

**NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULE ADOPTION**

**STATE OF MISSISSIPPI  
Office of Dropout Prevention**

**Mississippi Department of Education  
c/o Sheril Smith  
Director of Office of Dropout Prevention  
Post Office Box 771  
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srsmith@mde.k12.ms.us**

**Specific Legal Authority authorizing the promulgation of  
Rule: Mississippi Code: Title 37 Education § 37-21-9  
Reference to Rules repealed, amended or suspended by the  
Proposed Rule : \_N/A**

**Explanation of the Purpose of the Proposed Rule and the reason(s) for proposing the rule:** Pursuant to Mississippi Code §37-21-9, the Mississippi Department of Education is required to report annually to the Mississippi Legislature on the graduation and dropout rates based on grades 7 through 12 and grades 9 through 12 cohort groups statewide and by district. In December 2006, the State Board of Education adopted procedures for calculating the graduation, completion and dropout rates. The graduation rate initially included both students earning traditional diplomas as well as special education students who received occupational diplomas. The graduation rate calculation has been revised, removing special education students receiving occupational diplomas from the population of those counted as graduates. These students will be counted as completers, along with special education students receiving certificates of attendance, and students earning a GED from a district program. This revision serves to align state graduation rate calculations with federal reporting requirements, in which neither occupational diplomas nor GED recipients are included in graduation rate calculations.

This rule is proposed as a  Final Rule, and/or a  Temporary Rule (Check one or both boxers as applicable.)

**Persons may present their views on the proposed rule by addressing written comments to the agency at the above address. Persons making comments should include their name and address, as well as other contact information, and if you are an agent or attorney, the name, address and telephone number of the party or parties you represent.**

**Oral Proceeding:** Check one box below:

An oral proceeding is scheduled on this rule on Date: {Insert Date} Time: {Insert Time}  
Place: {Insert Place}

If you wish to be heard and present evidence at the oral proceeding you must make a written request to the agency at the above address at least \_\_\_\_\_ day(s) prior to the proceeding to be placed on the agenda. The request should include your name, address, telephone number as well as other contact information; and if you are an agent or attorney, the name, address and telephone number of the party or parties you represent.

An oral proceeding is not scheduled on this rule. Where an oral proceeding is not scheduled, an oral proceeding will be held if a written request for an oral proceeding is submitted by a political subdivision, an agency or ten (10) persons. The written request should be submitted to the agency contact person at the above address within twenty (20) days after the filing of this notice of proposed rule adoption and should include the name, address and telephone number of the person(s) making the request; and if you are an agent or attorney, the name, address and telephone number of the party or parties you represent.

**Economic Impact Statement:** Check one box below:

The agency has determined that an economic impact statement is not required for this rule, or

The concise summary of the economic impact statement required is attached.

The entire text of the Proposed Rule including the text of any rule being amended or changed is attached.

**Date Rule Proposed:** April 20, 2007

**Proposed Effective Date of Rule:** May 18, 2007