

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

OFFICE OF ACCOUNTABILITY

07. Approval to repeal State Board Policy 404 – First Administration of Statewide Assessments

(Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process with public comments)

On August 20, 2010, the State Board of Education approved the establishment of State Board Policy 404 – First Administration of Statewide Assessments. This policy does not allow the first operational year of any state mandated assessment to be included in the Mississippi Statewide Accountability System. The Office of Accreditation and Accountability is seeking approval to repeal this policy so that the state mandated assessments may be included in the Statewide Accountability System in an effort to provide districts and schools with the data necessary to improve student achievement.

Recommendation: Approval

Back-up material attached

State Board Policy 404

DESCRIPTOR TERM: First Administration of Statewide Assessments

CODE: 404

ADOPTION DATE: August 20, 2010

REVISION:

~~The first operational year of any state mandated assessment that is a part of the accountability model will not be included in the Statewide Accountability System.~~

State Board of Education

SBE Policy 404

APA COMMENTS

March 2 – April 3, 2015

APA Comments Summary Chart

Rule	Narrative of Rule	Topic	Comments		
			Supporting	Concerns	Total
SBE Policy 404	The proposed policy is being repealed because it does not allow the first operational year of any state mandated assessment to be included in the Statewide Accountability System.	State Board of Education Policy 404-First Administration of Statewide Assessments.		2	
	TOTAL COMMENTS				

State Board of Education - SBE Policy 404

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: walter moore <wmoore@benton.k12.ms.us>
Date: March 16, 2015 at 3:50:30 PM CDT
To: Raina Lee <RLee@mde.k12.ms.us>
Cc: Jack gadd <jgadd@benton.k12.ms.us>
Subject: Re: APA Notification from the MS Dept. of Education

MS Code 37-17-6 states, "Individual schools shall be held accountable for student growth and performance." Growth cannot be accurately ascertained in a statistically valid manner when comparing the 2013-14 test scores to the 2014-15 test scores as the assessments administered and curriculum and standards assessed are drastically different. For this reason, SBE policy 404 needs to stay in place.

Assessment datum from the 2013-14 school year are based upon the scores from the Mississippi Curriculum Test, Second Edition (MCT2), Subject Area Testing Programs, Second Edition (SATP2), and Mississippi Science Test, Second Edition (MST2). The MCT2, SATP2, and MST2 were/are based solely on the 2006 Mississippi Language Arts Framework, Revised; the 2007 Mississippi Mathematics Framework, Revised; and the 2010 Mississippi Science Framework which were devised by Mississippi public educators specifically for Mississippi public school students.

Assessment datum from the 2014-15 school year will be based upon the scores from the Partnership of Assessment Readiness for College and Careers assessment (PARCC) - with the exception of Biology I, US History, and grades 5 and 8 science. PARCC assessments are based solely on the national Common Core State Standards (CCSS) which were devised by a group of educators from the public and private sector from several different states across the country. For this reason, the CCSS do not align with or resemble the previous Mississippi Curriculum Frameworks.

Not only are the documents used to devise the assessments drastically different, but the tests are also drastically different. The PARCC website states, "**What's different and better about the new tests?** These test[sic] are computerbased,[sic] and use interactive questions to determine whether students have mastered the fundamentals, as well as higher-order skills such as critical thinking, problem-solving, and analyzing sources to write arguments and informational essays – skills not easily assessed by traditional multiple-choice tests." MCT2, SATP2, and MST2 are the traditional multiple-choice tests described above.

If SBE Policy 404 is repealed, our students will have no option but to unfairly receive invalid accountability ratings because there is no ethically-responsible way to compare Mississippi-based curricula and assessments with nationallybased standards and assessments.

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From: Lilly West [mailto:lwest@pcsd.k12.ms.us]
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2015 9:03 AM
To: Raina Lee
Subject: RE: APA Notification from the MS Dept. of Education

This change could hurt all the districts in MS. We are being held accountable for a test that will not even have a cut score for the students when we administer it. Our district believes that a new test does not need to be counted in our accountability the year it is given. Thank you for this consideration.