2.0 DISTRICT ACCREDITATION POLICY

The State Board of Education, acting through the Commission on School Accreditation, is required to establish and implement a process for accountability at the public school district level. School districts are held accountable for process standards and receive an annual Accreditation Status. Standards of the performance-based accreditation system recommended by the Commission and adopted by the State Board of Education are contained in the current edition of *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards.*

2.1 ASSIGNMENT OF DISTRICT ACCREDITATION STATUSES AND LEVELS

The Commission on School Accreditation determines the annual accreditation of all public school districts in the fall of each school year based on verified accreditation data from the previous school year. An annual district accreditation status is assigned based on compliance with process standards. Information concerning district compliance with process standards is reported to the Commission on an annual basis. See Policy 2.2 below.

A district performance level is assigned based on the typical (average) performance of schools in each district using the Achievement Level Index (ALI). The Achievement Level Index (ALI) is a different metric for reporting school performance as calculated in the Mississippi Achievement Model. The ALI concept and the use of averaged ALI values as a measure of district level performance were formally approved by the State Board of Education (SBE) on May 19, 2006, after having cleared the Administrative Procedures Act (APA) process.

The district superintendent and school principals are responsible for ensuring that all data reported to the Mississippi Department of Education are true and accurate as verified by supporting documentation on file in the school district. Reporting false information is a violation of the accreditation requirements set forth by the State Board of Education and may result in the downgrading of the district's accreditation status.

After the Commission takes action on accreditation records presented, the superintendent of the district is notified of the status assigned. The decision of the Commission is final unless appealed by the school board of the school district to the State Board of Education in accordance with the appeal procedures in section 5.4 of this document.

2.2 PROCESS STANDARDS

Process (input) standards address accepted educational principles and practices that are believed to promote educational quality. Any verified violation of a process standard is noted on the record of a school district at the time of discovery within any school year, but does not affect the current accreditation status of the district. (See following policy 2.5 for the exceptions.) If a noted violation of a process standard has not been corrected by the following school year when accreditation statuses are assigned, the violation is reported to the Commission for appropriate action.

The State Board of Education, acting through the Commission on School Accreditation, reserves the right to suspend school district compliance of any accreditation process standard that is not directly mandated by state or federal law. See Policy 3.5.2 for Rewards.

2.3 ACCREDITATION STATUSES

Each public school district will be assigned an annual accreditation status based on compliance with process standards as follows:

ACCREDITED is assigned to a district that complies with 100% of the process standards.

ADVISED is assigned to a district that has process standard deficiencies. The district will be required to develop a corrective action plan to address the deficiencies.

PROBATION is assigned to a district that was assigned an **Advised** status the previous school year, and the district has not taken corrective actions or has not removed the process standard deficiencies that resulted in the Advised status. The district will be required to develop a corrective action plan to address the deficiencies.

WITHDRAWN is assigned to a district that has previously been assigned a **Probation** status and still does not comply with its corrective action plan.

2.4 NOTIFICATION OF DEFICIENCIES AFTER ASSIGNMENT OF STATUS

After the annual assignment of a district's accreditation status, the process of determining statuses for the following school year begins. When information on file in the Mississippi Department of Education indicates that a school district may be in violation of a standard, the superintendent of the district is informed in writing by appropriate staff in the Department responsible for monitoring compliance with the standard. School district officials are given thirty (30) days from the date of receipt of notification to provide a written response verifying accuracy or inaccuracy of the notice of possible noncompliance with the standard.

If the written response includes appropriate evidence to correct or refute the alleged violation, the superintendent of the district is notified by appropriate staff in the Department responsible for monitoring compliance with the standard. Any verified violation of a standard is reported in writing to the Office of Accreditation, where it is noted on the current Accreditation Record Summary of the district. (See Glossary for definition of Accreditation Record Summary.) The appropriate staff member in the Office of Accreditation notifies the superintendent of the district in writing of the verified violation. Although the accreditation status of the district may not be subject to change until the next assignment of annual district status, the superintendent is required to provide a written response specifying how and when the violation will be corrected.

2.5 FACTORS AFFECTING CHANGE IN ACCREDITATION STATUS

An assigned accreditation status may remain unchanged during that school year except in those cases where verified noncompliance with financial standards (See Appendix H), the testing standard (See Appendix F), standards for Safe and Healthy Schools (See standards 35, 36, and 37), continued noncompliance with federal regulations, or reporting false information may downgrade a status immediately. When the district has verified correction of deficiencies in meeting all process standards previously cited as deficiencies on the district's Accreditation Record Summary, the accreditation status will be upgraded.

A district's accreditation status may also be affected if one of its schools continues to be designated as a Priority School after three (3) years of implementing a school improvement plan, or if more than fifty percent (50%) of the schools within the district are designated as Priority Schools in any one (1) year. (See policies under section 3.0.)

Action of the Commission is required in any case.

3.5 RECOGNITION AND REWARDS

The State Board of Education shall provide special recognition and/or rewards to individual schools receiving Superior-Performing (Level 5) or Exemplary (Level 4) designation and school districts assigned an Achievement Level Index (ALI) of Level 5 and Level 4.

3.5.1 RECOGNITION

Special recognition will be provided to all Superior-Performing (Level 5) and Exemplary (Level 4) schools. Examples of recognition include, but are not limited to the following:

- Public announcements and events;
- Special recognition of student progress and effort;
- Certificates of recognition and plaques for teachers, principals, superintendents, support and classified personnel and parents; and
- Media announcements utilizing the services of the Mississippi Educational Television.

3.5.2 REWARDS

Rewards may be provided for Superior-Performing (Level 5) and Exemplary (Level 4) schools and school districts assigned an Achievement Level Index (ALI) of Level 5 and Level 4 as follows:

3.5.2.1 Exemptions for Level 5 and Level 4 Schools

Superior-Performing (Level 5) and Exemplary (Level 4) schools may be exempted from citations of noncompliance with the process standards listed below. For specific details, refer to each process standard referenced below.

- Library Media/Organized Collection (Standard 24.1)
- Library Media Program of Service (Standard 24.2)
- High School Science Laboratory (Standard 25)
- Limit on Course Preparations (Standard 31)
- Student Teacher Ratios in Grades 1-4 (Standard 34.2)
- Limit of 150 Students Per Teacher in Academic Core Subjects (Standard 34.5)

3.5.2.2 Exemptions for Level 5 and Level 4 Districts

School districts assigned an Achievement Level Index (ALI) of Level 5 and Level 4 may be exempted from citations of noncompliance with the process standards listed below. For specific details, refer to each process standard referenced below.

- Community Involvement/Parental Communication/Business Partnerships (Standard 18)
- Senior Preparation for Graduation Ceremonies (Standard 19.5)
- Summer School Program Requirements (Standard 19.6)
- Professional Development Plan/Program (Standard 21)
- Early Childhood Programs (kindergarten and teacher assistant) (Standard 23.1)
- Instructional Management System (Standard 27.1)
- Suggested Teaching Strategies, Resources, and Assessment Strategies (Standard 27.2)

3.5.2.3 Financial Rewards

If funds are appropriated by the legislature, Superior-Performing (Level 5) and Exemplary (Level 4) schools may apply to the State Board of Education for monetary incentives to be used for selected school needs, as identified by a vote of all licensed

and instructional personnel employed at the school. These incentive funds may be used for specific needs, including, but not limited to the following:

- Funding for professional development activities; staff participating in such activities will report to the school and school district about the benefits and lessons learned from such training;
- Technology needs;
- Sabbaticals for teachers or administrators, or both, to pursue additional professional development or educational enrichment;
- Paid professional leave; and
- Training for parents, including, but not limited to, curriculum, Chapter I, special need students, student rights and responsibility, school and community relations, and effective parenting.

PROCESS STANDARDS

ADMINISTRATION AND PERSONNEL

1. School board members complete required basic and continuing education programs in order to effectively perform their duties in the manner prescribed by law. {MS Code 25-41-1 et. al; 25-61-1 through 17; 37-3-4(5); 37-6-7, 9, 11, and 15; and 37-7-306(1-4)}

2. School board policies that comply with state and federal statutes, rules, and regulations serve as the basis of operation for the district, and current copies of school board policies are published and available for public review. {MS Code 25-41-7; 25-61-1 through 17; 37-9-1 through 75; 37-9-101 through 113; 37-7-301(p)(w); and Federal Civil Rights Act of 1964}

3. The school board assigns all executive and administrative duties to the superintendent, who is properly licensed and chosen in the manner prescribed by law. {MS Code 37-6-3(3-4); 37-9-7, 13, 14; 37-61-9; and 37-151-5(h)}

4. The school district employs an appropriately licensed full-time principal at each school. {MS Code 37-9-7, 37-9-15, and ***37-19-1(c)}***

   Proposed Revision: Add reference to MS Code 37-19-1(c).

   Rationale: To include the legal reference to the definition of a principal

5. The school district employs in each school a licensed librarian or media specialist who devotes no more than one-fourth of the workday to library/media administrative activities. {MS Code 37-17-6(3)(a-e)}
   - 5.1 If the student enrollment is 499 or less, a half-time licensed librarian or media specialist is required.
   - 5.2 If the student enrollment is 500 or more, a full-time licensed librarian or media specialist is required.

6. Student support services (appraisal, academic, and/or personal advisement, and educational and/or career planning and referral) are provided in each school by qualified student support personnel as follows: {MS Code 37-9-79}
   - 6.1 Student support services are provided in each high school by at least a half-time appropriately licensed guidance counselor.
   - 6.2 Students in elementary schools have access to the required student support services provided by qualified student support personnel (e.g., guidance counselor, social worker, nurse, psychologist, psychometrist, etc.).

   Note: Student support personnel may only provide those services and activities in the area(s) that each individual is specifically qualified to provide. All student support personnel will use appropriate job titles that reflect their area of training, expertise, and license. For example, a Social Worker will be referred to as the School Social Worker and may not use the title of or be referred to as the School Guidance Counselor.

7. The school district employs a school business officer/administrator whose qualifications meet the criteria established by the Mississippi Department of Education and whose primary job responsibilities are conducting, supervising, and/or directing the financial affairs and operations of the school district. (SB Policy GBBA)

Proposed Revision: None. Although this standard is not required by law, no exemptions will be allowed.

Rationale: Every district must have a school business officer or administrator on staff for financial accountability.

8. All district professional positions requiring licensed staff are filled by staff ***that*** are properly licensed and endorsed ***as required by state law and federal requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB).*** {MS Code 37-9-7} (IDDBB 2, 3, ***NCLB,*** and Federal Code)
   - 8.1 ***With the exception of academic core subjects,*** the professional staff in each school is comprised of no more than 5% of Full Time Equivalent (FTE) units working outside the area or areas of endorsement. An appropriate license is required for superintendents, principals, librarians, and guidance counselors. (Refer to process standards 3, 4, 5, and 6.)
   - 8.2 Secondary teachers endorsed in an academic subject area may teach in their academic subject area in departmentalized elementary grades 5 and 6. (SB Policy DFB-1)
   - 8.3 Assistant principals and administrative interns who are not properly endorsed may be included in the 5% FTE working outside their area of endorsement, provided that they do not act in the place of the principal.

Proposed Revision: Add a reference to No Child Left Behind in standard 8 and clarify the wording of 8.1 to exclude academic core subjects from the 5% allowed to work out of field.

Rationale: To conform with full implementation of No Child Left Behind and requirements for highly qualified professionals.

9. The school district implements a formal personnel appraisal system for licensed staff that includes assessment of employee on-the-job performance. {MS Code 37-3-46(b)}

10. The school district operates with a uniform system of accounts as specified in state law and as prescribed by the State Auditor's Office. {MS Code 37-9-18, 37-37-1, 37-37-3, 37-17-6(16), 37-37-7, 37-37-13, 37-61-19 and 37-61-23}
    - 10.1 The board of education has implemented a fixed asset system of accountability that complies with the standards established by the State Auditor's Office for the verification of fixed assets and the auditing of fixed assets records. {MS Code 37-17-6(16)}
    - 10.2 The financial accounting data and the corresponding annual audit report as submitted to the Mississippi Department of Education reflect no less than a zero fund balance (as defined by generally accepted accounting principles) for all funds of the school district. {MS Code 37-61-19}
    - 10.3 The most recent annual audit report of the school district, as conducted under the guidelines of the State Auditor's Office, indicates that the auditor has issued an unqualified opinion (as defined by generally accepted auditing standards) on the general purpose financial statement of the school district. {MS Code 37-9-18, 37-37-1, and 37-61-23}
    - 10.4 The most recent annual audit report of the school district, as conducted under the guidelines of the State Auditor's Office, verifies the accuracy, validity, and timely reporting of all student data submitted to the MDE, including but not limited to the electronic transmission of student enrollment, attendance, transportation, absenteeism, graduation, dropouts, and any

other student data and administrative functions as deemed necessary. {MS Code 37-37-7(2)(b)(c)(d) and 37-37-13}

10.5 The most recent annual audit report of the school district, as conducted under the guidelines of the State Auditor's Office, verifies the accuracy and timely reporting of all reports, other than student data, required for submission to the MDE in accordance with state law and/or State Board of Education policies. {MS Code 37-37-7(2)(e) and 37-37-13}

11. The local school board budgets and expends funds as follows:

11.1 The local school board of education budgets and expends from the District Maintenance Fund (Fund #1120) a minimum of $20.00 per student for instructional/library supplies, materials, and equipment.

Proposed Revision: None. No exemptions will be allowed for this standard.

Rationale: Although this standard is not required by law, the $20.00 per student is an absolute minimum for the school district to budget and expend for all instructional supplies, materials, and equipment, including library/media materials and equipment.

11.2 Funds available for classroom supplies, materials, and equipment from the Education Enhancement Fund (Fund #2440) are allotted and expended in compliance with Section 37-61-33, *Mississippi Code of 1972*, as amended, and State Board of Education Policy DFBI.

11.3 The local school board budgets and expends funds under the Public School Health Insurance Plan as required by state law and State Board policy. Failure to remit premiums, interest penalties and/or late charges in a timely manner may result in withholding a school district's adequate education program funds. {MS Code 37-151-95} (SB Policy DFBG-1)

SCHOOL OPERATIONS

12. The school district complies with state law and State Board of Education policy on enrollment requirements.

12.1 Residency requirements {MS Code 37-15-29} (SB Policy JBCA)

12.2 Immunization requirements {MS Code 37-7-301(i), 37-15-1, and 41-23-37}

12.3 Age of entry requirements {MS Code 37-15-9}

13. Any transfer student from a school or program (correspondence, tutorial, or home study) not accredited regionally or by a state board of education [or its designee(s)] is given either a standardized achievement test(s) or teacher-made special subject test(s) to determine the appropriate classification of the student within 30 days after filing for transfer. Notice of the administering of such test(s) shall be given to the applicant not less than five days prior to the date of the administration of such test. {MS Code 37-15-33} (SB Policy IHF-2)

14. Permanent records and cumulative folders for individual students contain all required data and are collected, maintained, and disseminated in compliance with state law, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, and the Confidentiality Section of the Individuals with Disabilities Act, 1997 Amendments. (See Appendix E and the current edition of *Mississippi Cumulative Folders and Permanent Records Manual of Directions*.) {MS Code 37-15-1 through 3; 37-15-6; 37-15-10}

15. The school district engages in planning to review the educational status of each school in the district and to address specific actions relative to accreditation and performance separately. ***{MS Code 37-3-49(2)(e)}*** **DELETE: (Level 4 and 5 schools are exempted.)**

Proposed Revisions: Add the reference to MS Code 37-3-49(2)(e) and delete the reference to Level 4 and 5 schools are exempted.

Rationale: An annual review of the educational status of each school and planning for school improvement are required by state law.

16. The school district implements procedures for monitoring and reporting student absences as specified in the Mississippi Compulsory Attendance Law. {MS Code 37-13-91} (SB Policy JBD)

17. The school district develops a dropout prevention plan and implements programs designed to keep students in school and to lower student dropout rates. {MS Code 37-3-46(c) and 37-21-9} (*No Child Left Behind Act of 2001*)

18. There is an organized system to encourage community involvement, parental communication, and business partnerships in school district decision-making. {MS Code 37-7-337} ***(Level 4 and 5 districts are exempted.)***

Proposed Revision: Add a note that Level 4 and 5 districts are exempted.

Rationale: MS Code 37-7-337 includes an automatic exemption for Level 4 and 5 districts.

19. The academic year provides a minimum of 180 teaching days in which both teachers and pupils are in regular attendance for scheduled classroom instruction for not less than sixty percent (60%) of the normal school day. {MS Code 37-3-49, 37-13-61 through 69, 37-151-5(j), and 37-151-7(3)(d)}

19.1 **DELETED.** The opening date of the school year for students is scheduled no earlier than August 1 and the closing date no later than June 15. {MS Code 37-13-61} (SB Policy AEA)

Proposed Revision: Delete this standard.

Rationale: MS Code 37-13-61 was revised to give the local school district the authority to set the opening and closing school dates.

19.2 The teaching day must provide at least 330 minutes of instruction per day or 27.5 hours per five-day week. {MS Code 37-13-67}

19.3 The school district 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 ½ unit offered, except for accelerated learning programs and remedial instructional programs that are proficiency based. A traditional 7-period day schedule must provide at least 48 minutes per period, and A/B and 4 x 4 block schedules must provide at least 94 minutes.

19.4 No more than two of the 180 days may be 60% days, unless the district is utilizing an Early Release schedule that provides at least 27.5 hours per five-day week provided that there are at least 198 minutes of actual instruction or testing and the remainder of each 60% day is used for professional development or other activities related to instruction. {MS Code 37-151-5(j)}

19.5 The school district schedules preparation for graduation ceremonies in such manner that graduating seniors are absent from classes for no more than three days prior to the end of the school year (177 days). ***(Level 4 and 5 districts are exempted.)***

Proposed Revision: Add a note that Level 4 and 5 districts are automatically exempted.
Rationale: This standard is not required by law.

19.6 The summer school/extended year program meets all applicable requirements of the regular school program. {MS Code 37-3-49}

- Students from other schools enrolled in summer programs provide written approval from the principal of their home schools.
- Students enrolled in an extended year program complete all remaining course/subject requirements/objectives before credit for the course/subject is issued. {MS Code 37-3-49}
- Students enrolled in a summer program are limited to earning one Carnegie unit of credit during ***a traditional*** summer school session, ***which does not apply to Extended Year programs. (Level 4 and 5 districts may be exempted under MS Code 37-17-11.)***

Note: Any exceptions to the above standard must be submitted to the Commission on School Accreditation for review and action.

Proposed Revision: Add a note that Level 4 and 5 districts may be exempted under MS Code 37-17-11 and that action by the Commission is required. Include additional language to address a *traditional* summer school program and Extended Year program.

Rationale: The additional language will clarify that the limit of one Carnegie unit only applies to courses taken during a traditional summer school session. Although this standard is not required by law, a request for an exemption must be submitted to the Commission on School Accreditation for review and action.

Note: If the Governor has declared a disaster emergency or the President of the United States has declared an emergency or major disaster to exist in this state, the local school board may request approval from the State Board of Education to operate the schools in its district for less than one hundred eighty (180) days. {MS Code 37-151-7(3)(d)}

20. The school district requires each student, in order to receive a high school diploma, to have met the requirements established by its local board of education and by the State Board of Education. {MS Code 37-16-7} (SB Policy IHF-1 and 2)

20.1 Each student receiving a standard high school diploma has earned the minimum number of Carnegie units as specified in Appendix A. (See Appendix A.) (SB Policy ICFA-1)

- **Seniors of school year 2004-2005, 2005-2006, 2006-2007, and 2007-2008 are required to have a minimum of 20 Carnegie units.**
- **Entering ninth graders in 2005-2006 and thereafter (seniors of school year 2008-2009 and later) are required to have a minimum of 21 Carnegie units.**

20.2 Each student receiving a standard diploma has achieved a passing score on each of the required high school exit examinations. {MS Code-37-16-7}(SB Policy IIB-1 and IHF-1 and 2)

20.3 Each student who has completed the secondary curriculum for special education may be issued a special diploma or certificate of completion, which states: "This student has successfully completed an Individualized Education Program." {MS Code 37-16-11(1)}

20.4 The student who fails to meet the graduation requirements is not permitted to participate in the graduation exercises.

Proposed Revision: None. No exemptions will be allowed for this standard.

Rationale: Although this standard is not required by law, no student will be allowed to participate in the graduation exercise unless all minimum requirements for graduation have been accomplished.

20.5 Each student with disabilities receiving a Mississippi Occupational Diploma has successfully completed all minimum requirements established by the State Board of Education. {MS Code 37-16-11(2)} (See Appendix G.)

Note: Carnegie units will be awarded in the eighth grade for the following courses: Algebra I, Computer Discovery, Pre-algebra and Transition to Algebra.

21. The school district implements a professional development program that complies with the guidelines published in Professional Development for the New Millennium. **(Level 4 and 5 *districts* are exempted.)** {MS Code 37-17-8}

Proposed Revision: Change the word *schools* to *districts* and delete *"unless exempted by the State Board of Education."*

Rationale: MS Code 37-17-8 includes an automatic exemption for Level 4 and 5 districts.

22. The school district adheres to all requirements of the Mississippi Statewide Assessment System. (See Appendix F.) {MS Code 37-16-1 through 4} (SB Policy IIB-1, 3-6 and IHF-1 and 2)

INSTRUCTIONAL PRACTICES

23. The school district is in compliance with state and/or federal requirements for the following programs:

23.1 Early Childhood Programs (kindergarten and teacher assistant) {MS Code 37-21-1 et. seq.} (SB Policy IDAC and FDD-4) (Refer to *Mississippi Kindergarten Guidelines*.) **[Level 4 and 5 districts are exempted from provisions of subsection (4) of MS Code 37-21-7.]**

Proposed Revision: Add a note that Level 4 and 5 districts are exempted.

Rationale: MS Code 37-21-7(7)(b) includes an automatic exemption for Level 4 and 5 districts from the provisions of subsection (4) of MS Code 37-21-7.

23.2 Vocational-Technical Education {MS Code 37-31-1 et. seq.} (SB Policies CT, DCK, DFBC, ECK, FJ, GBEA, IDAA, IL, JHF and Federal Code)

23.3 Special Education {MS Code 37-23-1 through 9} (SB Policies IDDF and Federal Code) [See *Mississippi Policies and Procedures regarding Children with Disabilities under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Amendments of 1997 (IDEA-97)* and the Mattie T. Consent Decree.]

23.4 Child Nutrition {MS Code 37-11-7}(SB Policies EE and EEH and Federal Code)

23.5 *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001*: Titles I, II, IV, and V, and any other federally funded programs and grants (IDDBB 2, 3 and Federal Code)

23.6 Technology in the Classroom {MS Code 37-151-19(3)} (SB Policy IM)

23.7 Driver Education {MS Code 37-25-1 et. seq.} (SB Policy IDDE)

23.8 Pre-Kindergarten ***{MS Code 37-7-301(ss)}*** (Refer to the *Mississippi Pre-Kindergarten Curriculum.*)

Proposed Revision: Add reference to MS Code 37-7-301(ss).

Rationale: To include the legal reference to pre-kindergarten programs

24. ***Each school has a library-media center. {MS Code 37-17-6(3)(a-e)}***
    24.1 Each library-media center has with an organized collection of materials and equipment that represents a broad range of current learning media, including instructional technology. **(Level 4 and 5 schools are exempted.)**
    24.2 The library staff offers a systematic program of service to students and staff by providing access to the materials and equipment, by providing instruction in the use of the materials and equipment, and by working with teachers and other staff members to provide learning activities for the students. **(Level 4 and 5 schools are exempted.)**

Proposed Revision: Revise the lead-in statement to read each school has a library-media center and add the reference to MS Code 37-17-6(3)(a-e).

Rationale: To clarify that each school must have a library-media center and include the legal reference.

25. The school district provides each student with appropriate equipment and laboratory experiences to meet the instructional requirements of the science program. (See *Mississippi Science Framework, 2001*.) ***(Level 4 and 5 schools may be exempted under MS Code 37-17-11.)***

Note: Any exceptions to the above standard must be submitted to the Commission on School Accreditation for review and action.

Proposed Revision: Add a note that Level 4 and 5 schools may be exempted under MS Code 37-17-11 and that action by the Commission is required.

Rationale: Although this standard is not required by law, a request for an exemption must be submitted to the Commission on School Accreditation for review and action due to the serious safety issues involved in the operation of a high school science lab.

26. The school district is in compliance with state law and State Board of Education policies for state adopted textbooks. {MS Code 37-43-1, 37-43-51, 37-9-14(2)(b), and 37-7-301(ff)} (Refer to the current edition of *Textbook Administration Handbook Rules and Regulations*.)
    26.1 The school district provides each student in each school with current or otherwise appropriate textbooks that are in good condition. {MS Code 37-43-1, 37-9-14(2)(b), and 37-7-301(ff)}
    26.2 Each school district shall keep an active and surplus inventory for each school in the district to be completed by June 15 of each year. The district shall report the inventory in the Textbook Inventory Management System. {MS Code 37-43-51} (Refer to page A-12 in the *Textbook Administration Handbook Rules and Regulations*.)

27. The school district implements an instructional management system that meets the following requirements: {MS Code 37-3-49}
    27.1 The school district implements an instructional management system that has been adopted by the school board and that includes, at a minimum, the competencies required in the curriculum frameworks approved by the State Board of Education. ***(Level 4 and 5 districts are exempted.)*** {MS Code 37-3-49(2)(a-b) **and 37-3-49(5)** }

Proposed Revision: Add a note that Level 4 and 5 districts are exempted and add the reference to MS Code 37-3-49(5).

Rationale: MS Code 37-3-49(5) includes an automatic exemption for Level 4 and 5 districts from the provisions of subsection (2)(a-b).

27.2 Suggested teaching strategies, resources, and assessment strategies are available to teachers in each school for selection and use in teaching the required competencies. **(Level 4 and 5 *districts* are exempted.)** {MS Code 37-3-49(2)(c) and **37-3-49(5)**}

Proposed Revision: Add a note that Level 4 and 5 districts are exempted and add the reference to MS Code 37-3-49(5).

Rationale: MS Code 37-3-49(5) includes an automatic exemption for Level 4 and 5 districts from the provisions of subsection (2)(c).

28. The district follows an established board policy that defines criteria for the academic promotion/progression/retention of students. *Such criteria prohibit the retention of students for extracurricular purposes.

***Note: This portion of the standard will be jointly monitored and enforced by the State Board of Education and the Mississippi High School Activities Association.**

Proposed Revision: None. Although this standard is not required by law, no exemptions will be allowed.

Rationale: Since promotion, retention, and progression is determined based on the requirements specified in local school district policy, there is no need for any exemptions.

29. The school district provides an alternative education and/or GED program for the categories of students identified in MS Code 37-13-92, and the program meets the guidelines established by the State Board of Education. (SB Policy IDDI-1 and 2) (See *Guidelines for Alternative/GED School Programs.*)

30. Each classroom teacher, excluding vocational teachers whose class periods exceed 50 minutes, has an unencumbered period of time during the teaching day to be used for individual or departmental planning.
    30.1 If the school utilizes a traditional six-period or seven-period day schedule, the instructional planning time provided for secondary teachers is a minimum of 225 minutes per week, exclusive of lunch period. If the school utilizes any form of a modular/block schedule, the instructional planning time provided is a minimum of either 225 minutes per week or an average of 225 minutes per week per instructional cycle, exclusive of lunch period.
    30.2 Instructional planning time for the elementary school teacher is no less than 150 minutes per week, exclusive of lunch period.

Proposed Revision: None. Although this standard is not required by law, no exemptions will be allowed.

Rationale: Instructional planning time is essential to successful implementation of the instructional program.

31. Individual teachers (grades 9-12) are limited to three course preparations per scheduling cycle or five in the same subject/content area.

Note: Any assignment of course preparations above the standard must be submitted to the Commission on School Accreditation for review and action.

Proposed Revision: None.

Rationale: To continue to allow exemptions to be considered for any school district.

32. The basic curriculum of each high school consists of required and approved courses that generate at least 33 Carnegie units annually. (See Appendices B and C.) {MS Code 37-1-3(2)} (SB Policy ICFA-1)

Note: Any request for an exemption from teaching the courses listed in Appendix B must be approved by the Commission on School Accreditation.

33. The basic curriculum of each elementary or middle school (any configuration of grades K-8) consists of reading/language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, the arts, ***health education*** and physical education, which may be taught by a regular classroom teacher. {MS Code 37-1-3(2) and 37-13-134}

Note: A regular classroom teacher may provide instruction in the arts, *health education* and physical education in a self-contained classroom setting.

Proposed Revision: Add health education.

Rationale: To include health education in the elementary curriculum.

34. Student teacher ratios do not exceed the following: {MS Code 37-151-77}
    - 34.1 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. {MS Code 37-151-77} (See *Mississippi Kindergarten Guidelines.*)
    - 34.2 Student teacher ratios do not exceed 27 to 1 in classrooms serving grades 1 through 4 unless approved by the State Board of Education. **(Level 4 and 5 schools are exempted.)** (SB Policy IEC) {MS Code 37-151-77}

Proposed Revision: None.

Rationale: MS Code 37-151-77 includes an exemption for grades 1, 2, 3, and 4 in Level 4 and 5 school districts.

- 34.3 Student teacher ratios do not exceed 30 to 1 in self-contained classes serving grades 5-8. {MS Code 37-151-77}
- 34.4 Student teacher ratios do not exceed 33 to 1 in departmentalized academic core classes serving grades 5-12. {MS Code 37-151-77}
- 34.5 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. **(Level 4 and 5 schools are exempted.) DELETE: {MS Code 37-151-77}**

Proposed Revision: Delete the reference to MS Code 37-151-77.

Rationale: The limit of no more than 150 students per teacher in academic core subjects is not specified in state law.

Note: A teacher who provides instruction through intra-district or inter-district distance learning will be exempt from the 150-student limitation. A lab facilitator or principal designee will be responsible for the assignment of grades and related activities at the receiving school.

SAFE AND HEALTHY SCHOOLS

35. The district complies with the applicable rules and regulations of the State Board of Education in the operation of its transportation program. {MS Code 37-41-53} (SB Policies ED-3, JGG-1, and IDDE)
    - 35.1 All buses are inspected on a quarterly basis and are well-maintained and clean.
    - 35.2 Each bus driver has a valid bus driver certificate and a commercial driver's license and operates the bus according to all specified safety procedures. The school district has on file a yearly motor vehicle report on each driver and evidence that each driver has received two hours of in-service training per semester.
    - 35.3 Bus schedules ensure arrival of all buses at their designated school sites prior to the start of the instructional day.
    - 35.4 Emergency bus evacuation drills are conducted at least two times each year.

