	COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS	ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROGRESS
Proficiency 95 PTS	Proficiency 95 PTS	Science Proficiency 47.5 PTS	4-year Cohort Rate 190 PTS	Performance 23.75 PTS	ACT Performance 47.5 PTS *Or*	Progress to Proficiency 50 PTS
Growth All Students 95 PTS	Growth All Students 95 PTS	U.S. History Proficiency 47.5 PTS		Participation 23.75 PTS	ACT WorkKeys Option 47.5 PTS	
Growth Lowest 25% 95 PTS	Growth Lowest 25% 95 PTS					

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Proposed Readiness Index

Acceleration	Participation Calculation 25 Points Maximum			Performance Calculation 25 Points Maximum		50 Maximum
	The numerator for the Participation component calculation will be the number of students taking accelerated courses and/or related exams. The denominator for the Participation component calculation shall include all students in 11th or 12th grade plus any 9th or 10th grade students who take and pass accelerated assessments and associated courses where applicable. (No additional fractional weighting)			The numerator for the Performance component calculation will be the number of students taking and passing accelerated assessments/courses such as AP, IB, AICE, dual credit, dual enrollment, or industry certification courses. The denominator for the Performance component calculation will consist of all students participating in the courses and/or tests identified in the participation calculations.		
Achievement	**0/1**	**.25/1**	**.5/1**	**.75/1**	**1/1**	**50 Maximum**
	Does not graduate or earn qualifying equivalancy by end of 5th year of 9th grade cohort	Approved diploma equivalency by 5th year or 5th year graduate	Traditional Graduate	Diploma with Academic or Career/ Technical or JROTC Endorsement	Diploma with Distinguished Academic Endorsement or Career/ Technical endorsement or JROTC Endorsement with equivalent distinguished measures	
Assessment	**0/1**	**.25/1**	**.5/1**	**.75/1**	**1/1**	**50 Maximum**
	Does not attain qualifying assessment score	ACT ≥ 15 Superscore or 850 SAT	ACT 17 English AND 17 Math or 930 SAT	ACT 18 English OR 22 Reading AND ACT 22 Math or 1080 SAT	ACT ≥ 25 Superscore or 1210 SAT	
		ACT WorkKeys Bronze or ASVAB/AFQT 31	ACT WorkKeys Silver or ASVAB/ AFQT 50	ACT WorkKeys Gold or ASVAB/ AFQT 65	ACT WorkKeys Platinum or ASVAB/ AFQT 93	

Indicators	Current Points	Revised Points
Proficiency Reading	95	95
Proficiency Math	95	95
Proficiency Science	47.5	47.5
Proficiency U.S. History	47.5	0
Growth Reading	95	95
Growth Math	95	95
Growth L25 Reading	95	95
Growth L25 Math	95	95
Graduation Rate	190	190
Readiness	95	142.5
English Language Progress	50	50
	1000	**1000**

Examining Growth

- The MDE has received feedback suggesting that growth points should be examined.

- In particular, there is concern that growth does not adequately reward progress in regions of the scale - namely the 'pass' range.
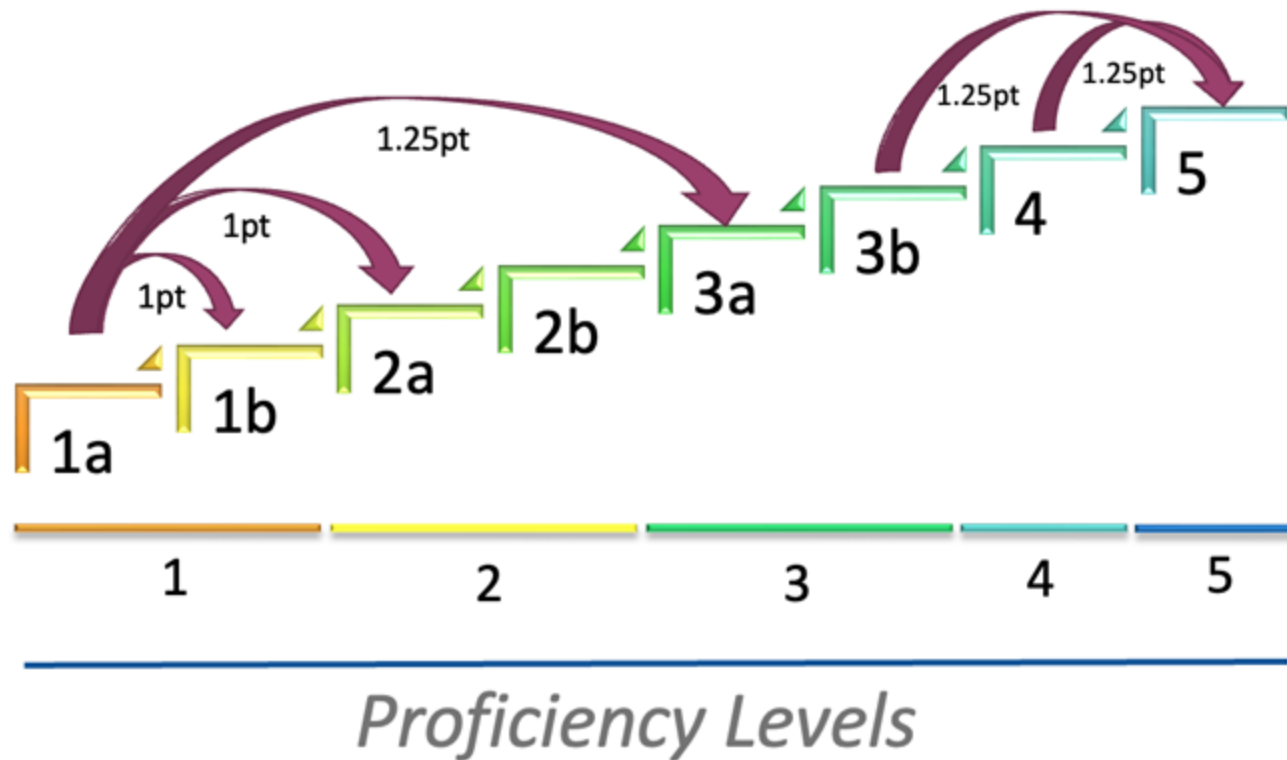
Earning Growth Points:

