

OFFICE OF CHIEF SCHOOL PERFORMANCE OFFICER
Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Items
April 16-17, 2015

OFFICE OF ACCREDITATION

04. Approval to revise State Board Policy 3804 - Additional Assessment Options for Graduation
(Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process with public comments)

On January 17, 2014, the State Board of Education approved the proposed assessment options for graduation and the establishment of State Board Policy 3804.

State Board Policy 3803, *Assessments Required for Graduation*, outlines the graduation requirements for end-of-course subject area tests in the areas of Algebra I, Biology I, English II, and U.S. History. In an effort to provide flexibility to students, State Board Policy 3804 provides approved options for students to meet these high school end-of-course assessment requirements through alternate measures.

State Board of Education Policy 3804 states that a student is eligible to use any of the approved options to meet graduation requirements once he or she has failed to pass any required end-of-course subject area test two times. This proposed revision would allow a student to meet the graduation requirements once he or she has failed to pass any required end-of-course subject area test **one time**.

The proposed revision to State Board Policy 3804 will increase the opportunities for students to meet all graduation requirements. In addition, the PARCC assessments being administered during the 2014-2015 school year in Algebra I and English II are one-year assessments. The Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) is currently in the process of selecting a vendor to provide the assessments for the 2015-2016 school year and thereafter.

The MDE will continue to provide re-test opportunities for each of the end-of-course subject area tests to students by administering the legacy assessments, such as FLE, SATP, SATP2, and PARCC for students who do not meet the additional options outlined in State Board Policy 3804.

Recommendation: Approval

Back-up material attached

State Board Policy 3804

DESCRIPTOR TERM: Additional Assessment Options for Meeting End-of-Course Subject Area Test Graduation Requirements

CODE: 3804

ADOPTION DATE: January 17, 2014

REVISION:

State Board Policy 3803, *Assessments Required for Graduation*, outlines the end-of-course subject area test graduation requirements. State Board Policy 3804 provides approved options for students to meet these high school end-of-course subject area test graduation requirements through approved alternate measures. State Board Policy 3804 applies to past, current, and future Mississippi students.

While it is possible that a student will meet one of the options below before taking the subject area test, this policy states that a student is eligible to use any of these options once he or she has failed to pass any required end-of-course subject area test two one times. Specifically, students may meet the graduation requirement outlined in State Board Policy 3803 by attaining any one of the measures outlined below for each of the subject area tests listed.

1. Algebra I

- a. Obtain a score of 17 or higher on the Math subject subscore of the ACT.
- b. Earn a C or higher in an entry level, credit-bearing dual enrollment/dual credit /college credit course with a MAT prefix.
- c. Obtain an ASVAB AFQT score of 36 **plus one** of the following:
 - 1) Earn a CPAS (Career Planning and Assessment System) score that meets the attainment level assigned by Federal Perkins requirements.
 - 2) Earn an approved Industry Certification as specified in the Career Pathway's Assessment Blueprint and outlined in **Appendix A-5** in the current edition of the *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards*.
- d. Obtain the *Silver Level* on the ACT WorkKeys **plus one** of the following:
 - 1) Earn a CPAS (Career Planning and Assessment System) score that meets the attainment level assigned by Federal Perkins requirements.
 - 2) Earn an approved Industry Certification as specified in the Career Pathway's Assessment Blueprint and in **Appendix A-5** in the

current edition of the *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards*.

2. Biology I

- a. Obtain a score of **17** or higher on the Science subject subscore of the ACT.
- b. Earn a C or higher in an entry level, credit-bearing dual enrollment / dual credit / college credit course with a BIO prefix.
- c. Obtain an ASVAB AFQT score of 36 **plus one** of the following:
 - 1) Earn a CPAS (Career Planning and Assessment System) score that meets the attainment level assigned by Federal Perkins requirements.
 - 2) Earn an approved Industry Certification as specified in the Career Pathway's Assessment Blueprint and in **Appendix A-5** in the current edition of the *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards*.
- d. Obtain the *Silver Level* on the ACT WorkKeys **plus one** of the following:
 - 1) Earn a CPAS (Career Planning and Assessment System) score that meets the attainment level assigned by Federal Perkins requirements.
 - 2) Earn an approved Industry Certification as specified in the Career Pathway's Assessment Blueprint and in **Appendix A-5** in the current edition of the *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards*.

3. English II

- a. Obtain a score of **17** or higher on the English subject subscore of the ACT.
- b. Earn a C or higher in an entry level, credit-bearing dual enrollment / dual credit / college credit course with an ENG prefix.
- c. Obtain an ASVAB AFQT score of 36 **plus one** of the following:
 - 1) Earn a CPAS (Career Planning and Assessment System) score that meets the attainment level assigned by Federal Perkins requirements.
 - 2) Earn an approved Industry Certification as specified in the Career Pathway's Assessment Blueprint and in **Appendix A-5** in the current edition of the *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards*.

- d. Obtain the *Silver Level* on the ACT WorkKeys **plus one** of the following:
 - 1) Earn a CPAS (Career Planning and Assessment System) score that meets the attainment level assigned by Federal Perkins requirements.
 - 2) Earn an approved Industry Certification as specified in the Career Pathway's Assessment Blueprint and in **Appendix A-5** in the current edition of the *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards*.

