



**Minutes of the
Commission on School Accreditation
Special-Called Teleconference meeting
April 15, 2025
8:30 a.m.**

A Special-Called meeting of the Commission on School Accreditation (CSA or Commission) took place via teleconference and video means from the Central High School Building, 359 North West Street, Jackson, Mississippi at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, February 11, 2025. The public was invited to view the livestreaming via the MDE YouTube Channel or in person in the Senator Grey Ferris Board Room.

Commission members in attendance via teleconference included:

Dr. Kelle Barfield, New York, NY
Anthony Bryant, Tupelo, MS
Dr. Carla Evers, Gulfport, MS
Reginald Goins, Sarah, MS
Jeremy Hamm, Meridian, MS¹
Toni Kersh, Jackson, MS
Pamela Manners, Biloxi, MS
Aisha Maxwell, Horn Lake, MS
Trosiki Pettis, Tunica, MS²
Dr. Scott Rimes, Brandon, MS
Brad Stevens, Amory, MS
Dr. Sarah Wilborn, Ellisville, MS
Ingrid Williams, Clinton, MS

Members absent

Patrice Guilfoyle

The Mississippi Department of Education (MDE), Office of Accreditation, staff members present included:

Dr. Jo Ann Malone, Executive Secretary, Office of Accreditation
Lori Hartley, Office of Accreditation
J. Christopher Haynes, Office of Accreditation
Shulawnda Johnson, Office of Accreditation
Dawn Tassin, Office of Accreditation

Other MDE staff present included:

Dr. Paula Vanderford, Chief Accountability Officer

¹Jeremy Hamm joined the meeting after the roll call.

²Trosiki Pettis joined the meeting after the roll call.

Alan Burrow, Executive Director, District and School Performance
Wendy Clemons, Associate Superintendent of Secondary Education
Jonathan Dennis, Special Assistant Attorney General

Jennifer Nichols, Special Assistant Attorney General, served as legal counsel to the Commission.

I. Announcement of Quorum and Call to Order

Ms. Pamela Manners, Chair of the CSA, opened the Commission meeting and conducted a roll call of the Commission members.

Ms. Manners announced that a quorum of the Commission existed.

Ms. Manners called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m.

II. Adoption of Agenda

On a motion by Dr. Kelle Barfield, seconded by Dr. Sarah Wilborn, the Commission unanimously voted to adopt the agenda.

III. INFORMATION: Consideration of request of the State Board of Education to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To establish State Board Policy Chapter 36, Rule 36.7 – Early Graduation Policy

Ms. Wendy Clemons presented the information to the Commission.

IV. ACTION: Approval to submit request to the State Board of Education to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To establish State Board Policy Chapter 36, Rule 36.7 – Early Graduation Policy

On a motion by Anthony Bryant, seconded by Dr. Carla Evers, the Commission unanimously voted to approve submitting the request to the State Board of Education to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To establish State Board Policy Chapter 36, Rule 36.7 – Early Graduation Policy

V. INFORMATION: Consideration of request to revise Miss. Admin. Code 7-24: *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2024*, specifically the business rules of the Mississippi Statewide Accountability System, Section 4, Participation Rates, Section 6, Growth, Section 9, Acceleration, Section 10, Banking Scores: End-of-course, subject area assessments taken before 10th grade, Section 16, Students with Disabilities, Section 18, Invalid Test Scores, Section 22, Schools without Tested Subjects or Grades, Section 23, State and Other Special Schools, Section 25, College and Career-Readiness Indicator, Section 26, Senior Snapshot, and Section 27, Other

Mr. Alan Burrow presented the information to the Commission.

VI. ACTION: Approval to submit request to the State Board of Education to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise Miss. Admin. Code 7-24: *Mississippi*

Public School Accountability Standards, 2024, specifically the business rules of the Mississippi Statewide Accountability System, Section 4, Participation Rates, Section 6, Growth, Section 9, Acceleration, Section 10, Banking Scores: End-of-course, subject area assessments taken before 10th grade, Section 16, Students with Disabilities, Section 18, Invalid Test Scores, Section 22, Schools without Tested Subjects or Grades, Section 23, State and Other Special Schools, Section 25, College and Career-Readiness Indicator, Section 26, Senior Snapshot, and Section 27, Other

On a motion by Dr. Scott Rimes, seconded by Aisha Maxwell, the Commission unanimously voted to approve submitting the request to the State Board of Education to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise Miss. Admin. Code 7-24: *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2024, specifically the business rules of the Mississippi Statewide Accountability System, Section 4, Participation Rates, Section 6, Growth, Section 9, Acceleration, Section 10, Banking Scores: End-of-course, subject area assessments taken before 10th grade, Section 16, Students with Disabilities, Section 18, Invalid Test Scores, Section 22, Schools without Tested Subjects or Grades, Section 23, State and Other Special Schools, Section 25, College and Career-Readiness Indicator, Section 26, Senior Snapshot, and Section 27, Other.*

VII. INFORMATION: Consideration of request of the State Board of Education to eliminate the administration of, and graduation requirement for, the U.S. History end-of-course assessment beginning with the 2025-2026 school year.

Ms. Wendy Clemons and Mr. Alan Burrow presented the information to the Commission. Dr. Scott Rimes asked the question, “Will U. S. History be going away this year or next year.” Ms. Clemons answered that testing for this year would not change, but testing next year would not include U. S. History.

VIII. ACTION: Approval to submit request to the State Board of Education to eliminate the administration of, and graduation requirement for, the U.S. History end-of-course assessment beginning with the 2025-2026 school year and begin the Administrative Procedures Act process for the following:

- A. To revise State Board Policy Chapter 36, Rule 36.4 – Assessments Required for Graduation**
- B. To revise State Board Policy Chapter 36, Rule 36.5 – Additional Assessment Options for Meeting End-of-Course (EOC) Assessment Requirements**
- C. To revise the *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2024* specifically, Appendices A-5 – A-9 and F, and the Glossary**

On a motion by Anthony Bryant, seconded by Dr. Sarah Wilborn, the Commission unanimously voted to approve submitting the request to the State Board of Education to eliminate the administration of, and graduation requirement for, the U.S. History end-of-course assessment beginning with the 2025-2026 school year and begin the Administrative Procedures Act process for the following:

- A. To revise State Board Policy Chapter 36, Rule 36.4 – Assessments Required for Graduation**

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- B. To revise State Board Policy Chapter 36, Rule 36.5 – Additional Assessment Options for Meeting End-of-Course (EOC) Assessment Requirements
- C. To revise the *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2024* specifically, Appendices A-5 – A-9 and F, and the Glossary

IX. Adjournment

On a motion by Dr. Carla Evers, seconded by Dr. Scott Rimes, the Commission unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 9:09 a.m.

APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION

June 5 2025
(Month) (Day) (Year)

Pamela Manners
Vice-Chair of the Commission

JoAnne Malone
Executive Secretary of the Commission