- Moving 1 *Growth** level = 1 pt

- Moving 2 *Proficiency** levels = 1.25 pts

- Moving from any lower level to level 5 = 1.25 pts

- Staying at level 5 = 1.25 pts

Prior Year Math PL	Level 1		Level 2		Level 3			Level 4	Level 5	
	1	2	3	4	5	5.5	6	7	8	Grand Total
0	141	1616	3709	6724	6181	7173	8167	11684	11344	56739
1	176	4648	8023	7963	9162	10108	8435	35076		83591
1.25	66	3334	1086	2484	129	227	585	9912	25338	43161
Grand Total	383	9598	12818	17171	15472	17508	17187	56672	36682	183491
Percent Meeting Growth	63.2%	83.2%	71.1%	60.8%	60.1%	59.0%	52.5%	79.4%	69.1%	
Percent by Prof. Level	82.4%		65.2%		57.1%					

Prior Year Math PL	Level 1		Level 2		Level 3		Level 4	Level 5	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Grand Total
0	141	1624	3709	6724	11777	12579	11684	11344	59582
1	176	4651	8023	7963	13825	11034	35076		80748
1.25	66	3336	1086	2484	227	712	9912	25338	43161
Grand Total	383	9611	12818	17171	25829	24325	56672	36682	183491
Percent Meeting Growth	63.2%	83.1%	71.1%	60.8%	54.4%	48.3%	79.4%	69.1%	
Percent by Prof. Level	82.3%		65.2%		51.4%				

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Prior Year ELA PL	Level 1		Level 2		Level 3			Level 4	Level 5	
	1	2	3	4	5	5.5	6	7	8	Grand Total
0	198	5631	5297	7283	12052	8622	15504	13409	8251	76247
1	718	5164	4882	5838	10809	9088	8393	25913		70805
1.25	97	1850	425	995	248	1820	1052	11983	17856	36326
Grand Total	1013	12645	10604	14116	23109	19530	24949	51305	26107	183378
Percent Meeting Growth	80.5%	55.5%	50.0%	48.4%	47.8%	55.9%	37.9%	73.9%	68.4%	
Percent by Prof. Level	57.3%		49.1%		51.5%					

Prior Year ELA PL	Level 1		Level 2		Level 3		Level 4	Level 5	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Grand Total
0	212	6120	5883	8258	16880	18495	15441	9014	80303
1	783	5564	5404	6569	10069	9722	28611		66722
1.25	105	2031	459	1136	285	1141	12614	18582	36353
Grand Total	1100	13715	11746	15963	27234	29358	56666	27596	183378
Percent Meeting Growth	80.7%	55.4%	49.9%	48.3%	38.0%	37.0%	72.8%	67.3%	
Percent by Prof. Level	57.3%		49.0%		37.5%				

Progress in English Language Proficiency

- The MDE has transitioned to a new English Language Proficiency Test (ELPT)
  - LAS Links will be replaced by ELPA 21
- Since the tests are not comparable, this necessitates changes to the progress in English language proficiency indicator
- We think this is also an opportunity to refine and improve this indicator

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

- Include progress in achieving English language proficiency as defined by the state and measured by the state's approved English language proficiency assessment
- In each of grades 3-8 and in the 9-12 grade band
- Progress should be based on a state determined timeline
  - Note progress to proficiency rules out strictly norm-based growth approaches