4. U.S. History

- a. Obtain a score of **17** or higher on the reading subject subscore of the ACT.
- b. Earn a C or higher in an entry level credit-bearing dual enrollment / dual credit / college credit course with a HIS prefix.
- c. Obtain an ASVAB AFQT score of 36 **plus one** of the following:
 - 1) Earn a CPAS (Career Planning and Assessment System) score that meets the attainment level assigned by Federal Perkins requirements.
 - 2) Earn an approved Industry Certification as specified in the Career Pathway's Assessment Blueprint and in **Appendix A-5** in the current edition of the *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards*.
- d. Obtain the *Silver Level* on the ACT WorkKeys **plus one** of the following:
 - 1) Earn a CPAS (Career Planning and Assessment System) score that meets the attainment level assigned by Federal Perkins requirements.
 - 2) Earn an approved Industry Certification as specified in the Career Pathway's Assessment Blueprint and in **Appendix A-5** in the current edition of the *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards*.

Source: MS Code 37-17-6 and 37-16-7 (Adopted 1/2014)

Mississippi Graduation Assessment Options State Board of Education Policy 3804

Assessment Options	Math	Science	English	Social Studies
ACT	17 (Math)	17 (Science)	17 (English)	17 (Reading)
Dual Credit / Dual Enrollment	C or higher in MAT credit-bearing course	C or higher in BIO credit-bearing course	C or higher in ENG credit-bearing course	C or higher in HIS credit-bearing course
ASVAB + MS-CPAS2 OR Industry Certification	ASVAB score of 36 plus one of the following: 1. CPAS score that meets the attainment level assigned by Federal Perkins requirements OR 2. Earn approved Industry Certification specified in the Career Pathway's Assessment Blueprint (Appendix A-5)			
ACT WorkKeys + MS-CPAS2 OR Industry Certification	WorkKeys Silver Level plus one of the following: 1. CPAS score that meets the attainment level assigned by Federal Perkins requirements OR 2. Earn approved Industry Certification specified in the Career Pathway's Assessment Blueprint (Appendix A-5)			

State Board of Education

Policy 3804

APA COMMENTS

March 9 – April 7, 2015

APA Comments Summary Chart

Rule	Narrative of Rule	Topic	Comments		
			Supporting	Concerns	Total
Policy 3804	The proposed policy is being revised to allow a student to meet the graduation requirements once he or she has failed to pass any required end-of-course subject area test one time.	State Board of Education Policy 3804-Additional Assessment Options for Graduation.		2	
	TOTAL COMMENTS				

State Board of Education - Policy 3804

APA Comments Summary Chart

Role	Number of Commenters
Superintendents/Conservators	
Assistant Superintendents	1
District School Board Members	
Teachers	
Librarians/Media Specialists	
Federal Programs Directors	
Curriculum Directors	
Special Education Directors	
Principals	
Assistant Principals	
Vocational School Directors	
Other District Personnel	1
Instructional Specialists/Academic Coaches	
Advocacy Groups	
MDE Offices	
Citizens (Parents)	
Unknown	
State Organizations	
TOTAL	2

Two (2) school districts were represented through the APA comments received.

From: BR Jones <brjones@tcsd.k12.ms.us>
Date: March 10, 2015 at 5:02:30 PM CDT
To: Paula Vanderford <PVanderford@mde.k12.ms.us>
Subject: Re: MDE APA Submission Notification

Dear MDE,

Please be advised that I have great reservations about this policy. During the legislative session, I had great hopes that Mississippi would finally do away with tying high stakes exams to graduation. This appears to be nothing more than a shell game, as students are required to take and fail the end of course assessment before being qualified for any of the alternatives. In addition, some of the alternatives are only available at an additional cost for students, such as dual enrollment - which at NWCC could cost a student up to \$330 per class.

Please understand, I am not opposed to students taking an end of course exam – within reason, but what I do oppose is this one assessment being able to prevent students from graduating. Use this test score to grade the performance of the school if you must, but don't use this as a sole measure to determine if after 13 years a student is ready to graduate. Our private school and home school students seem to function just fine without having to submit to such an assessment. Why should our public schools be any different?

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
BR Jones
Superintendent
Tate County Schools

From: Joe Williams <JWilliams@noxcnty.k12.ms.us>
Date: March 16, 2015 at 10:52:40 AM CDT
To: "RLee@mde.k12.ms.us" <RLee@mde.k12.ms.us>
Cc: "pvanderford@mde.k12.ms.us" <pvanderford@mde.k12.ms.us>
Subject: State Board Policy 3803/3804

Please explain section b. of the Assessment Options for Meeting End-of-Course Subject Area Test Graduation Requirements which reads as follows:

b. Earn a C or higher in an entry level, credit-bearing dual enrollment/dual credit/college credit course.

Personal Concerns:

My personal observation, as a counselor, is that students who are struggling with passing the Subject Area Test can not meet the entry requirements for dual enrollment/dual credit classes. Many of these students will also experience difficulty with passing their senior classes and also trying to pass college classes at the same time.

My Question: Can a student who was not successful in any of the assessment options enroll in a college class after their senior class has graduated, and receive their diploma some year later?