

STANDARDIZED TESTING PROGRAM

Certain standardized tests are scheduled for administration throughout the school system. These tests constitute the Standardized Testing Program. Tests will be administered to conform with state statute.

Section I: PURPOSES

The testing program is designed to assess the student's scholastic aptitude as well as to provide data for continuous study of student achievement, interests, aptitudes, and characteristics related to general improvement of the school program. The test data assists in curriculum planning, instructional programming and student motivation. Some tests shall be used to provide data for research.

1. It is unlawful for anyone knowingly and willfully to do any of the following acts regarding mandatory uniform tests administered to students as required by the State Department of Education and the General Educational Development Test (GED):
 1. Give examinees access to test questions prior to testing;
 2. Copy or reproduce all or any portion of any secure test booklet;
 3. Coach examinees during testing or alter or interfere with examinees' responses in any way;
 4. Make answer keys available to examinees;
 5. Fail to account for all secure test materials before, during and after testing;
 6. Participate in, direct, aid, counsel, assist in, encourage or fail to report any of the acts prohibited in this section.
2. Any person violating any provisions of subsection (1) of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be fined not more than One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00), or be imprisoned for not more than ninety (90) days or both. Upon conviction, the State Board of Education may suspend or revoke the administrative or teaching credentials, or both, of the person convicted.
3. The district attorney shall investigate allegations of violations of this section, either on his own initiative following a receipt of allegations, or at the request of a school district or the State Department of Education.
4. The district attorney shall furnish to the State Superintendent of Education a report of the findings of any investigation conducted pursuant to this section.

5. The State Board of Education shall establish statistical guidelines to examine the results of state mandated tests to determine where there is evidence of testing irregularities resulting in false or misleading results in the aggregate or composite test scores of the class, grade, age group or school district. When said irregularities are identified, the State Superintendent of Education may order that any group of students identified as being required to retake the test at state expense under state supervision. The school district shall be given at least thirty (30) days' notice before the next test administration and shall comply with the order of the State Superintendent of Education. The results from the second administration of the test shall be final for all uses of that data.
6. Nothing in this section may be construed to prohibit or interfere with the responsibilities of the State Board of Education or the State Department of Education in test development or selection, test form construction, standard setting, test scoring, and reporting, or any other related activities which in the judgment of the State Superintendent of Education are necessary and appropriate.

TRANSFER STUDENTS

All students seeking to transfer from any school, public, private or home school within or outside of the boundaries of the State of Mississippi, to this school district may be required to take a test to determine the grade and class to which the pupil shall be assigned at the time of pupil transfer.

The principal shall administer the test or tests to such pupil or pupils as shall apply for transfer to such public school. Such test or tests shall be administered within thirty days after the filing of each such application for transfer. Notice of the giving of such test shall be given the applicant not less than five days prior to the date of the administration of such test.

No transfer of a pupil shall be effected until the test has been given and the pupil is assigned according to the grade and class for which the test shows he is best suited. No pupil shall be assigned to a grade and class more than three (3) grades above or below the grade or class that the pupil would have been assigned to had the pupil remained in the school from which the transfer is being made. Pending the administration of the test herein provided for and its grading and an assignment based thereon the superintendent of the school district or the attendance center principal to which the pupil seeks admission may assign the pupil temporarily to a grade and class comparable to that in which the pupil would have been had the pupil continued in the school from which the transfer was being made.

If any student is transferred or reassigned within the school district by order of the board of trustees of that school district as designated by law of the State of

Mississippi and not at his own request, the requirement of that pupil's taking the standardized test shall be waived. Likewise, if a pupil shall transfer from one school district to another school district in the manner provided and required by the laws of the State of Mississippi, the requirement of such pupil taking the standardized test shall be waived.

SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENTS

The State Department of Education shall establish goals for the performance of children with disabilities that will promote the purpose of IDEA and are consistent, to the maximum extent appropriate, with other goals and standards for children established by the State Department of Education. Performance indicators used to assess progress toward achieving those goals that, at a minimum, address the performance of children with disabilities on assessments, drop-out rates, and graduation rates shall be developed. Every two (2) years, the progress toward meeting the established performance goals shall be reported to the public.

Children with disabilities shall be included in general statewide and district-wide assessments programs, with appropriate accommodations, where necessary. As appropriate, the State Department of Education and the local educational agency shall:

- a. Develop policies and procedures for the participation of children with disabilities in alternate assessments for those children who cannot participate in statewide and district-wide assessment programs; and
- b. Develop and, beginning not later than July 1, 2000, conduct those alternate assessments. '

The Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards for this policy are standards 7, 14, and 16.

SOURCE: Jackson Public School District, Jackson, Mississippi;
Mississippi School Board Association

LEGAL REF: Sections 37-16-4, 37-15-33, 37-23-1, 37-16-9 of the
Mississippi Code; Mississippi Public School Accountability
Standards 7, 14, and 16

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