- Each EL student receives a progress goal based on 5 years to
- The annual progress goal is equal to the minimum overall scale score needed to achieve proficiency at year five (5), minus the prior year overall scale divided by the number of years the student had remaining to exit the EL program in the prior year.
- A value between 0 and 1 is calculated for each EL student based on the extent to which they achieved the annual progress goal.
- Example:
  - Student in year 1 is 100 points from proficiency.
  - The student must progress 20 points. (100/5 = 20)
  - In year 2 the student progressed 15 points.
  - The student earns .75 points (15/20 = .75)

MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

- Currently the expectation is 5 years or less
- Based on analyses conducted by Dr. Pete Goldschmidt using data from other ELPA21 states, time to exit varies based on Initial Performance Level (IPL)
- Students in IPL 1 need 6 or more years
- Dr. Goldschmidt research also revealed that it's important to establish meaningful IPLs
  - For example, dividing the scale or performance levels into equal intervals places too few students in the lower IPLs creating unrealistic progress targets

Mean Time to Proficiency

IPL	Mean Estimated Years		Expected time to Proficiency	
1	6.5		6	
2	6.2		5	
3	5.9		4	
4	5.1		3	
5	3.9		2	
6	1.2		1	
Overall	5.2			

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

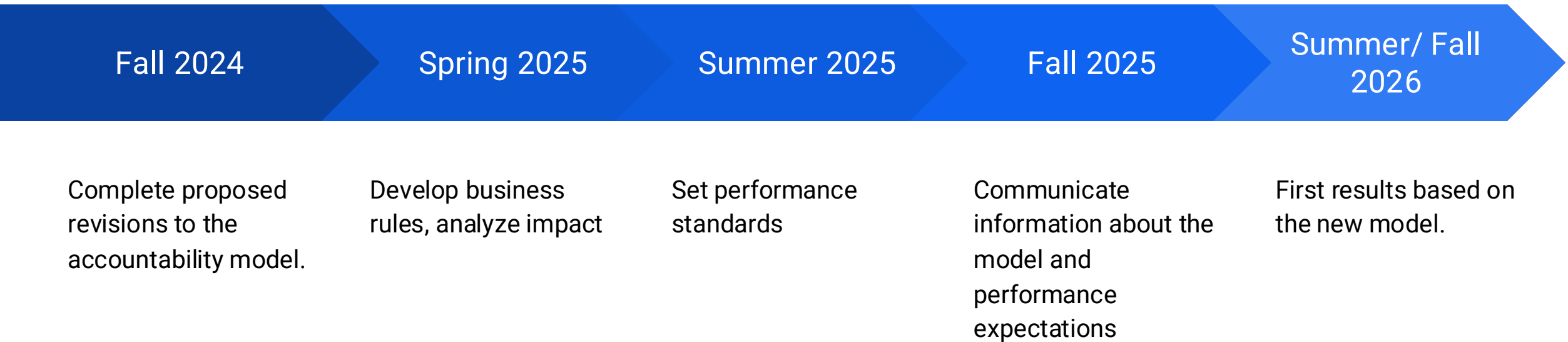| Baseline Year	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Emerging Low	Emerging High	Progressing Low	Progressing Medium	Progressing High	Proficient
Emerging High	Progressing Low	Progressing Medium	Progressing High	Proficient	
Progressing Low	Progressing Medium	Progressing High	Proficient		
Progressing Medium	Progressing High	Proficient			
Progressing High	Proficient				

- This example is from Nebraska.
- Requires dividing the ELPA21 levels of Emerging and Progressing into subcategories of Low and High and setting a scale score threshold for each category at each grade.
- Once that is done, MDE can use the same procedures for calculating points each year. For example, the gap between a student's score in Emerging High and Progressing Low represents the target. The percent of that target attained = earned points.

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Should MDE re-evaluate the progress criterion to exit? The progress criterion requires an increase in letter grade or progresses that crosses the midpoint.

Remember, schools must no longer meet the criteria that initially led to identification.

Alternatives:
- Any increase in the composite score
- Reduce the gap to the next letter grade by x%
  - Example: schools must reduce gap by 10%. If the gap to the next grade is 50 the school would have to improve by 2.5 points.
- Focus on growth component
  - Example: An increase in the low 25 growth score for ELA and math
- Combination:
  - Example: any increase in composite score that includes an increase in low 25 growth

MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

Tentative Timeline for Revisions

Fall 2024	Spring 2025	Summer 2025	Fall 2025	Summer/ Fall 2026
Complete proposed revisions to the accountability model.	Develop business rules, analyze impact	Set performance standards	Communicate information about the model and performance expectations	First results based on the new model.

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Questions?

mdek12.org

MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION