

OFFICE OF CHIEF OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT
Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Items
April 20, 2017

OFFICE OF ACCREDITATION

04. Action: Establish State Board Policy, Chapter 28, Rule 28.6: *Essentials for College Math and Essentials for College Literacy Requirements* [Goals 1 and 2 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process with public comments)

Background Information: On February 2, 2017, the Commission on School Accreditation met and approved the recommendation of the Office of Secondary Education to establish State Board of Education Policy, Chapter 28, Rule 28.6: *Essentials for College Math and Essentials for College Literacy Requirements*.

The purpose of the *Essentials for College Math and Essentials for College Literacy Requirements* is to provide the Local Education Agencies (*LEAs) with the policies needed at the school level to teach either course and for students to earn the necessary scores for non-postsecondary remediation.

In an effort to better prepare high school students for the transition to postsecondary study, Mississippi, in conjunction with Southern Region Educational Board and seventeen other states have developed two courses that align with college and career readiness standards. Based on Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL) Policy 608, students who complete one or both courses with an 80 or above will not be required to take the corresponding remedial courses for College Algebra or English Composition I at any of the eight public Mississippi Universities.

This item references Goals 1 and 2 of the *Mississippi Board of Education's 2016-2020 Strategic Plan*.

Recommendation: Approval

Back-up material attached

Chapter 28: Curriculum

Rule 28.6 Essentials for College Math and Essentials for College Literacy Requirements

The purpose of the Essentials for College Math and Essentials for College Literacy is to provide the Local Education Agencies (LEAs) with the policies needed at the school level to teach either course and for students to earn the necessary scores for non-postsecondary remediation.

- I. In an effort to better prepare high school students for the transition to postsecondary study, Mississippi in conjunction with Southern Region Educational Board and seventeen other states have developed two courses that align with college and career readiness standards. Based on Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL) Policy 608, students who complete one or both of these courses with an 80 or above will not be required to take the corresponding remedial courses for College Algebra or English Composition I at any of the eight public Mississippi Universities.

- II. Beginning with the 2017-2018 school year, any LEA that offers either of the Essentials for College Literacy and Essentials for College Math classes must meet the following requirements:
 - a. Teacher must have a valid 7-12 mathematics endorsement (154) or English Language Arts/Literacy (119) endorsement before participating in this training.
 - b. Teacher must attend certification training as offered or approved by the Mississippi Department of Education.
 - c. Teacher must apply for and request an add the 930 supplemental endorsement for the Essentials for College Literacy or the 929 supplemental endorsement for the Essentials for College Math to be added to his/her teaching license with the Mississippi Department of Education Office of Teacher Licensure.
 - d. Students eligible for this class must enter with an ACT sub-score of 15-18 in the respective content area (English or mathematics).
 - e. Students must be classified as a senior for enrollment. An exception to this requirement may include students classified as a junior planning to graduation prior to the spring of their senior year.

- III. Beginning with the 2018-2019 school year, all LEAs must offer Essentials for College Math and Essentials for College Literacy.

- IV. LEA failure to adhere to the set forth requirements in Section 2 will be a violation of the *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards*, Process Standard 2 and 26.

Source: Miss. Code Ann. §§ 37-1-3 and 37-9-7

**ESTABLISHMENT OF SBE
POLICY
CHAPTER 28, RULE 28.6**

APA COMMENTS

March 10 – April 6, 2017

| Rule | Narrative of Rule | Topic | Comments | | |
|--|---|--|------------|----------|----------|
| | | | Supporting | Concerns | Total |
| Rule 28.6: Essentials for College Math and Essentials for College Literacy Requirements | To provide LEAs with the policies needed at the school level to teach either course and for students to earn the necessary scores for non-postsecondary remediation | Establish SBE policy Ch. 28, Rule 28.6 | 1 | 3 | 4 |
| | TOTAL COMMENTS | | 1 | 3 | 4 |

ESTABLISHMENT OF SBE POLICY RULE 28.6

APA Comments Summary Chart

| Role | Number of Commenters |
|--|-----------------------------|
| Superintendents/Conservators | 2 |
| Assistant Superintendents | |
| District School Board Members | |
| Teachers | 1 |
| Librarians/Media Specialists | |
| Federal Programs Directors | |
| Curriculum Directors | |
| Special Education Directors | |
| Principals | 1 |
| Assistant Principals | |
| Vocational School Directors | |
| Other District Personnel | |
| Instructional Specialists/Academic Coaches | |
| Advocacy Groups | |
| MDE Offices | |
| Citizens (Parents) | |
| Unknown | |
| State Organizations | |
| TOTAL | 4 |

Four (4) school districts were represented through the APA comments received.

