

**Proposed Revisions to the *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2010***  
**Approved by the Commission on School Accreditation April 18, 2012, and June 7, 2012**  
**Approved by the State Board of Education May 18, 2012, and June 15, 2012**

**Process Standards 4, 19, 19.3, 19.4, 20, and 21**  
**Appendix A and Appendix D**

**PROCESS STANDARDS**

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***ADMINISTRATION AND PERSONNEL***

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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 37-151-5(g)}

**Note: The principal may not have any other job duties assigned in areas that require a specific work area code. This standard does not apply to assistant principals.**

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. {MS Code 37-9-79}
  - 6.1 DELETED.
  - 6.2 DELETED.

**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 6900)
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} (SB Policies 7801 and 7802, 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 7407)
  - 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.
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(17), 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(17)}
  - 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 statements 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.
  - 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 SB Policy 3400.

- 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 4904)

### ***SCHOOL OPERATIONS***

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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 6600)
- 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 3800)
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)}
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 Policies 3101 and 3102)
17. The school district develops a dropout prevention plan and implements programs designed to keep students in school and to lower student dropout rates in accordance with MS Code. {MS Code 37-13-80} (SB Policy 3105)
- 17.1 DELETED.
- 17.2 DELETED.
- 17.3 DELETED.
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.**)
- 18.1 DELETED.
- 18.2 A school district that has been designated as ***Failing*** as defined by the State Board of Education shall also 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 pre-kindergarten through higher education (P-16) council.

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

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. {MS Code 37-3-49, 37-13-61 through 69, 37-151-5(j), and 37-151-7(3)(c)}
- 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 remedial instructional programs, dual enrollment/dual credit, correspondence courses, MS Virtual Public School courses, and innovative programs authorized by the State Board of Education.
- 19.4 No more than two of the 180 days may be 60% days. Both teachers and pupils must be in attendance for not less than 60% of the normal school day. {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, published and disseminated.

**Remedial Instructional Programs: Programs designed to provide interventions and supports for students who have been unsuccessful in mastering content/skills.**

**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)}**

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 3800)
- 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 Policies 2902 and 2903) Students receiving a standard diploma may select from three graduation pathways as specified by the local school district's graduation requirements.
- 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 as specified in Appendix A-1.
  - Entering ninth graders in 2008-2009 and thereafter (seniors of school year 2011-2012 and later) are required to have a minimum of 24 Carnegie units as specified in

Appendix A-2, unless, in accordance with school board policy, their parent/guardian requests to opt the student out of Appendix A-2 requirements. This student would be required to complete the graduation requirements specified in A-1.

- Entering eleventh graders in 2010-2011 and thereafter (seniors of school year 2011-2012 and later) who chose the Career Pathway Option are required to earn the minimum graduation requirements specified in Appendix A-3. {MS Code 37-16-17}
  - Beginning in school year 2011-2012, all eighth grade students are required to have an Individualized Career and Academic Plan (iCAP) prior to exiting the eighth grade.
- 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 Policies 3600 and 3800)
- 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.
- 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 may be awarded in the seventh grade for the following courses: Pre-Algebra, Algebra I, Biology I, ICT II (Information and Communication Technology) and first year Foreign Language provided course content is the same as the high school course.**

**Note: Carnegie units may be awarded in the eighth grade for the following courses: Pre-algebra, Transition to Algebra, Algebra I, Geometry, Biology I, , ICT II (Information & Communication Technology), STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Science), first year Foreign Language, and second year Foreign Language provided course content is the same as the high school course.**

21. The school district implements a professional development program aligned with the Learning Forward *Standards for Professional Learning*. . **(Districts Meeting the Highest Levels of Performance are exempted.)** {MS Code 37-17-8}
22. The school district adheres to all requirements of the Mississippi Statewide Assessment System. (See Appendix F.) {MS Code 37-16-1 through 4 and 37-16-9} (SB Policies 3600, 3800, 7220, 7601, 7605, and 7607)

#### ***INSTRUCTIONAL PRACTICES***

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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 Policies 4400, 4401, 6006, and 6301) (Refer to *Mississippi Kindergarten Guidelines*.) **(Districts Meeting the Highest Levels of Performance are exempted from provisions of subsection (4) of MS Code 37-21-7.)**
- 23.2 Vocational-Technical Education {MS Code 37-31-1 et. seq.} (SB Policies 8100, 8200, 8300, 8400, 8500, 8600, 8700, 8800, 8900, 9000, 9100, 9200, 9300, 9400, and Federal Code)
- 23.3 Special Education {MS Code 37-23-1 through 9} (SB Policies 7201, 7203, 7204, 7205, 7206, 7208, 7210, 7211, 7212, 7213, 7214, 7219, and Federal Code) (See *State Policies Regarding Children with Disabilities under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 2004 (IDEA 2004)* and the Mattie T. Consent Decree.)
- 23.4 Child Nutrition {MS Code 37-11-7} (SB Policies 2001, 2002, 2004, 2007, 2009 and Federal Code)

- 23.5 *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001*: Titles I, II, III, IV, V, VI, X, and any other federally funded programs and grants (SB Policies 4700, 7801, 7802, 7803, 7804, and Federal Code)
- 23.6 Technology in the Classroom {MS Code 37-151-19(3)} (SB Policy 7500)
- 23.7 Driver Education {MS Code 37-25-1 et. seq.} (SB Policy 3000)
- 23.8 Pre-Kindergarten {MS Code 37-7-301(ss)} (SB Policy 2904) (Refer to *Mississippi Early Learning Guidelines*.)
- 23.9 Gifted Education {MS Code 37-23-171 through 181} (SB Policy 3700) (Refer to the current edition of the *Regulations for Gifted Education Programs in Mississippi*, and the *Gifted Education Program Standards*.)
24. Each school has a library-media center. Refer to the current edition of the *Mississippi School Library Media Guide*. {MS Code 37-17-6(3)(a-e)}
- 24.1 Each school has a library-media center with an organized collection of materials and equipment that represents a broad range of current learning media, including instructional technology. **(Schools Meeting the Highest Levels of Performance may be exempted under MS Code 37-17-11.)**
- 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. **(Schools Meeting the Highest Levels of Performance may be exempted under MS Code 37-17-11.)**
25. The school district provides each student with appropriate equipment and laboratory experiences to meet the instructional requirements of the science program. (See the current edition of the *Mississippi Science Framework*.) **(Schools Meeting the Highest Levels of Performance may be exempted under MS Code 37-17-11.)**
- 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.**
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, 37-43-24, 37-43-31(2), 37-43-51, 37-9-14(2) (b), and 37-7-301(ff)} (SB Policies 7701 and 7702) (Refer to the current edition of the *Textbook Administration Handbook Rules and Regulations*.)
- 26.1 Each school district provides each student in each school with current or otherwise appropriate textbooks that are in good condition. (See glossary for definition of textbook.) {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 the current edition of the *Textbook Administration Handbook Rules and Regulations*.)
27. The school district implements an instructional management system that has been adopted by the school board and includes, at a minimum, the competencies and objectives required in the curriculum frameworks approved by the State Board of Education. **(Districts Meeting the Highest Levels of Performance are exempted.)** {MS Code 37-3-49(2)(a-b) and 37-3-49(5) and SB Policy 4300}
- 27.1 DELETED.
- 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. **(Districts Meeting the Highest Levels of Performance are exempted.)** {MS Code 37-3-49(2)(c) and 37-3-49(5)}

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.
- 28.1 The school district implements a uniform grading policy. (SB Policy 403).
- 28.2 A student who is enrolled in any grade higher than Grade 6 in a school district must be suspended from participation in any extracurricular or athletic activity sponsored or sanctioned by the school district after a semester in which the student's cumulative grade point average is below 2.0 on a 4.0 scale. {MS Code 37-11-65}

**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.**

29. The school district provides alternative education programs for the categories of students identified in MS Code 37-13-92. (SB Policies 901 and 902)
- 29.1 The school district provides access to an alternative education program that meets the program guidelines outlined in MS Code 37-13-92 and the guidelines established by the State Board of Education. (SB Policy 901) (See guidelines for Alternative/GED School Programs.)
- 29.2 The school district, in its discretion, may provide access to a GED Option program that meets the program guidelines outlined in MS Code 37-13-92(4) and the guidelines established by the State Board of Education. (SB Policy 902) (See guidelines for Alternative/GED 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.
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 request for an exception to the above standard must be submitted in writing to the Commission on School Accreditation for review and action.**

32. The curriculum of each high school at a minimum consists of required and approved courses that generate at least 33½ Carnegie units annually. (See Appendices B and C) {MS Code 37-1-3(2)} (SB Policies 2902 and 2903)

**Note: Any request for an exemption from teaching the courses listed in Appendix B must be submitted in writing to the Commission on School Accreditation for review and action.**

33. The curriculum of each elementary or middle school (any configuration of grades K-8) at a minimum 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: In any configuration of grades K-8, the curriculum must include 150 minutes of activity-based instruction per week and 45 minutes of instruction in health education per week. Implementation of the activity-based instruction must meet or exceed the standards as approved by the State Board of Education. A regular classroom teacher may provide instruction in the arts, health education, and physical education in a self-contained classroom setting.**

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.*) (SB Policy 2100)
- 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. **(Schools Meeting the Highest Levels of Performance are exempted.)** {MS Code 37-151-77} (SB Policy 2100)
- 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. **(Schools Meeting the Highest Levels of Performance are exempted.)**

**Note: A teacher who provides instruction through intra-district or inter-district distance learning or supervises students taking virtual courses 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***

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35. The school 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 7903, 7904, 7906, 7907 and 7909)
- 35.1 All buses are inspected on a quarterly basis and are well-maintained and clean. (SB Policy 7909)
- 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. (SB Policies 7903 and 7906)
- 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. (SB Policy 7904)
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 and sanitary.
  - 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 school district complies with State Board Policies and State and Federal laws to provide 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 Codes 37-3-81; 37-3-83(2); 37-11-67 and 37-11-69} (See the School Safety Manual and the MDE School Occupational Safety and Crisis Response Plan.)
  - 37.2 Each school has on file a school wellness policy developed by a local school health council that addresses the eight components of a coordinated approach to school health and that has been approved annually by the local school board. (*Child Nutrition Reauthorization Act of 2004*) (See the Guide for Development of Local School Wellness Policy, [www.healthyschoolsms.org](http://www.healthyschoolsms.org)) {MS Code 37-13-134 and MS Code 41-79-31 } (SB Policy 4012)

**APPENDIX A-1**

**GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS  
STANDARD 20**

**SENIORS OF SCHOOL YEAR 2008-2009, 2009-2010 & 2010-2011  
(Entering ninth graders in 2005-2006, 2006-2007, 2007-2008)**

Each student graduating from a secondary school in an accredited school district will have earned the required Carnegie units as specified in the following table. Contents of each required and elective course must include the core objectives identified in the *Mississippi Curriculum Frameworks*. Course titles and identification numbers must appear in the current edition of *Approved Courses for Secondary Schools of Mississippi*. (See SB Policies 2902 and 2903.) Enrollment in on-line and correspondence courses listed in this book must have prior approval granted by the principal. No more than one (1) of the minimum required number of units may be earned through completion of an approved correspondence course. Elective courses that do not have identified content in the *Mississippi Curriculum Frameworks* or whose titles do not appear in the current edition of *Approved Courses for the Secondary Schools of Mississippi* must be approved according to criteria stated in Appendix D.

Any student who completes the minimum graduation requirements as specified below and has achieved a passing score on each of the required high school exit examinations is eligible to receive a high school diploma. The local school district may establish additional local requirements approved by the local school board as authorized under MS Code 37-16-7.

<b>CURRICULUM AREA</b>	<b>CARNEGIE UNITS</b>	<b>REQUIRED SUBJECTS</b>
<b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>4<sup>1</sup></b>	
<b>MATHEMATICS</b>	<b>4<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Algebra I</b>
<b>SCIENCE</b>	<b>3<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>Biology I</b>
<b>SOCIAL STUDIES</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1 World History<sup>4</sup> 1 U.S. History<sup>4</sup> ½ U.S. Government ½ Mississippi Studies<sup>5</sup></b>
<b>HEALTH</b>	<b>½<sup>6&amp;7</sup></b>	<b>Comprehensive Health <i>or</i> Family and Individual Health</b>
<b>BUSINESS &amp; TECHNOLOGY</b>	<b>1<sup>8</sup></b>	<b>1 Computer Discovery or ½ Keyboarding and ½ Computer Applications</b>
<b>THE ARTS</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Any approved 500.000 course or completion of the 2-course sequence for Computer Graphics Technology I and II</b>
<b>ELECTIVES</b>	<b>4½<sup>9</sup></b>	
<b>TOTAL UNITS REQUIRED</b>	<b>21</b>	

**APPENDIX A-1 (Continued)**  
**GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**  
**STANDARD 20**

**SENIORS OF SCHOOL YEAR 2008-2009, 2009-2010 & 2010-2011**  
**(Entering ninth graders in 2005-2006, 2006-2007 & 2007-2008)**

<sup>1</sup> Compensatory Reading and Compensatory Writing may not be included in the four English courses required for graduation; however, these courses may be included in the 4½ general electives required for graduation. MYP-English I and MYP English II are accepted in lieu of the English I and English II requirements for students enrolled in the IB program.

<sup>2</sup> Compensatory Mathematics and any developmental mathematics course may not be included in the four mathematics courses required for graduation; however, these courses may be included in the 4½ general electives required for graduation. Beginning school year 2004-2005 for all entering eighth graders, at least one of the four required mathematics courses must be higher than Algebra I. The allowable mathematics courses that can be taken which are higher than Algebra I are: Geometry, Algebra II, Advanced Algebra, Trigonometry, Pre-Calculus, Calculus, AP Calculus AB, AP Calculus BC, Discrete Mathematics, Statistics, and AP Statistics. One of the four required mathematics units may be in Drafting if the student completes the 2-course sequence for Drafting I & II. Effective with the eighth graders of 2004-2005, Pre-Algebra, Transition to Algebra, and Algebra I, may be taken in the eighth grade for Carnegie unit credit. MYP Geometry, MYP Algebra II, IB-DP Mathematics I, IB-DP Mathematics II, IB-DP Mathematical Studies I, IB-DP Mathematical Studies II are allowable mathematics courses higher than Algebra I for IB students.

<sup>3</sup> One unit may be in Introduction to Agriscience, Concepts of Agriscience, Science of Agricultural Plants, Science of Agricultural Animals, or Science of Agricultural Environment. Two units may be in the following courses if the student completes the 2-course sequence: 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. Two units may be earned by completing the following AEST 3-course sequence: one unit in Concepts of Agriscience; one unit in Science of Agricultural Animals or Science of Agricultural Plants, or Science of Agricultural Environment; and one unit in Agribusiness and Entrepreneurship. IB-DP Physics I, IB-DP Physics II, MYP Chemistry, and IB-DP Chemistry may be accepted as allowable lab-based physical science courses for students enrolled in the IB program. MYP Biology and IB-DP Biology I may be accepted in lieu of the Biology I requirement for students enrolled in an IB program.

<sup>4</sup> **Based on the 2004 Mississippi Social Studies framework**, AP European History or AP World History can be accepted in lieu of World History. Advanced placement U.S. History is accepted in lieu of the required U.S. History from 1877 to present. AP Government and Politics: United States can be accepted in lieu of the required United States Government course. A.P. Macroeconomics or A.P. Microeconomics can be taken in lieu of the required Economics course. A.P. Human Geography can be accepted in lieu of the required Geography course. IB-DP History of the Americas I is accepted in lieu of the required U.S. History Course for students enrolled in the IB program. IB-DP History of the Americas II is accepted in lieu of the required Mississippi Studies, Economics, and/or U.S. Government courses for students enrolled in the IB program. MYP U. S. Government is accepted in lieu of the required Government course for students enrolled in the IB program.

**Based on the 2011 Mississippi Social Studies framework**, A.P. World History can be accepted in lieu of the required World History from the Age of Enlightenment to Present course. A.P. United States History can be accepted in lieu of the required U.S. History from Post-reconstruction to Present course. A.P. Government and Politics: United States can be accepted in lieu of the required United States Government course, A.P. Macroeconomics or A.P. Microeconomics can be taken in lieu of the required Economics course, A.P. Human Geography can be accepted in lieu of the required Geography course. IB-DP History of the Americas I is accepted in lieu of the required U.S. History course for students enrolled in the IB program. IB-DP History of the Americas II is accepted in lieu of the required Mississippi Studies, Economics, and/or U.S. Government courses for students enrolled in the IB program. MYP U.S. Government is accepted in lieu of the required Government course for students enrolled in the IB program.

<sup>5</sup> The credit earned for a State/Local Government course in any other state by an out-of-state transfer student who enters after the sophomore year can stand in lieu of Mississippi Studies or Mississippi State and Local Government. If the transfer student took a State/Local Government course in a grade level that did not award Carnegie unit credit, then any other ½ unit social studies course may be accepted. An out-of-state student who transfers after the junior year may substitute any other ½ unit social studies course.

<sup>6</sup> Credit earned in Allied Health I/Health Science I may be accepted in lieu of Comprehensive Health or Family and Individual Health to meet the graduation requirement for ½ Carnegie unit in Health.

<sup>7</sup> Successful completion of JROTC I and JROTC II may be accepted in lieu of Comprehensive Health or Family and Individual Health to meet the graduation requirement for ½ Carnegie unit in Health beginning in the 2010-2011 school year and thereafter, when instruction includes all health components in the JROTC curriculum.

<sup>8</sup> Evidence of proficiency in Keyboarding and Computer Applications is accepted in lieu of the required courses if the student earns one unit in any of the courses listed in the *Business and Technology Framework* (academic and vocational). Information & Computer Technology (ICT) II may be accepted in lieu of Computer Discovery. A Carnegie unit earned for Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM) in the 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> grade meets this graduation requirement. Technology Foundations replaces Computer Discovery, Keyboarding and Computer Applications and meets this graduation requirement when taken in grades 8-12. MYP Computer Discovery may be accepted in lieu of Computer Discovery for students enrolled in an IB program.

<sup>9</sup> Elective units in physical education include participation in interscholastic athletic activities, band, performance choral, dance and JROTC that meet the instructional requirements specified in the *Fitness through Physical Education Framework* and that are sanctioned by the Mississippi High School Activities Association.

## APPENDIX A-2

### GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS STANDARD 20

#### SENIORS OF SCHOOL YEAR 2011-2012 (and thereafter) (Entering ninth graders in 2008-2009, and thereafter)

Each student graduating from a secondary school in an accredited school district will have earned the required Carnegie units as specified in the following table. Contents of each required and elective course must include the core objectives identified in the *Mississippi Curriculum Frameworks*. Course titles and identification numbers must appear in the current edition of *Approved Courses for Secondary Schools of Mississippi*. (See SB Policies 2902 and 2903) Enrollment in on-line and correspondence courses listed in this book must have prior approval granted by the principal. No more than one (1) of the minimum required number of units may be earned through completion of an approved correspondence course.

Any student who completes the minimum graduation requirements as specified below and has achieved a passing score on each of the required high school exit examinations is eligible to receive a high school diploma. The local school district may establish additional local requirements approved by the local school board as authorized under MS Code 37-16-7.

Beginning school year 2008-2009 and thereafter, all entering ninth graders (seniors of school year 2011-2012 and later) will be required to have a minimum of 24 Carnegie units as specified below, unless their parent/guardian requests to opt the student out of Appendix A-2 requirements in accordance with local school board policy. Any student who is taken out of these requirements of Appendix A-2 will be required to complete the graduation requirements as specified in Appendix A-1. The local school district may establish additional local requirements approved by the local school board as authorized under MS Code 37-16-7.

CURRICULUM AREA	CARNEGIE UNITS	REQUIRED SUBJECTS
ENGLISH	4 <sup>1</sup>	English I English II
MATHEMATICS	4 <sup>2</sup>	Algebra I
SCIENCE	4 <sup>3</sup>	Biology I
SOCIAL STUDIES	4	1 World History <sup>4</sup> 1 U.S. History <sup>4</sup> ½ Geography <sup>4</sup> ½ U.S. Government ½ Economics <sup>5</sup> ½ Mississippi Studies <sup>6</sup>
HEALTH and PHYSICAL EDUCATION	1 <sup>7&amp;8</sup>	½ Comprehensive Health <i>or</i> ½ Family & Individual Health and ½ Physical Education <sup>9&amp;11</sup>
BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY	1 <sup>10</sup>	1 Computer Discovery <i>or</i> ½ Keyboarding and ½ Computer Applications <sup>10</sup>
THE ARTS	1	Any approved 500.000 course <i>or</i> completion of the 2-course sequence for Computer Graphics Technology I and II
ELECTIVES	5 <sup>11</sup>	
TOTAL UNITS REQUIRED	24	

**APPENDIX A-2 (Continued)**  
**GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**  
**STANDARD 20**  
**SENIORS OF SCHOOL YEAR 2011-2012**  
**(Entering ninth graders in 2008-2009, and thereafter)**

<sup>1</sup>Compensatory Reading and Compensatory Writing may not be included in the four English courses required for graduation; however, these courses may be included in the 5 general electives required for graduation. Accelerated English 9 can be accepted in lieu of English I. Accelerated English 10 and AP English Language Composition can be accepted in lieu of English II. Beginning school year 2010-2011 for all entering ninth graders, English I is a required prerequisite course for English II. English I may not be taken after a student completes English II.

<sup>2</sup>Compensatory Mathematics, Introduction to Engineering, and any developmental mathematics course may not be included in the four mathematics courses required for graduation; however, these courses may be included in the 5 general electives required for graduation. Effective with the eighth graders of 2008-2009, Pre-Algebra and Transition to Algebra may not be taken after a student completes Algebra I. Beginning school year 2007-2008 for all entering eighth graders, at least two of the four required mathematics courses must be higher than Algebra I. Effective with ninth graders of 2010-2011, Survey of Mathematical Topics may not be included in the two math courses higher than Algebra I. The allowable mathematics courses that can be taken which are higher than Algebra I are: Geometry, Algebra II, Advanced Algebra, Trigonometry, Pre-Calculus, Calculus, AP Calculus AB, AP Calculus BC, Discrete Mathematics, Statistics, and AP Statistics. MYP Geometry, MYP Algebra II, IB-DP Mathematics I, IB-DP Mathematics II, IB-DP Mathematical Studies I, IB-DP Mathematical Studies II are allowable mathematics courses higher than Algebra I for IB students. One of the four required mathematics units may be in Drafting if the student completes the 2-course sequence for Drafting I & II. One of the four required mathematics units may be in Survey of Mathematical Topics; however this course does not meet the mathematics requirement for admission to institutions of higher learning. Effective with the eighth graders of 2004-2005, Pre-Algebra, Transition to Algebra, and Algebra I, may be taken in the eighth grade for Carnegie unit credit. Effective with the eighth graders of 2008-2009, Geometry may be taken in the eighth grade for Carnegie unit credit.

Effective with 7<sup>th</sup> graders of 2012-13, Pre-Algebra, Algebra I, Biology I, ICT II (Information & Communication Technology) and first year Foreign Language may be taken in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade for Carnegie unit credit provided the course content is the same as the high school course. Effective with 8<sup>th</sup> graders of 2012-2013, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics) and second year Foreign Language may be taken in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade for Carnegie unit credit provided the course content is the same as the high school course.

<sup>3</sup> One unit may be in Concepts of Agriscience, and a second unit may be in completing 2 of the following 3 courses: Science of Agriculture Plants, Science of Agriculture Animals, Science of Agricultural Environment. Two units may be in the following courses if the student completes the required course sequence ending with Agriscience II, Allied Health II, Aquaculture II, Forestry II, Plastics and Polymer Science II, Technology Applications II, Polymer Science II or Careers in Polymer Science, Horticulture II or Horticulture Landscape and Turfgrass, Engineering II or Applied Engineering Concepts, Health Sciences II or Workplace and Employment Skills in Health Sciences. Beginning school year 2008-2009 for all entering eighth graders, one unit must be a lab-based physical science. The allowable lab-based physical science courses are Physical Science, Chemistry, AP Chemistry, Physics, AP Physics B, AP Physics C – Electricity and Magnetism, and AP Physics C – Mechanics. IB-DP Physics I, IB-DP Physics II, MYP Chemistry, and IB-DP Chemistry may be accepted as allowable lab-based physical science courses for students enrolled in the IB program. MYP Biology and IB-DP Biology I may be accepted in lieu of the Biology I requirement for students enrolled in an IB program.

<sup>4</sup> **Based on the 2004 Mississippi Social Studies framework**, Advanced Placement Human Geography is accepted in lieu of the required Geography course. A.P. United States History can be accepted in lieu of the required U.S. History from 1877 to Present course. A.P. World History can be accepted in lieu of the required World History from 1795 to Present course. A.P. Government and Politics: United States can be accepted in lieu of the required United States Government course. A.P. Macroeconomics or A.P. Microeconomics can be taken in lieu of the required Economics course. MYP World Geography is accepted in lieu of the required Geography course for students enrolled in the IB program. Advanced placement U.S. History is accepted in lieu of the required U.S. History from 1877 to Present. IB-DP History of the Americas I is accepted in lieu of the required U.S. History

Course for students enrolled in the IB program. IB-DP History of the Americas II is accepted in lieu of the required Mississippi Studies, Economics, and/or U.S. Government courses for students enrolled in the IB program. MYP U. S. Government is accepted in lieu of the required Government course for students enrolled in the IB program. AP European History or AP World History can be accepted in lieu of World History.

**Based on the 2011 Mississippi Social Studies framework**, A.P. World History can be accepted in lieu of the required World History from the Age of Enlightenment to Present course. A.P. United States History can be accepted in lieu of the required U.S. History from Post-reconstruction to Present course. A.P. Government and Politics: United States can be accepted in lieu of the required United States Government course. A.P. Macroeconomics or A.P. Microeconomics can be taken in lieu of the required Economics course. A.P. Human Geography can be accepted in lieu of the required Geography course. MYP World Geography is accepted in lieu of the required Geography course for students enrolled in the IB program. IB-DP History of the Americas I is accepted in lieu of the required U.S. History course for students enrolled in the IB program. IB-DP History of the Americas II is accepted in lieu of the required Mississippi Studies, Economics, and/or U.S. Government courses for students enrolled in the IB program. MYP U.S. Government is accepted in lieu of the required Government course for students enrolled in the IB program.

<sup>5</sup> Credit earned for Business Fundamentals or Business Fundamentals II may be accepted in lieu of ½ unit in Economics.

<sup>6</sup> The credit earned for a State/Local Government course in any other state by an out-of-state transfer student who enters after the sophomore year can stand in lieu of Mississippi Studies or Mississippi State and Local Government. If the transfer student took a State/Local Government course in a grade level that did not award Carnegie unit credit, then any other ½ unit social studies course may be accepted. An out-of-state student who transfers after the junior year may substitute any other ½ unit social studies course.

<sup>7</sup> Credit earned in Allied Health I, Health Sciences I, or Theory and Application of Health Sciences I, may be accepted in lieu of Comprehensive Health or Family and Individual Health to meet the graduation requirement for ½ Carnegie unit in Health.

<sup>8</sup> Successful completion of JROTC I and JROTC II may be accepted in lieu of Comprehensive Health or Family and Individual Health to meet the graduation requirement for ½ Carnegie unit in Health beginning in the 2010-2011 school year and thereafter.

<sup>9</sup> The graduation requirement for ½ unit in physical education may include participation in interscholastic athletic activities, band, dance and JROTC that meet the instructional requirements specified in the *Fitness through Physical Education Framework* and that are sanctioned by the Mississippi High School Activities Association.

<sup>10</sup> Evidence of proficiency in technology is accepted in lieu of the required courses if the student earns one unit in a technology-rich academic or career technical course related to their program of study. Effective with school year 2012-2013, a Carnegie unit credit for ICT II (Information & Communication Technology) may be awarded to 7<sup>th</sup> grade students. Effective with school year 2012-2013, a Carnegie unit credit for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics) may be awarded to 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. ICT II may be accepted in lieu of Computer Discovery. A Carnegie unit earned for STEM in the 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> grade meets this graduation requirement. Technology Foundations replaces Computer Discovery, Keyboarding and Computer Applications and meets this graduation requirement when taken in grades 8-12. MYP Computer Discovery may be accepted in lieu of Computer Discovery for students enrolled in an IB program.

<sup>11</sup> Only one elective unit in physical education including participation in interscholastic athletic activities, band, performance choral, dance or JROTC that meet the instructional requirements specified in the *Fitness through Physical Education Framework* and that are sanctioned by the Mississippi High School Activities Association may be applied each year to the minimum 24 required state units. If a local district has graduation requirements above the state requirements they may award additional credits as outlined in the local Board policy.

**GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS  
STANDARD 20**

**CAREER PATHWAY OPTION  
SENIORS OF SCHOOL YEAR 2011-2012  
(Entering eleventh graders in 2010-2011)**

In 2010, Mississippi state policymakers passed legislation to create multiple pathways to a standard diploma. The 2010 legislative actions created a career pathway to a standard diploma, with the goal of improving Mississippi graduation rates and providing students with career and technical training that prepare students for postsecondary credential or certification programs and employable workplace skills. This legislative change created Section 37-16-17, *Mississippi code of 1972*, as amended to provide for high school career option programs and career track curricula for students not wishing to pursue a baccalaureate degree.

<b>CURRICULUM AREA</b>	<b>CARNEGIE UNITS</b>	<b>REQUIRED SUBJECTS</b>
<b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>4<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>English I English II</b>
<b>MATHEMATICS</b>	<b>3<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Algebra I</b>
<b>SCIENCE</b>	<b>3<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>Biology I</b>
<b>SOCIAL STUDIES</b>	<b>3<sup>4,5</sup></b>	<b>1 U.S. History ½ U.S. Government ½ Mississippi Studies</b>
<b>HEALTH and PHYSICAL EDUCATION</b>	<b>½<sup>6</sup></b>	<b>½ Comprehensive Health, or ½ Family and Individual Health, or ½ Physical Education</b>
<b>CAREER and TECHNICAL</b>	<b>4<sup>7</sup></b>	<b>(Selected from Student's Program of Study)</b>
<b>INTEGRATED TECHNOLOGY</b>	<b>1<sup>8</sup></b>	<b>Computer Discovery, ICT II, STEM, or Computer Applications and Keyboarding</b>
<b>ADDITIONAL ELECTIVES</b>	<b>2 ½<sup>9</sup></b>	<b>Courses selected from the student's approved program of study</b>
<b>TOTAL UNITS REQUIRED</b>	<b>21</b>	

**NOTE: Mississippi's Institution of Higher Learning requirements differ from minimum graduation requirements for this diploma pathway.**

## GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

### Standard 20

#### Career Pathway Option

#### SENIORS OF SCHOOL YEAR 2011-2012

(Entering eleventh graders 2010-2011)

<sup>1</sup> Compensatory Reading and Compensatory Writing shall not be included in the four English courses required for graduation. The two additional English credits must be from the student's program of study which includes Technical Writing, Creative Writing, English III, English IV, or any college-level dual credit courses.

<sup>2</sup> Compensatory Mathematics may not be included in the three mathematics courses required for graduation. Effective with eighth graders of 2008-2009, Pre-Algebra and Transition to Algebra may not be taken after a student completes Algebra I. For students pursuing the Career Pathway Graduation Option, at least one of the required mathematics courses must be above Algebra I and selected from the student's program of study. The allowable mathematics courses that can be taken which are higher than Algebra I are: Geometry, Algebra II, Survey of Mathematical Topics, Advanced Algebra, Trigonometry, Pre-Calculus, Calculus, AP Calculus AB, AP Calculus BC, Discrete Mathematics, Statistics, and AP Statistics, or any college-level dual credit courses. Effective with the eighth graders of 2004-2005, Pre-Algebra, Transition to Algebra, and Algebra I, may be taken in the eighth grade for Carnegie unit credit. Effective with the eighth graders of 2008-2009, Geometry may be taken in the eighth grade for Carnegie unit credit.

<sup>3</sup> For students pursuing the Career Pathway Graduation Option, at least one of the required science courses must be above Biology I and selected from the student's program of study. If a student's program of study allows, one unit may be in Concepts of Agriscience (AEST). A second science unit may be earned by completing a two course sequence selected from the following three options: Science of Agricultural Animals, Science of Agricultural Plants, or Science of Agricultural Environment. Two units may be in the following courses if the student completes the 2-course sequence: Agriscience I & II; Allied Health I & II; Health Science I & II, Aquaculture I & II; Forestry I & II; Horticulture I & II; Polymer Science I & II; Technology Applications I & II and Engineering I & II.

<sup>4</sup> Advanced placement U.S. History is accepted in lieu of the required U.S. History 1877 to Present. The third social studies credit should be selected based on the student's program of study.

<sup>5</sup> The credit earned for a State/Local Government course in any other state by an out-of-state transfer student who enters after the sophomore year can stand in lieu of Mississippi Studies or Mississippi State and Local Government. If the transfer student took a State/Local Government course in a grade level that did not award Carnegie unit credit, then any other ½ unit social studies course may be accepted. An out-of-state student who transfers after the junior year may substitute any other ½ unit social studies course. Credit earned for Business Fundamentals or Business Fundamentals II may be accepted in lieu of ½ unit in Economics.

<sup>6</sup> Credit earned in Allied Health I/Health Science I may be accepted in lieu of Comprehensive Health or Family and Individual Health to meet the graduation requirement for ½ Carnegie unit in Health. Interscholastic athletic activities, band, and ROTC if they meet the instructional requirements specified in the *Fitness through Physical Education Framework* may also be accepted.

<sup>7</sup> Career and Technical (CTE) courses must be based on the student's program of study and should include dual credit/dual enrollment options as found in Section 37-15-38 of the Mississippi Code of 1972.

<sup>8</sup> Evidence of proficiency in technology is accepted in lieu of the required courses if the student earns one unit in a technology-rich academic or career technical course related to their program of study.

<sup>9</sup> Electives must be selected from courses related to the student's program of study. Credits earned not approved for that student's program of study will not be counted toward graduation requirements.

**Proposed Revisions to the Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2010**  
**Approved by the Commission on School Accreditation April 18, 2012, and June 7, 2012**  
**Approved by the State Board of Education May 18, 2012, and June 15, 2012**

**Process Standards 4, 19, 19.3, 19.4, 20, and 21**  
**Appendix A and Appendix D**

**PROCESS STANDARDS**

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***ADMINISTRATION AND PERSONNEL***

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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 37-151-5(g)}

**Note: The principal may not have any other job duties assigned in areas that require a specific work area code. This standard does not apply to assistant principals.**

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)}
  - 5.3 If the student enrollment is 499 or less, a half-time licensed librarian or media specialist is required.
  - 5.4 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. {MS Code 37-9-79}
  - 6.3 DELETED.
  - 6.4 DELETED.

**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 6900)
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} (SB Policies 7801 and 7802, NCLB, and Federal Code)
    - 8.4 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.)
    - 8.5 Secondary teachers endorsed in an academic subject area may teach in their academic subject area in departmentalized elementary grades 5 and 6. (SB Policy 7407)
    - 8.6 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.
  
  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(17), 37-37-7, 37-37-13, 37-61-19 and 37-61-23}
    - 10.6 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(17)}
    - 10.7 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}
    - 10.8 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 statements of the school district. {MS Code 37-9-18, 37-37-1, and 37-61-23}
    - 10.9 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}
    - 10.10 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:
    - 11.2 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.
    - 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 SB Policy 3400.
    - 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 4904)

### ***SCHOOL OPERATIONS***

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12. The school district complies with state law and State Board of Education policy on enrollment requirements.
  - 12.4 Residency requirements {MS Code 37-15-29} (SB Policy 6600)
  - 12.5 Immunization requirements {MS Code 37-7-301(i), 37-15-1, and 41-23-37}
  - 12.6 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 3800)
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)}
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 Policies 3101 and 3102)
17. The school district develops a dropout prevention plan and implements programs designed to keep students in school and to lower student dropout rates in accordance with MS Code. {MS Code 37-13-80} (SB Policy 3105)
  - 17.1 DELETED.
  - 17.2 DELETED.
  - 17.3 DELETED.
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.**)
  - 18.1 DELETED.
  - 18.2 A school district that has been designated as *Failing* as defined by the State Board of Education shall also 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 pre-kindergarten through higher education (P-16) council.

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

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)(c)}
- 19.7 **DELETED.**
- 19.8 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}
- 19.9 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 remedial instructional programs, dual enrollment/dual credit, correspondence courses, MS Virtual Public School courses, and innovative programs authorized by the State Board of Education. ~~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.~~
- 19.10 ~~No more than two of the 180 days may be 60% days. Both teachers and pupils must be in attendance for not less than 60% of the normal school day. , 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)}
- 19.11 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.)**
- 19.12 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, published and disseminated.

**Remedial Instructional Programs: Programs designed to provide interventions and supports for students who have been unsuccessful in mastering content/skills.**

**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)}**

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 3800)
- 20.6 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 Policies 2902 and 2903)

Students receiving a standard diploma may select from three graduation pathways as specified by the local school district's graduation requirements.

- 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 as specified in Appendix A-1.
  - Entering ninth graders in 2008-2009 and thereafter (seniors of school year 2011-2012 and later) are required to have a minimum of 24 Carnegie units as specified in Appendix A-2, unless, in accordance with school board policy, their parent/guardian requests to opt the student out of Appendix A-2 requirements. This student would be required to complete the graduation requirements specified in A-1.
  - Entering eleventh graders in 2010-2011 and thereafter (seniors of school year 2011-2012 and later) who chose the Career Pathway Option are required to earn the minimum graduation requirements specified in Appendix A-3. {MS Code 37-16-17}
  - Beginning in school year 2011-2012, all eighth grade students are required to have an Individualized Career and Academic Plan (iCAP) prior to exiting the eighth grade.
- 20.7 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 Policies 3600 and 3800)
- 20.8 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)}
- 20.9 The student who fails to meet the graduation requirements is not permitted to participate in the graduation exercises.
- 20.10 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 may be awarded in the seventh grade for the following courses: Pre-Algebra, Algebra I, Biology I, ICT II (Information and Communication Technology) and first year Foreign Language provided course content is the same as the high school course.**

**Note: Carnegie units may ~~will~~ be awarded in the eighth grade for the following courses: Pre-algebra, Transition to Algebra, Algebra I, Geometry, Biology I, Computer Discovery, ICT II (Information & Communication Technology), STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Science), first year Foreign Language, and second year Foreign Language provided course content is the same as the high school course.**

21. The school district implements a professional development program aligned with the Learning Forward Standards for Professional Learning. ~~that complies with the guidelines published in Professional Development for the New Millennium.~~ **(Districts Meeting the Highest Levels of Performance are exempted.)** {MS Code 37-17-8}
22. The school district adheres to all requirements of the Mississippi Statewide Assessment System. (See Appendix F.) {MS Code 37-16-1 through 4 and 37-16-9} (SB Policies 3600, 3800, 7220, 7601, 7605, and 7607)

#### ***INSTRUCTIONAL PRACTICES***

23. The school district is in compliance with state and/or federal requirements for the following programs:
- 23.10 Early Childhood Programs (kindergarten and teacher assistant) {MS Code 37-21-1 et. seq.} (SB Policies 4400, 4401, 6006, and 6301) (Refer to *Mississippi Kindergarten Guidelines.*) **(Districts Meeting the Highest Levels of Performance are exempted from provisions of subsection (4) of MS Code 37-21-7.)**

- 23.11 Vocational-Technical Education {MS Code 37-31-1 et. seq.} (SB Policies 8100, 8200, 8300, 8400, 8500, 8600, 8700, 8800, 8900, 9000, 9100, 9200, 9300, 9400, and Federal Code)
- 23.12 Special Education {MS Code 37-23-1 through 9} (SB Policies 7201, 7203, 7204, 7205, 7206, 7208, 7210, 7211, 7212, 7213, 7214, 7219, and Federal Code) (See *State Policies Regarding Children with Disabilities under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 2004 (IDEA 2004)* and the Mattie T. Consent Decree.)
- 23.13 Child Nutrition {MS Code 37-11-7} (SB Policies 2001, 2002, 2004, 2007, 2009 and Federal Code)
- 23.14 *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001*: Titles I, II, III, IV, V, VI, X, and any other federally funded programs and grants (SB Policies 4700, 7801, 7802, 7803, 7804, and Federal Code)
- 23.15 Technology in the Classroom {MS Code 37-151-19(3)} (SB Policy 7500)
- 23.16 Driver Education {MS Code 37-25-1 et. seq.} (SB Policy 3000)
- 23.17 Pre-Kindergarten {MS Code 37-7-301(ss)} (SB Policy 2904) (Refer to *Mississippi Early Learning Guidelines*.)
- 23.18 Gifted Education {MS Code 37-23-171 through 181} (SB Policy 3700) (Refer to the current edition of the *Regulations for Gifted Education Programs in Mississippi*, and the *Gifted Education Program Standards*.)
24. Each school has a library-media center. Refer to the current edition of the *Mississippi School Library Media Guide*. {MS Code 37-17-6(3)(a-e)}
- 24.1 Each school has a library-media center with an organized collection of materials and equipment that represents a broad range of current learning media, including instructional technology. **(Schools Meeting the Highest Levels of Performance may be exempted under MS Code 37-17-11.)**
- 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. **(Schools Meeting the Highest Levels of Performance may be exempted under MS Code 37-17-11.)**
25. The school district provides each student with appropriate equipment and laboratory experiences to meet the instructional requirements of the science program. (See the current edition of the *Mississippi Science Framework*.) **(Schools Meeting the Highest Levels of Performance may be exempted under MS Code 37-17-11.)**

**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.**

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, 37-43-24, 37-43-31(2), 37-43-51, 37-9-14(2) (b), and 37-7-301(ff)} (SB Policies 7701 and 7702) (Refer to the current edition of the *Textbook Administration Handbook Rules and Regulations*.)
- 26.1 Each school district provides each student in each school with current or otherwise appropriate textbooks that are in good condition. (See glossary for definition of textbook.) {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 the current edition of the *Textbook Administration Handbook Rules and Regulations*.)

27. The school district implements an instructional management system that has been adopted by the school board and includes, at a minimum, the competencies and objectives required in the curriculum frameworks approved by the State Board of Education. **(Districts Meeting the Highest Levels of Performance are exempted.)** {MS Code 37-3-49(2)(a-b) and 37-3-49(5) and SB Policy 4300}
- 27.3 DELETED.
- 27.4 Suggested teaching strategies, resources, and assessment strategies are available to teachers in each school for selection and use in teaching the required competencies. **(Districts Meeting the Highest Levels of Performance are exempted.)** {MS Code 37-3-49(2)(c) and 37-3-49(5)}
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.
- 28.1 The school district implements a uniform grading policy. (SB Policy 403).
- 28.2 A student who is enrolled in any grade higher than Grade 6 in a school district must be suspended from participation in any extracurricular or athletic activity sponsored or sanctioned by the school district after a semester in which the student's cumulative grade point average is below 2.0 on a 4.0 scale. {MS Code 37-11-65}

**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.**

29. The school district provides alternative education programs for the categories of students identified in MS Code 37-13-92. (SB Policies 901 and 902)
- 29.1 The school district provides access to an alternative education program that meets the program guidelines outlined in MS Code 37-13-92 and the guidelines established by the State Board of Education. (SB Policy 901) (See guidelines for Alternative/GED School Programs.)
- 29.2 The school district, in its discretion, may provide access to a GED Option program that meets the program guidelines outlined in MS Code 37-13-92(4) and the guidelines established by the State Board of Education. (SB Policy 902) (See guidelines for Alternative/GED 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.
- 30.3 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.
- 30.4 Instructional planning time for the elementary school teacher is no less than 150 minutes per week, exclusive of lunch period.
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 request for an exception to the above standard must be submitted in writing to the Commission on School Accreditation for review and action.**

32. The curriculum of each high school at a minimum consists of required and approved courses that generate at least 33½ Carnegie units annually. (See Appendices B and C) {MS Code 37-1-3(2)} (SB Policies 2902 and 2903)

**Note: Any request for an exemption from teaching the courses listed in Appendix B must be submitted in writing to the Commission on School Accreditation for review and action.**

33. The curriculum of each elementary or middle school (any configuration of grades K-8) at a minimum 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: In any configuration of grades K-8, the curriculum must include 150 minutes of activity-based instruction per week and 45 minutes of instruction in health education per week. Implementation of the activity-based instruction must meet or exceed the standards as approved by the State Board of Education. A regular classroom teacher may provide instruction in the arts, health education, and physical education in a self-contained classroom setting.**

34. Student teacher ratios do not exceed the following: {MS Code 37-151-77}
- 34.6 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.*) (SB Policy 2100)
- 34.7 Student teacher ratios do not exceed 27 to 1 in classrooms serving grades 1 through 4 unless approved by the State Board of Education. **(Schools Meeting the Highest Levels of Performance are exempted.)** {MS Code 37-151-77} (SB Policy 2100)
- 34.8 Student teacher ratios do not exceed 30 to 1 in self-contained classes serving grades 5-8. {MS Code 37-151-77}
- 34.9 Student teacher ratios do not exceed 33 to 1 in departmentalized academic core classes serving grades 5-12. {MS Code 37-151-77}
- 34.10 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. **(Schools Meeting the Highest Levels of Performance are exempted.)**

**Note: A teacher who provides instruction through intra-district or inter-district distance learning or supervises students taking virtual courses 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***

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35. The school 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 7903, 7904, 7906, 7907 and 7909)
- 35.5 All buses are inspected on a quarterly basis and are well-maintained and clean. (SB Policy 7909)
- 35.6 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. (SB Policies 7903 and 7906)

- 35.7 Bus schedules ensure arrival of all buses at their designated school sites prior to the start of the instructional day.
  - 35.8 Emergency bus evacuation drills are conducted at least two times each year. (SB Policy 7904)
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 }
- 36.5 The school district provides facilities that are clean and sanitary.
  - 36.6 The school district provides facilities that are safe.
  - 36.7 The school district provides operational facilities that are equipped to meet the instructional needs of students and staff.
  - 36.8 The school district provides air conditioning in all classrooms in each school. {MS Code 37-17-6(2)}
37. The school district complies with State Board Policies and State and Federal laws to provide 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 Codes 37-3-81; 37-3-83(2); 37-11-67 and 37-11-69} (See the School Safety Manual and the MDE School Occupational Safety and Crisis Response Plan.)
  - 37.2 Each school has on file a school wellness policy developed by a local school health council that addresses the eight components of a coordinated approach to school health and that has been approved annually by the local school board. (*Child Nutrition Reauthorization Act of 2004*) (See the Guide for Development of Local School Wellness Policy, [www.healthyschoolsms.org](http://www.healthyschoolsms.org)) {MS Code 37-13-134 and MS Code 41-79-31 } (SB Policy 4012)

**GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS  
STANDARD 20**

**SENIORS OF SCHOOL YEAR 2008-2009, 2009-2010 & 2010-2011  
(Entering ninth graders in 2005-2006, 2006-2007, 2007-2008)**

Each student graduating from a secondary school in an accredited school district will have earned the required Carnegie units as specified in the following table. Contents of each required and elective course must include the core objectives identified in the *Mississippi Curriculum Frameworks*. Course titles and identification numbers must appear in the current edition of *Approved Courses for Secondary Schools of Mississippi*. (See SB Policies 2902 and 2903.) Enrollment in on-line and correspondence courses listed in this book must have prior approval granted by the principal. No more than one (1) of the minimum required number of units may be earned through completion of an approved correspondence course. Elective courses that do not have identified content in the *Mississippi Curriculum Frameworks* or whose titles do not appear in the current edition of *Approved Courses for the Secondary Schools of Mississippi* must be approved according to criteria stated in Appendix D.

Any student who completes the minimum graduation requirements as specified below and has achieved a passing score on each of the required high school exit examinations is eligible to receive a high school diploma. The local school district may establish additional local requirements approved by the local school board as authorized under MS Code 37-16-7.

<b>CURRICULUM AREA</b>	<b>CARNEGIE UNITS</b>	<b>REQUIRED SUBJECTS</b>
<b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>4<sup>1</sup></b>	
<b>MATHEMATICS</b>	<b>4<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Algebra I</b>
<b>SCIENCE</b>	<b>3<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>Biology I</b>
<b>SOCIAL STUDIES</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1 World History<sup>4</sup> 1 U.S. History<sup>4</sup> ½ U.S. Government ½ Mississippi Studies<sup>5</sup></b>
<b>HEALTH</b>	<b>½<sup>6&amp;7</sup></b>	<b>Comprehensive Health <i>or</i> Family and Individual Health</b>
<b>BUSINESS &amp; TECHNOLOGY</b>	<b>1<sup>8</sup></b>	<b>1 Computer Discovery or ½ Keyboarding and ½ Computer Applications</b>
<b>THE ARTS</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Any approved 500.000 course or completion of the 2-course sequence for Computer Graphics Technology I and II</b>
<b>ELECTIVES</b>	<b>4½<sup>9</sup></b>	
<b>TOTAL UNITS REQUIRED</b>	<b>21</b>	

**APPENDIX A-1 (Continued)**  
**GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**  
**STANDARD 20**

**SENIORS OF SCHOOL YEAR 2008-2009, 2009-2010 & 2010-2011**  
**(Entering ninth graders in 2005-2006, 2006-2007 & 2007-2008)**

<sup>1</sup> Compensatory Reading and Compensatory Writing may not be included in the four English courses required for graduation; however, these courses may be included in the 4½ general electives required for graduation. MYP-English I and MYP English II are accepted in lieu of the English I and English II requirements for students enrolled in the IB program.

<sup>2</sup> Compensatory Mathematics and any developmental mathematics course may not be included in the four mathematics courses required for graduation; however, these courses may be included in the 4½ general electives required for graduation. Beginning school year 2004-2005 for all entering eighth graders, at least one of the four required mathematics courses must be higher than Algebra I. The allowable mathematics courses that can be taken which are higher than Algebra I are: Geometry, Algebra II, Advanced Algebra, Trigonometry, Pre-Calculus, Calculus, AP Calculus AB, AP Calculus BC, Discrete Mathematics, Statistics, and AP Statistics. One of the four required mathematics units may be in Drafting if the student completes the 2-course sequence for Drafting I & II. Effective with the eighth graders of 2004-2005, Pre-Algebra, Transition to Algebra, and Algebra I, may be taken in the eighth grade for Carnegie unit credit. MYP Geometry, MYP Algebra II, IB-DP Mathematics I, IB-DP Mathematics II, IB-DP Mathematical Studies I, IB-DP Mathematical Studies II are allowable mathematics courses higher than Algebra I for IB students.

<sup>3</sup> One unit may be in Introduction to Agriscience, Concepts of Agriscience, Science of Agricultural Plants, Science of Agricultural Animals, or Science of Agricultural Environment. Two units may be in the following courses if the student completes the 2-course sequence: 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. Two units may be earned by completing the following AEST 3-course sequence: one unit in Concepts of Agriscience; one unit in Science of Agricultural Animals or Science of Agricultural Plants, or Science of Agricultural Environment; and one unit in Agribusiness and Entrepreneurship. IB-DP Physics I, IB-DP Physics II, MYP Chemistry, and IB-DP Chemistry may be accepted as allowable lab-based physical science courses for students enrolled in the IB program. MYP Biology and IB-DP Biology I may be accepted in lieu of the Biology I requirement for students enrolled in an IB program.

<sup>4</sup> **Based on the 2004 Mississippi Social Studies framework**, AP European History or AP World History can be accepted in lieu of World History. Advanced placement U.S. History is accepted in lieu of the required U.S. History from 1877 to present. AP Government and Politics: United States can be accepted in lieu of the required United States Government course. A.P. Macroeconomics or A.P. Microeconomics can be taken in lieu of the required Economics course. A.P. Human Geography can be accepted in lieu of the required Geography course. IB-DP History of the Americas I is accepted in lieu of the required U.S. History Course for students enrolled in the IB program. IB-DP History of the Americas II is accepted in lieu of the required Mississippi Studies, Economics, and/or U.S. Government courses for students enrolled in the IB program. MYP U. S. Government is accepted in lieu of the required Government course for students enrolled in the IB program.

**Based on the 2011 Mississippi Social Studies framework**, A.P. World History can be accepted in lieu of the required World History from the Age of Enlightenment to Present course. A.P. United States History can be accepted in lieu of the required U.S. History from Post-reconstruction to Present course. A.P. Government and Politics: United States can be accepted in lieu of the required United States Government course, A.P. Macroeconomics or A.P. Microeconomics can be taken in lieu of the required Economics course, A.P. Human Geography can be accepted in lieu of the required Geography course. IB-DP History of the Americas I is accepted in lieu of the required U.S. History course for students enrolled in the IB program. IB-DP History of the Americas II is accepted in lieu of the required Mississippi Studies, Economics, and/or U.S. Government courses for students enrolled in the IB program. MYP U.S. Government is accepted in lieu of the required Government course for students enrolled in the IB program.

<sup>5</sup> The credit earned for a State/Local Government course in any other state by an out-of-state transfer student who enters after the sophomore year can stand in lieu of Mississippi Studies or Mississippi State and Local Government. If the transfer student took a State/Local Government course in a grade level that did not award Carnegie unit credit, then any other ½ unit social studies course may be accepted. An out-of-state student who transfers after the junior year may substitute any other ½ unit social studies course.

<sup>6</sup> Credit earned in Allied Health I/Health Science I may be accepted in lieu of Comprehensive Health or Family and Individual Health to meet the graduation requirement for ½ Carnegie unit in Health.

<sup>7</sup> Successful completion of JROTC I and JROTC II may be accepted in lieu of Comprehensive Health or Family and Individual Health to meet the graduation requirement for ½ Carnegie unit in Health beginning in the 2010-2011 school year and thereafter, when instruction includes all health components in the JROTC curriculum.

<sup>8</sup> Evidence of proficiency in Keyboarding and Computer Applications is accepted in lieu of the required courses if the student earns one unit in any of the courses listed in the *Business and Technology Framework* (academic and vocational). Information & Computer Technology (ICT) II may be accepted in lieu of Computer Discovery. A Carnegie unit earned for Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM) in the 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> grade meets this graduation requirement. Technology Foundations replaces Computer Discovery, Keyboarding and Computer Applications and meets this graduation requirement when taken in grades 8-12. MYP Computer Discovery may be accepted in lieu of Computer Discovery for students enrolled in an IB program.

<sup>9</sup> Elective units in physical education include participation in interscholastic athletic activities, band, performance choral, dance and JROTC that meet the instructional requirements specified in the *Fitness through Physical Education Framework* and that are sanctioned by the Mississippi High School Activities Association.

**GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS  
STANDARD 20**

**SENIORS OF SCHOOL YEAR 2011-2012  
(Entering ninth graders in 2008-2009, and thereafter)**

Each student graduating from a secondary school in an accredited school district will have earned the required Carnegie units as specified in the following table. Contents of each required and elective course must include the core objectives identified in the *Mississippi Curriculum Frameworks*. Course titles and identification numbers must appear in the current edition of *Approved Courses for Secondary Schools of Mississippi*. (See SB Policies 2902 and 2903) Enrollment in on-line and correspondence courses listed in this book must have prior approval granted by the principal. No more than one (1) of the minimum required number of units may be earned through completion of an approved correspondence course. ~~Elective courses that do not have identified content in the *Mississippi Curriculum Frameworks* or whose titles do not appear in the current edition of *Approved Courses for the Secondary Schools of Mississippi* must be approved according to criteria stated in Appendix D.~~

Any student who completes the minimum graduation requirements as specified below and has achieved a passing score on each of the required high school exit examinations is eligible to receive a high school diploma. The local school district may establish additional local requirements approved by the local school board as authorized under MS Code 37-16-7.

Beginning school year 2008-2009 and thereafter, all entering ninth graders (seniors of school year 2011-2012 and later) will be required to have a minimum of 24 Carnegie units as specified below, unless their parent/guardian requests to opt the student out of Appendix A-2 requirements in accordance with local school board policy. Any student who is taken out of these requirements of Appendix A-2 will be required to complete the graduation requirements as specified in Appendix A-1. The local school district may establish additional local requirements approved by the local school board as authorized under MS Code 37-16-7.

<b>CURRICULUM AREA</b>	<b>CARNEGIE UNITS</b>	<b>REQUIRED SUBJECTS</b>
<b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>4<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>English I English II</b>
<b>MATHEMATICS</b>	<b>4<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Algebra I</b>
<b>SCIENCE</b>	<b>4<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>Biology I</b>
<b>SOCIAL STUDIES</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1 World History<sup>4</sup> 1 U.S. History<sup>4</sup> ½ Geography<sup>4</sup> ½ U.S. Government ½ Economics<sup>5</sup> ½ Mississippi Studies<sup>6</sup></b>
<b>HEALTH and PHYSICAL EDUCATION</b>	<b>1<sup>7&amp;8</sup></b>	<b>½ Comprehensive Health <i>or</i> ½ Family &amp; Individual Health and ½ Physical Education<sup>9&amp;11</sup></b>
<b>BUSINESS &amp; TECHNOLOGY</b>	<b>1<sup>10</sup></b>	<b>1 Computer Discovery <i>or</i> ½ Keyboarding and ½ Computer Applications<sup>10</sup></b>
<b>THE ARTS</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Any approved 500.000 course <i>or</i> completion of the 2-course sequence for Computer Graphics Technology I and II</b>
<b>ELECTIVES</b>	<b>5<sup>11</sup></b>	
<b>TOTAL UNITS REQUIRED</b>	<b>24</b>	

**APPENDIX A-2 (Continued)**  
**GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**  
**STANDARD 20**  
**SENIORS OF SCHOOL YEAR 2011-2012**  
**(Entering ninth graders in 2008-2009, and thereafter)**

<sup>1</sup>Compensatory Reading and Compensatory Writing may not be included in the four English courses required for graduation; however, these courses may be included in the 5 general electives required for graduation. Accelerated English 9 can be accepted in lieu of English I. Accelerated English 10 and AP English Language Composition can be accepted in lieu of English II. Beginning school year 2010-2011 for all entering ninth graders, English I is a required prerequisite course for English II. English I may not be taken after a student completes English II.

<sup>2</sup>Compensatory Mathematics, Introduction to Engineering, and any developmental mathematics course may not be included in the four mathematics courses required for graduation; however, these courses may be included in the 5 general electives required for graduation. Effective with the eighth graders of 2008-2009, Pre-Algebra and Transition to Algebra may not be taken after a student completes Algebra I. Beginning school year 2007-2008 for all entering eighth graders, at least two of the four required mathematics courses must be higher than Algebra I. Effective with ninth graders of 2010-2011, Survey of Mathematical Topics may not be included in the two math courses higher than Algebra I. The allowable mathematics courses that can be taken which are higher than Algebra I are: Geometry, Algebra II, Advanced Algebra, Trigonometry, Pre-Calculus, Calculus, AP Calculus AB, AP Calculus BC, Discrete Mathematics, Statistics, and AP Statistics. MYP Geometry, MYP Algebra II, IB-DP Mathematics I, IB-DP Mathematics II, IB-DP Mathematical Studies I, IB-DP Mathematical Studies II are allowable mathematics courses higher than Algebra I for IB students. One of the four required mathematics units may be in Drafting if the student completes the 2-course sequence for Drafting I & II. One of the four required mathematics units may be in Survey of Mathematical Topics; however this course does not meet the mathematics requirement for admission to institutions of higher learning. Effective with the eighth graders of 2004-2005, Pre-Algebra, Transition to Algebra, and Algebra I, may be taken in the eighth grade for Carnegie unit credit. Effective with the eighth graders of 2008-2009, Geometry may be taken in the eighth grade for Carnegie unit credit.

Effective with 7<sup>th</sup> graders of 2012-13, Pre-Algebra, Algebra I, Biology I, ICT II (Information & Communication Technology) and first year Foreign Language may be taken in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade for Carnegie unit credit provided the course content is the same as the high school course. Effective with 8<sup>th</sup> graders of 2012-2013, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics) and second year Foreign Language may be taken in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade for Carnegie unit credit provided the course content is the same as the high school course.

<sup>3</sup> One unit may be in Concepts of Agriscience, and a second unit may be in completing 2 of the following 3 courses: Science of Agriculture Plants, Science of Agriculture Animals, Science of Agricultural Environment. Two units may be in the following courses if the student completes the required course sequence ending with Agriscience II, Allied Health II, Aquaculture II, Forestry II, Plastics and Polymer Science II, Technology Applications II, Polymer Science II or Careers in Polymer Science, Horticulture II or Horticulture Landscape and Turfgrass, Engineering II or Applied Engineering Concepts, Health Sciences II or Workplace and Employment Skills in Health Sciences. Beginning school year 2008-2009 for all entering eighth graders, one unit must be a lab-based physical science. The allowable lab-based physical science courses are Physical Science, Chemistry, AP Chemistry, Physics, AP Physics B, AP Physics C – Electricity and Magnetism, and AP Physics C – Mechanics. IB-DP Physics I, IB-DP Physics II, MYP Chemistry, and IB-DP Chemistry may be accepted as allowable lab-based physical science courses for students enrolled in the IB program. MYP Biology and IB-DP Biology I may be accepted in lieu of the Biology I requirement for students enrolled in an IB program.

<sup>4</sup> **Based on the 2004 Mississippi Social Studies framework**, Advanced Placement Human Geography is accepted in lieu of the required Geography course. A.P. United States History can be accepted in lieu of the required U.S. History from 1877 to Present course. A.P. World History can be accepted in lieu of the required World History from 1795 to Present course. A.P. Government and Politics: United States can be accepted in lieu of the required United States Government course. A.P. Macroeconomics or A.P. Microeconomics can be taken in lieu of the required Economics course. MYP World Geography is accepted in lieu of the required Geography course for students enrolled in the IB program. Advanced placement U.S. History is accepted in lieu of the required U.S. History from 1877 to Present. IB-DP History of the Americas I is accepted in lieu of the required U.S. History

Course for students enrolled in the IB program. IB-DP History of the Americas II is accepted in lieu of the required Mississippi Studies, Economics, and/or U.S. Government courses for students enrolled in the IB program. MYP U. S. Government is accepted in lieu of the required Government course for students enrolled in the IB program. AP European History or AP World History can be accepted in lieu of World History.

**Based on the 2011 Mississippi Social Studies framework**, A.P. World History can be accepted in lieu of the required World History from the Age of Enlightenment to Present course. A.P. United States History can be accepted in lieu of the required U.S. History from Post-reconstruction to Present course. A.P. Government and Politics: United States can be accepted in lieu of the required United States Government course. A.P. Macroeconomics or A.P. Microeconomics can be taken in lieu of the required Economics course. A.P. Human Geography can be accepted in lieu of the required Geography course. MYP World Geography is accepted in lieu of the required Geography course for students enrolled in the IB program. IB-DP History of the Americas I is accepted in lieu of the required U.S. History course for students enrolled in the IB program. IB-DP History of the Americas II is accepted in lieu of the required Mississippi Studies, Economics, and/or U.S. Government courses for students enrolled in the IB program. MYP U.S. Government is accepted in lieu of the required Government course for students enrolled in the IB program.

<sup>5</sup> Credit earned for Business Fundamentals or Business Fundamentals II may be accepted in lieu of ½ unit in Economics.

<sup>6</sup> The credit earned for a State/Local Government course in any other state by an out-of-state transfer student who enters after the sophomore year can stand in lieu of Mississippi Studies or Mississippi State and Local Government. If the transfer student took a State/Local Government course in a grade level that did not award Carnegie unit credit, then any other ½ unit social studies course may be accepted. An out-of-state student who transfers after the junior year may substitute any other ½ unit social studies course.

<sup>7</sup> Credit earned in Allied Health I, Health Sciences I, or Theory and Application of Health Sciences I, may be accepted in lieu of Comprehensive Health or Family and Individual Health to meet the graduation requirement for ½ Carnegie unit in Health.

<sup>8</sup> Successful completion of JROTC I and JROTC II may be accepted in lieu of Comprehensive Health or Family and Individual Health to meet the graduation requirement for ½ Carnegie unit in Health beginning in the 2010-2011 school year and thereafter.

<sup>9</sup> The graduation requirement for ½ unit in physical education may include participation in interscholastic athletic activities, band, dance and JROTC that meet the instructional requirements specified in the *Fitness through Physical Education Framework* and that are sanctioned by the Mississippi High School Activities Association.

<sup>10</sup> Evidence of proficiency in technology is accepted in lieu of the required courses if the student earns one unit in a technology-rich academic or career technical course related to their program of study. Effective with school year 2012-2013, a Carnegie unit credit for ICT II (Information & Communication Technology) may be awarded to 7<sup>th</sup> grade students. Effective with school year 2012-2013, a Carnegie unit credit for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics) may be awarded to 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. ICT II may be accepted in lieu of Computer Discovery. A Carnegie unit earned for STEM in the 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> grade meets this graduation requirement. Technology Foundations replaces Computer Discovery, Keyboarding and Computer Applications and meets this graduation requirement when taken in grades 8-12. MYP Computer Discovery may be accepted in lieu of Computer Discovery for students enrolled in an IB program.

<sup>11</sup> Only one elective unit in physical education including participation in interscholastic athletic activities, band, performance choral, dance or JROTC that meet the instructional requirements specified in the *Fitness through Physical Education Framework* and that are sanctioned by the Mississippi High School Activities Association may be applied each year to the minimum 24 required state units. If a local district has graduation requirements above the state requirements they may award additional credits as outlined in the local Board policy.

## GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS STANDARD 20

### CAREER PATHWAY OPTION SENIORS OF SCHOOL YEAR 2011-2012 (Entering eleventh graders in 2010-2011)

In 2010, Mississippi state policymakers passed legislation to create multiple pathways to a standard diploma. The 2010 legislative actions created a career pathway to a standard diploma, with the goal of improving Mississippi graduation rates and providing students with career and technical training that prepare students for postsecondary credential or certification programs and employable workplace skills. This legislative change created Section 37-16-17, *Mississippi code of 1972*, as amended to provide for high school career option programs and career track curricula for students not wishing to pursue a baccalaureate degree.

CURRICULUM AREA	CARNEGIE UNITS	REQUIRED SUBJECTS
ENGLISH	4 <sup>1</sup>	English I English II
MATHEMATICS	3 <sup>2</sup>	Algebra I
SCIENCE	3 <sup>3</sup>	Biology I
SOCIAL STUDIES	3 <sup>4,5</sup>	1 U.S. History ½ U.S. Government ½ Mississippi Studies
HEALTH and PHYSICAL EDUCATION	½ <sup>6</sup>	½ Comprehensive Health, or ½ Family and Individual Health, or ½ Physical Education
CAREER and TECHNICAL	4 <sup>7</sup>	(Selected from Student's Program of Study)
INTEGRATED TECHNOLOGY	1 <sup>8</sup>	Computer Discovery, ICT II, STEM, or Computer Applications and Keyboarding
ADDITIONAL ELECTIVES	2 ½ <sup>9</sup>	Courses selected from the student's approved program of study
TOTAL UNITS REQUIRED	21	

**NOTE:** Mississippi's Institution of Higher Learning requirements differ from minimum graduation requirements for this diploma pathway.

**GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**  
**Standard 20**  
**Career Pathway Option**

**SENIORS OF SCHOOL YEAR 2011-2012**  
**(Entering eleventh graders 2010-2011)**

<sup>1</sup> Compensatory Reading and Compensatory Writing shall not be included in the four English courses required for graduation. The two additional English credits must be from the student's program of study which includes Technical Writing, Creative Writing, English III, English IV, or any college-level dual credit courses.

<sup>2</sup> Compensatory Mathematics may not be included in the three mathematics courses required for graduation. Effective with eighth graders of 2008-2009, Pre-Algebra and Transition to Algebra may not be taken after a student completes Algebra I. For students pursuing the Career Pathway Graduation Option, at least one of the required mathematics courses must be above Algebra I and selected from the student's program of study. The allowable mathematics courses that can be taken which are higher than Algebra I are: Geometry, Algebra II, Survey of Mathematical Topics, Advanced Algebra, Trigonometry, Pre-Calculus, Calculus, AP Calculus AB, AP Calculus BC, Discrete Mathematics, Statistics, and AP Statistics, or any college-level dual credit courses. Effective with the eighth graders of 2004-2005, Pre-Algebra, Transition to Algebra, and Algebra I, may be taken in the eighth grade for Carnegie unit credit. Effective with the eighth graders of 2008-2009, Geometry may be taken in the eighth grade for Carnegie unit credit.

<sup>3</sup> For students pursuing the Career Pathway Graduation Option, at least one of the required science courses must be above Biology I and selected from the student's program of study. If a student's program of study allows, one unit may be in Concepts of Agriscience (AEST). A second science unit may be earned by completing a two course sequence selected from the following three options: Science of Agricultural Animals, Science of Agricultural Plants, or Science of Agricultural Environment. Two units may be in the following courses if the student completes the 2-course sequence: Agriscience I & II; Allied Health I & II; Health Science I & II, Aquaculture I & II; Forestry I & II; Horticulture I & II; Polymer Science I & II; Technology Applications I & II and Engineering I & II.

<sup>4</sup> Advanced placement U.S. History is accepted in lieu of the required U.S. History 1877 to Present. The third social studies credit should be selected based on the student's program of study.

<sup>5</sup> The credit earned for a State/Local Government course in any other state by an out-of-state transfer student who enters after the sophomore year can stand in lieu of Mississippi Studies or Mississippi State and Local Government. If the transfer student took a State/Local Government course in a grade level that did not award Carnegie unit credit, then any other ½ unit social studies course may be accepted. An out-of-state student who transfers after the junior year may substitute any other ½ unit social studies course. Credit earned for Business Fundamentals or Business Fundamentals II may be accepted in lieu of ½ unit in Economics.

<sup>6</sup> Credit earned in Allied Health I/Health Science I may be accepted in lieu of Comprehensive Health or Family and Individual Health to meet the graduation requirement for ½ Carnegie unit in Health. Interscholastic athletic activities, band, and ROTC if they meet the instructional requirements specified in the *Fitness through Physical Education Framework* may also be accepted.

<sup>7</sup> Career and Technical (CTE) courses must be based on the student's program of study and should include dual credit/dual enrollment options as found in Section 37-15-38 of the Mississippi Code of 1972.

<sup>8</sup> Evidence of proficiency in technology is accepted in lieu of the required courses if the student earns one unit in a technology-rich academic or career technical course related to their program of study.

<sup>9</sup> Electives must be selected from courses related to the student's program of study. Credits earned not approved for that student's program of study will not be counted toward graduation requirements.

## APPENDIX D

### COURSE DEVELOPMENT

Courses that are to be offered above the minimum required Carnegie units and that are not listed in the current edition of *Approved Courses for the Secondary Schools of Mississippi*, as provided for in State Board of Education Policies 2902 and 2903, must meet the criteria outlined in 1.0 through 5.0 below in order to qualify for credit toward graduation. However, in the event that the local school district wishes to implement a course that is nationally or regionally recognized, then the Office of Curriculum and Instruction may approve that course for use in that district for one year by meeting the following conditions:

- the course has a well defined curriculum, and the local school district wishes to implement the course on a pilot basis;
- the local board of education has approved that implementation for one year; and
- the appropriate Mississippi Department of Education office agrees with the district request.

During that year, appropriate MDE staff will visit the district and review the course implementation. If the course clearly meets the intent of the course development requirements (1.0 through 5.0), then it may be recommended for continued use in the district. If it does not meet the requirements, it will not be approved a second year. However, it may be submitted by the district under the criteria for course approval (1.0 through 5.0).

The required information must be attached to the application. Each required attachment should be marked with the appropriate reference number. Omission of any of this information will cause this application to be returned to the district for revisions and resubmitted prior to the October deadline date in order for the course to be considered.

#### 1.0 Definitions

- 1.1 **Course**—an organized set of competencies and suggested objectives within an academic discipline offered for a period of time (semester or school year) for which a student receives academic credit.
- 1.2 **Developmental Course**—a course designed to be taught in any grade 7-12 (or any combination of grades 7-12 served within a school) that does not appear as an approved course in the current edition of *Approved Courses for the Secondary Schools of Mississippi* published by the Office of Curriculum and Instruction but is in the approval seeking process as initiated by said school district to be taught in said school district.

#### 2.0 Preliminary Approval Criteria

- 2.1 A district must have the approval of the local school board before submitting a course to the Commission for approval.
- 2.2 Courses must not be alternatives or replacements for any State Board of Education basic course requirements (Appendix B) or graduation requirements (Appendix A) or Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning student admission requirements (Appendix C).
- 2.3 Courses submitted for approval must meet during the teaching day.

#### 3.0 Application/Approval Procedure/Adoption

- 3.1.1 Application for approval of local developmental courses must be made by the third Monday of October.
- 3.1.2 Applications will be reviewed according to preliminary criteria listed in 2.0 and content criteria listed in 4.0.
- 3.1.3 The Office of Curriculum and Instruction will notify districts of the status of the course.
- 3.1.4 Approval for local developmental courses will be a one year process, commencing with the beginning of the next school year following approval.
- 3.1.5 At the conclusion of the school year, a summative evaluation is required (deadline June 30).

#### **4.0 — Application Content**

- 4.1 — Application for local developmental course approval will be made on forms provided by the Office of Curriculum and Instruction. The application will include the following:
- 4.1.1 — Course title
  - 4.1.2 — Academic discipline(s)
  - 4.1.3 — Required teacher licensure
  - 4.1.4 — Pre-requisite courses for enrollment
  - 4.1.5 — Carnegie unit credit for course
  - 4.1.6 — Grade levels to be served
  - 4.1.7 — Number of minutes per day/week instruction is to be given
  - 4.1.8 — Budget
- 4.2 — The instructional management plan for the developmental course will be submitted and must contain the following:
- 4.2.1 — Course design — The course design will indicate the content of the course.
  - 4.2.2 — Course description — The course description will adhere to the format of the current discipline framework for which the course is being submitted. Failure to do so will result in the application being returned to the district for revisions, and the application must be resubmitted prior to the deadline date. The description will consist of the following:
    - — Competencies/Strand objectives
    - — Suggested objectives/Content objectives
    - — Suggested student and teacher activities
    - — Suggested assessment strategies
    - — Resources
  - 4.2.3 — Course evaluation plan — The evaluation plan will include how the district will determine the success of and need for the course during the pilot period (year one).
- 4.3 — A written narrative detailing the following will be submitted:
- 4.3.1 — Why the course is being initiated
  - 4.3.2 — How the needs assessment was conducted
  - 4.3.2 — How many people responded to the needs assessment
- 4.4 — Projected expenditure budget for this course for one fiscal year. (Detailed costs should include equipment, supplies, etc.)

#### **5.0 — Curriculum Structure Validation**

- 5.1 — At the end of the pilot year, the school district will submit a final summative evaluation report to the Mississippi Department of Education, Office of Curriculum and Instruction, no later than June 30.
- 5.2 — Upon receipt of the final evaluation report, the course will be reviewed to determine if it should be recommended for continued use. The following will be considered:
- 5.2.1 — Course information appears complete and accurate.
    - 5.2.1.1 — Major purpose of course is clearly stated and appropriate.
    - 5.2.1.2 — Competencies are indicated and appropriate.
    - 5.2.1.3 — Objectives that were added or deleted as a result of evaluation data are indicated.
  - 5.2.2 — Course activities are complete
    - 5.2.2.1 — Competencies/Strand objectives are defined.
    - 5.2.2.2 — Suggested objectives/Content objectives are defined.
    - 5.2.2.3 — Suggested student and teacher strategies are appropriate.
    - 5.2.2.4 — Suggested assessment strategies are appropriate.
    - 5.2.2.5 — Appropriate resources are given.