

**Mississippi Department of Education  
Office of Accreditation  
Proposed Revisions to the  
*Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2010***

**Revisions to Standard 18  
Proposed by the Office of School Improvement  
Approved by the State Board of Education July 14, 2011**

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} **(Districts Meeting the Highest Levels of Performance are exempted.)**
- 18.2 A school district that has been designated as ***Failing*** as defined by the State Board of Education shall establish a community-based pre-kindergarten through higher education (P-16) council. {MS Code 37-18-5(4)}
- 18.3 A district and/or a school below the successful level shall establish a prekindergarten through higher education (P-16) council.

NOTE: Refer to the pilot edition of the *Guidelines for P-16 Community Engagement Council*.

**Revisions to Standard 19**  
**Proposed by the Office of Accreditation**  
**Approved by the State Board of Education July 14, 2011**

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.**

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. **(Districts Meeting the Highest Levels of Performance are exempted.)**

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 and approved virtual courses. **(Districts Meeting the Highest Levels of Performance may be exempted under MS Code 37-17-11.)**

19.7 Districts utilizing an Early Release Schedule or a Delayed Start School Day Schedule must have the schedules approved by the school board and published in the Student Handbook.

**Note: Any request for an exception to the above standard must be submitted in writing 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)}**

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  - 18.1 ~~A school that has been designated as a school at risk shall establish a local parents/citizens advisory council. {MS Code 37-18-5(1)}~~
  - 18.2 A school district that has been designated as ***Failing*** as defined by the State Board of Education shall establish a community-based pre-kindergarten through higher education (P-16) council. {MS Code 37-18-5(4)}
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