

OFFICE OF CHIEF ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICER
Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Items
Consent Agenda
October 16, 2025

OFFICE OF ACCOUNTABILITY
OFFICE OF ACADEMIC EDUCATION

- X. Action: Approval to revise student teacher ratio requirements beginning with the 2025-2026 school year and begin the Administrative Procedures Act process for the following:
- A. To revise the *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2025* specifically, Process Standard 28.6
 - B. To revise the *Mississippi Nonpublic School Accountability Standards, 2025* specifically, Process Standard 24.7

Background Information: As part of the MS Student Funding Formula (MSFF) enacted by the MS Legislature in July 2024, Miss. Code Ann. § 37-151-77, mandating specific student-teacher ratios in Mississippi classrooms was repealed. As part of the MSFF that became effective July 2024, Miss. Code Ann. § 37-151-213 was enacted and provides the Commission on School Accreditation the authority to establish student-teacher ratios and the State Board of Education the authority to approve or disapprove of waiver requests of established ratios submitted by local districts. The requested revision provides additional clarity to the revisions that were approved by the State Board of Education in June, 2025. The Commission on School Accreditation met on October 14, 2025, to consider the proposed revisions that will help clarify the student-teacher ratios in the *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2025*.

Recommendation: Approval

Back-up material attached

Proposed Revisions to Process Standard 28.6 of the *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2025*

28. Student teacher ratios do not exceed the following:

- 28.1** Student teacher ratios do not exceed 22 to 1 in kindergarten, except in instances in which a full-time assistant teacher is in the classroom. If a full-time assistant teacher is employed, 27 may be enrolled. See Mississippi Kindergarten Guidelines.
- 28.2** Student teacher ratios do not exceed 27 to 1 in classrooms serving grades 1 through 4 unless approved by the State Board of Education. A one-year waiver may be requested for classes that do not exceed more than two (2) students beyond the allowable student teacher ratio. Schools meeting the highest levels of performance may include a 29 to 1 ratio without requesting a waiver. No waivers will be allowed for student teacher ratios exceeding 29 to 1.
- 28.3** Student teacher ratios do not exceed 30 to 1 in self-contained classes serving grades 5-8 (excluding special education self-contained classrooms). A one-year waiver may be requested for classes that do not exceed more than two (2) students beyond the allowable student teacher ratio. Schools meeting the highest levels of performance may include a 32 to 1 ratio without requesting a waiver. No waivers will be allowed for student teacher ratios exceeding 32 to 1.
- 28.4** Student teacher ratios do not exceed 33 to 1 in departmentalized academic core classes serving grades 5-12. A one-year waiver may be requested for classes that do not exceed more than two (2) students beyond the allowable student teacher ratio. Schools meeting the highest levels of performance may include a 35 to 1 ratio without requesting a waiver. No waivers will be allowed for student teacher ratios exceeding 35 to 1.
- 28.5** The total number of students taught by an individual teacher in academic core subjects at any time during the school year shall not exceed 150. A teacher who provides instruction through intra-district or inter-district distance learning or supervises students taking virtual courses will be exempt from the 150-student limitation. A lab facilitator or principal designee will be responsible for the assignment of grades and related activities at the receiving school. Schools meeting the highest levels of performance are exempted.
- 28.6** Teachers of rotational courses in any school with a grade configuration that includes grades K-6 that traditionally include more students than outlined in Process Standards [28.1](#), 28.2, 28.3, 28.4, and 28.5 (i.e., elementary physical education, music, arts, speech-language therapist, etc.,) may exceed the ratios outlined in those standards. However, schools shall ensure adequate supervision by certified staff of those students at all times.
- 28.7** Teachers of courses in any school with a grade configuration that includes grades 6-12 that traditionally include more students than outlined in Process Standards 28.3, 28.4, and 28.5 (i.e., team sports, band, musical performance, speech-language therapist, etc.,) may exceed the ratios outlined in those standards. However, schools shall ensure adequate supervision by certified staff of those students at all times.

Proposed Revisions to Process Standard 24.7 of the Mississippi Nonpublic School Accountability Standards, 2025

- 22.** The curriculum of each diploma-granting secondary school (grades 9-12) consists of approved courses from Approved Courses for the Secondary Schools of Mississippi necessary to meet graduation requirements as specified in Appendix A. (See Appendix B.) (Miss. Code Ann. § 37-1-3(2), and Miss. Admin. Code 7-3: 28.2 and 28.3, State Board Policy Chapter 28, Rules 28.2 and 28.3.)
- 23.** The curriculum of each elementary or middle school (any configuration of grades K-8) at a minimum consists of reading/language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, the arts, health education, elementary computer science, and physical education, (which may be taught by the classroom teacher.) Miss. Code Ann. §§ 37-1-3(2), 37-13-134, and 37-13-201
- Note: If the basic academic areas are deemed inappropriate for students with disabilities, a suitable curriculum meeting individual needs of students must be developed and implemented.**
- 24.** A one-year waiver may be requested for classes that do not exceed more than two (2) students beyond the allowable student teacher ratio. Student teacher ratios do not exceed the following: Miss. Code Ann. § 37-151-213. Miss. Admin. Code 7-3: 19.1, State Board Policy Chapter 19, Rule 19.1.
- 24.1** Student teacher ratios do not exceed 22 to 1 in kindergarten, except in instances in which a full-time assistant teacher is in the classroom. If a full-time assistant teacher is employed, 27 may be enrolled. See Mississippi Kindergarten Guidelines.
- 24.2** Student teacher ratios do not exceed 27 to 1 in classrooms serving grades 1 through 4 unless approved by the State Board of Education.
- 24.3** Student teacher ratios do not exceed 30 to 1 in classes serving grades 5-8 (excluding special education self-contained classrooms).
- 24.4** Student teacher ratios do not exceed 33 to 1 in departmentalized academic core classes serving grades 5-12.
- 24.5** The total number of students taught by an individual teacher in academic core subjects at any time during the school year shall not exceed 150. A teacher who provides instruction through intra-district or inter-district distance learning or supervises students taking virtual courses will be exempt from the 150-student limitation. A lab facilitator or principal designee will be responsible for the assignment of grades and related activities at the receiving school.
- 24.6** The caseload of each teacher in a special purpose school will be based on the needs of the student population and the mission of the school.
- 24.7** Teachers of rotational courses in any school with a grade configuration that includes grade K-6 that traditionally include more students than outlined in Process Standards 24.1, 24.2, 24.3, 24.4, and 24.5 (i.e., elementary physical education, music, arts, speech-language therapist, etc.) may exceed the ratios outline in those standards at the discretion of the MDE. However, schools shall ensure adequate supervision by certified staff of those students at all times.
- 24.8** Teachers of rotational courses in any school with a grade configuration that includes grade 6-12 that traditionally include more students than outlined in Process Standards 24.2, 24.3, 24.4, and 24.5 (i.e., elementary physical education, music, arts, speech-