

**OFFICE OF CHIEF ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICER**  
**Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Items**  
**January 16, 2020**

**OFFICE OF ACCREDITATION**

03. Action: Revise Miss. Admin. Code 7-3: 36.4, State Board Policy Chapter 36, Rule 36.4: Assessments Required for Graduation [Goals 1, 2, 4, and 6 - MBE Strategic Plan]  
(Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act Process with public comments)

Background Information: The Commission on School Accreditation (CSA) met on Monday, August 19, 2019 in a special-called meeting to consider the vote of the Assessment Task Force and the results of the teacher survey regarding the continuance of the U.S. History End-of-Course (EOC) assessment. The CSA voted unanimously to submit a request to the SBE to begin the APA process to eliminate the U.S. History EOC assessment.

The public comment period was open through 5:00 p.m. October 22, 2019. One hundred eight (108) comments were received during this process: 27 comments opposed the elimination of the U. S. History EOC assessment, 42 comments were in favor of eliminating the U. S. History EOC assessment, and 39 comments were off-topic or unclear as to their position regarding the elimination of the U. S. History EOC assessment. Two (2) of the 108 comments were received after the deadline but are included in the backup materials. The public comments were previously presented to the Board at its November 7, 2019 meeting.

The Accountability Task Force (ATF) met on Thursday, December 5, 2019 and considered the Board's directive as to how points assigned to the U.S. History component would be redistributed/removed from the Mississippi Statewide Accountability System without resetting performance classification cut scores, if the Board approved the elimination of the U. S. History EOC assessment. The ATF recommended that if the U.S. History EOC assessment is eliminated from accountability measures, the 50 points currently assigned to the U.S. History component should be added to the 50-point Science component, resulting in a 100-point Science component for schools with grade 12, effective with the 2020-2021 school year. Based on the impact data provided to the ATF, this change in the Mississippi Statewide Accountability System would not require a change in the cut scores.

Note: The elimination of the U.S. History EOC assessment will impact additional State Board of Education policies, as well as the ESSA Plan. If the Board eliminates the U.S. History EOC assessment these polices and the ESSA Plan will be revised accordingly.

This item references Goals 1, 2, 4, and 6 of the *Mississippi Board of Education 2018-2022 Strategic Plan*.

Recommendation: Denial

Back-up material attached

## Chapter 36: Graduation Requirements

### *Rule 36.4 Assessments Required for Graduation*

1. All students enrolled in one of the four (4) end-of-course Subject Area Test courses *must* pass the course and participate in the applicable end-of-course Subject Area Test in order to earn the Carnegie Unit.

~~Beginning with school year 2020-2021, students will be no longer be required to take the U.S. History end-of-course assessment. All students enrolled in one (1) of the three (3) end-of-course Subject Area Test courses *must* pass the course and participate in the applicable end-of-course assessment in order to earn the Carnegie Unit. The three (3) end-of-course Subject Area Test course are:~~

- ~~• Algebra I~~
- ~~• Biology I~~
- ~~• English II~~

2. Beginning with school year 2014-2015, students shall graduate by passing the course and meeting **one** (1) of the following options:

- Passing the applicable end-of-course Subject Area Test, or
- Using options outlined in Chapter 36, Rule 36.5, or
- Using the end-of-course Subject Area Test score with the overall course grade based on the Concordance Table for each of the four (4) end-of-course Subject Area Test as provided to school districts by the Mississippi Department of Education. (Students must be enrolled in order to utilize this option.)

3. Beginning with school year 2015-2016, in addition to number two (2) above, all students enrolled may achieve a combined minimum score from the end-of-course Subject Area Test to meet the requirement for graduation in lieu of passing the applicable end-of-course Subject Area Test.

4. Any Mississippi public school student who fails to pass a required end-of-course Subject Area Test, prior to school year 2016-2017, will be offered opportunities to retake the test.

### **Archived Information Regarding Chapter 36, Rule 36.4 for Students Graduating Prior to School Year 2014-2015:**

Academic end-of-course Subject Area Tests were phased in during the 2001-2002 school year to replace the Functional Literacy Examination (FLE) as a requirement for graduation.

1. Students who began 9th grade PRIOR to 1999-2000 must pass the Functional Literacy Examination (FLE).
2. Students who began 9th grade in school year 1999-2000 must pass the Functional Literacy Examination (FLE) plus the Subject Area Test in U.S. History.
3. Students who began 9th grade in school year 2000-2001 must pass the mathematics section of the FLE plus the Subject Area Tests in U.S. History and English II.

4. Students who began 9th grade in 2001-2002 must pass the mathematics section of the FLE plus the Subject Area Tests in U.S. History, English II, and Biology.
5. Students who began 9th grade in 2002-2003 must pass the end-of-course Subject Area Tests in U. S. History, English II, Biology, and Algebra I. Students who began 9th grade in 2003-2004 and each year thereafter must pass all required end-of-course Subject Area Tests in U.S. History, English II, Biology, and Algebra I.

Source: *Miss Code Ann. §§ 37-17-6 and 37-16-7 (Revised 4/2015, 4/2016, 6/2018, TBD)*