From: [Billy R Jones](#)
To: [Accreditation](#)
Subject: Feedback for Proposed Policy 28.6
Date: Wednesday, March 22, 2017 11:07:33 AM

Until we can be assured that colleges are going to accept this course, it does not seem logical to make a policy requiring this course to be offered. This policy assumes that this will be remedied, but we have been discussing this issue since the inception of the SREB courses.

We have a similar issue with AP and Dual Credit being a part of the current accountability model. Depending on where a student lives in the state, they may have more or less access to something that impacts the accountability score of schools, teachers, and principals. Community Colleges are all over the place in regard to accepting the course.

Another issue of concern is that this provides an additional mandate when funding for schools is very uncertain. The timing of this policy might better be delayed until the current discussions regarding new school funding formulas, school choice, and etc. have come to some conclusion.

Please consider these concerns when reviewing this policy.

Thank you for what you do to support our kids.

Sincerely,

BR Jones, PhD

Supervising Principal
South Jones High School

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From: [Melody Carter](#)
To: [Accreditation](#)
Subject: SREB Comment/APA Process
Date: Friday, March 24, 2017 1:53:51 PM

Ms. Malone,

We currently offer SREB Literacy Ready and Math Ready to our students at Independence High School. I fully support the implementation of the State Board Policy, Chapter 28, Rule 28.6.

I am contacting you because we just learned that the NCAA Clearinghouse does not recognize these classes as a 4th year of math or English for student athletes who will be attending 4-year colleges under their jurisdiction. Is this something that can be address by MDE?

Thank you.
Melody Carter

From: [Brian Freeman](#)
To: [Accreditation](#)
Subject: APA 28.6 Essentials for College Math and Essentials for College Literacy
Date: Tuesday, March 28, 2017 2:50:54 PM
Attachments: [Developmental Course Changes_Fall 2017.pdf](#)

Dear State Board Members,

I would like to express my concerns about the mandated part in chapter 28 #3.

Rule 28.6 Essentials for College Math and Essentials for College Literacy Requirements

III. Beginning with the 2018-2019 school year, all LEAs must offer Essentials for College Math and Essentials for College Literacy

Currently, we do not offer this class due to the low number of students who either qualified or wished to take the course. I would like the option of providing the class rather than being mandated. In our district, the class is offered when an appropriate number of students wish to take the class.

This policy would require my district to add two additional classes during a time that budget issues are creating cuts in several areas. Also, our local community college (PRCC), has created a credit-bearing developmental class for English Composition I. These very specific students would be able to receive remediation while gaining a credit for English Comp I. This class will be for students scoring a 16 or below on the ACT in English. It will include a weekly one-hour lab. (Please see the attached document).

It is my understanding that the college is exploring options for math as well.

My request is that the districts be given an option based on the needs of the individual district.

Thanks for listening to my concerns.

Brian Freeman

Forrest County School District

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Brian Freeman
Superintendent
Forrest County School District
601-545-6055



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From: [Donna Boone](#)
To: [Accreditation](#)
Subject: APA Rule 28.6
Date: Thursday, March 30, 2017 5:49:28 PM

Dear State Board Members,

I would like to express my concerns about a portion of Rule 28.6 Essentials for College Math and Essentials for College Literacy Requirements.

While I appreciate having these courses available in the course offerings, I do not wish to have these courses as a mandate but rather as an option. We currently do not offer these courses but have sent two teachers to the training this year to receive the proper endorsement to prepare us to offer them in the future as needed.

This mandate would restrict our high school schedule by requiring us to add two additional classes that will not serve all of our students. Due to the budget cuts that we have received this year and will receive next year, we are watching our schedules closely in order to maximize what funds we have.

It is my understanding that we do not have anything formal to show that all community colleges will accept these courses in lieu of their own courses. Also, Pearl River Community College and possibly one other community college has already created credit-bearing courses which would serve in the same capacity as the Essentials classes.

My request is that you would reconsider #3 in Rule 28.6 and allow districts to have the option to offer the course based on the needs of each district rather than a mandate.

Respectfully,

Donna H. Boone, Ph.D.
Superintendent
Quitman School District
104 East Franklin Street
Quitman, MS 39355
601-776-2186

"Empowering a Passion for Excellence"

"We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit." Aristotle

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