36. The school district provides facilities that meet the following criteria: {MS Code 37-7-301(c)(d)(j); 37-11-5, 49; and 45-11-101}
    - 36.1 The school district provides facilities that are clean.
    - 36.2 The school district provides facilities that are safe.
    - 36.3 The school district provides operational facilities that are equipped to meet the instructional needs of students and staff.
    - 36.4 The school district provides air conditioning in all classrooms in each school. {MS Code 37-17-6(2)}

37. The district complies with the following requirements for Safe and Healthy Schools:
    - 37.1 Each school has a comprehensive School Safety Plan on file that has been approved annually by the local school board. {MS Code 37-3-81 and 37-3-83(2)} (See the School Safety Manual and the MDE School Occupational Safety and Crisis Response Plan.)
    - 37.2 Each school has a school wellness policy on file that has been approved by the local school board. (Child Nutrition Reauthorization Act of 2004)

APPENDIX B-2
REQUIRED COURSES IN THE CURRICULUM OF EACH SECONDARY SCHOOL

STANDARD 32

Effective Beginning School Year 2007-2008

CURRICULUM AREA	COURSES	UNITS	TOTAL UNITS
ENGLISH	English I English II English III English IV	1 1 1 1	**4**
MATHEMATICS	Algebra I Algebra II Geometry Pre-Algebra Transition to Algebra Elective Mathematics Courses	1 1 1 1 1 1	**6**
SCIENCE	Biology I Chemistry Physics[1] Elective Science Courses[2]	1 1 1[1] 3[2]	**6**
SOCIAL STUDIES	U.S. History U.S. Government Mississippi Studies World History Economics Intro to Geography	1 ½ ½ 1 ½ ½	**4**
BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY	Computer Discovery or ½ Keyboarding and ½ Computer Applications Personal Finance[3]	1 ½[3]	**1½**
HEALTH	Comprehensive Health or Family and Individual Health Physical Education	½ ½	**1**
THE ARTS	Any approved 500.00 course	1	**1**
FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCE	Family Dynamics	½	**½**
VOCATIONAL EDUCATION	Any combination of courses[4]	4[4]	**4**
ADVANCED PLACEMENT	***AP English and Composition or AP English Language and Composition***[5] ***AP Calculus AB or AP Statistics***[5] ***AP Biology or AP Physics***[5] ***AP U. S. History or AP World History***[5]	1[5] 1[5] 1[5] 1[5]	**4**
ELECTIVES	Foreign Language (IHL) *or* Advanced World Geography (IHL) ***Any other Elective***	1 ½	**1½**
TOTAL UNITS REQUIRED			**33 ½**

APPENDIX B-2 (Continued)
REQUIRED COURSES IN THE CURRICULUM OF EACH SECONDARY SCHOOL

STANDARD 32

Effective Beginning School Year 2007-2008

[1] Includes Physics I, Physics II, AP Physics B, AP Physics C—Electricity and Magnetism, and AP Physics C—Mechanics.

[2] Two of the three elective science units may be offered through the following courses: Introduction to Agriscience, Concepts of Agriscience, Science of Agricultural Plants, Science of Agricultural Animals, or Science of Agricultural Environment, Agriscience I & II, Allied Health I & II, Aquaculture I & II, Forestry I & II, Horticulture I & II, Plastics and Polymer Science I & II, and Technology Applications I & II.

[3]One unit in Agribusiness and Entrepreneurship Technology or ½ unit in Financial Technology, ½ unit in Resource Management, or ½ unit in National Endowment for Personal Finance may be offered in lieu of ½ unit in Personal Finance.

[4]Includes Agriculture; Business Technology; Cooperative and Marketing Education; Family and Consumer Sciences; Health Education; Home Economics, Lodging and Hospitality; Technology Education; and Trade and Industrial.

[5]Distance learning or the Mississippi Department of Education's Mississippi Virtual Public School (MVPS) may be used as an appropriate alternative for the delivery of Advanced Placement (AP) courses. A school offering the International Bacculaureate program is exempted.

GLOSSARY

The following definitions are established for the purpose of implementing the *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards* established by the State Board of Education and authorized under Sections 37-17-1 through 13 and 37-18-1 through 7 of the *Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended.*

ACHIEVEMENT LEVEL INDEX (ALI)

The Achievement Level Index (ALI) is a different metric for reporting school performance as calculated in the Mississippi Achievement Model. The ALI concept and the use of averaged ALI values as a measure of district level performance were formally approved by the State Board of Education (SBE) on May 19, 2006, after having cleared the Administrative Procedures Act (APA) process. A district performance level is assigned based on the typical (average) performance of schools in each district using the Achievement Level Index (ALI).