

Mississippi Statewide Assessment System

The primary purposes of the Mississippi Statewide Assessment System are to provide information needed for state-level decisions about the effectiveness of instructional programs in local school districts and to provide districts with information to be used in improving instruction. The Mississippi Statewide Assessment System promotes instructional improvement in classrooms throughout the state and provides valid, reliable data for accountability purposes in compliance with MS Code 37-16-1, SB 2156, SB 2488, and the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001*.

The objectives of this program include the following: assistance in the identification of educational needs at the state, district, and school levels; assessing how well districts and schools are meeting state goals and academic growth standards; providing information to aid in the development of policy issues and concerns; providing a basis for comparison of school, district, and state performance; and producing data which can be used to aid in the identification of exceptional educational programs or processes.

Mississippi Curriculum Test The Mississippi Curriculum Test (MCT) measures student performance in reading, language, and mathematics in grades 2 through 8. The MCT is based on the Mississippi Curriculum Frameworks which define what students are expected to know and be able to do and are the basis for teacher instruction. Mississippi teachers reviewed all test items and established the proficiency level standards. The MCT is used for holding schools accountable for academic achievement, the academic growth (improvement) of students, and for the computation of Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). CTB/McGraw-Hill is the contractor for the MCT.

Norm-Referenced Test This norm-referenced test (NRT) consists of tests in mathematics, reading, and language arts. The NRT is the CTBS/5, which is part of the *TerraNova* assessment series published by CTB/McGraw-Hill. Student performance on the NRT can be compared to a 1996 national norm group. Currently, the norm-referenced test is administered to students in grade 6.

Grades 4 and 7 Writing Assessments The writing assessments measure student performance in on-demand writing. Each student responds to one writing prompt in the narrative, informative, or persuasive mode. These assessments are aligned with the Mississippi Curriculum Frameworks. Mississippi teachers reviewed the writing prompts and designed the scoring rubrics (rules). CTB/McGraw-Hill is the contractor for the Grades 4 and 7 Writing Assessments.

Subject Area Testing Program The Subject Area Testing Program (SATP) consists of end-of-course, criterion-referenced tests in Algebra I, Biology I, English II, and U.S. History from 1877. The tests for Algebra I, Biology I, and U.S. History contain multiple-choice items and an open-ended item. The test for English II consists of two components: a multiple-choice test and a writing assessment. The SATP provides a meaningful assessment of secondary academic content tied to the state's content standards and promotes instructional strategies integrating both content and problem solving. All Subject Area Tests count for graduation; however, the tests required for graduation are determined by the year the student entered the ninth grade. The Subject Area Tests are used for holding schools accountable for academic achievement, the academic growth (improvement) of students, and for the computation of Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). Harcourt Assessment, Inc. is the contractor for the SATP.

Functional Literacy Examination The Functional Literacy Examination (FLE) is the minimum competency test currently required to receive a Mississippi high school diploma. It is initially given in the 11th grade with repeat testing in the 11th and 12th grades for those not passing. The test includes multiple-choice questions in reading, mathematics, and written communications, along with a direct writing prompt. The FLE was initially developed and implemented in the mid-1980s. With the implementation of the Subject Area Testing Program, students will be required to pass the Subject Area Tests to receive a high school diploma, and the FLE will be phased out. Students entering ninth grade in 2001-02 (class of 2005), are the last students required to pass any portion of the FLE. For most students, mathematics is now the only section of the FLE required for graduation. NCS Pearson, Inc. is the contractor for the FLE.

Mississippi Career Planning and Assessment System The Mississippi Career Planning and Assessment System (MS-CPAS) is the state vocational testing program. The purpose of the MS-CPAS is to assess local program performance in producing students with workplace readiness skills and to create a meaningful accountability measure of the level of instruction and resulting student performance in occupation program areas. ACT, Inc. is the contractor for the workplace readiness skills assessments, and Southern Illinois University is the contractor for the occupation-specific assessments.

Mississippi Curriculum Test 2001-2004

Grade	% Basic & Above				% Proficient & Above			
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2001	2002	2003	2004
Reading								
2	90%	93%	93%	94%	79%	83%	86%	86%
3	88%	91%	93%	94%	74%	79%	80%	84%
4	90%	91%	94%	95%	81%	84%	87%	88%
5	87%	88%	92%	93%	77%	78%	84%	86%
6	85%	87%	89%	92%	68%	71%	74%	77%
7	78%	82%	84%	86%	55%	60%	62%	63%
8	74%	75%	81%	84%	49%	48%	57%	62%
Language								
2	89%	92%	93%	96%	66%	72%	77%	84%
3	88%	91%	94%	95%	64%	70%	76%	80%
4	85%	89%	90%	93%	59%	67%	68%	71%
5	86%	89%	91%	94%	58%	63%	68%	70%
6	87%	91%	92%	94%	49%	55%	62%	62%
7	85%	90%	92%	95%	44%	51%	52%	64%
8	87%	91%	92%	94%	41%	44%	53%	51%
Mathematics								
2	96%	98%	97%	99%	81%	87%	88%	91%
3	94%	97%	97%	98%	79%	86%	88%	92%
4	83%	89%	90%	93%	63%	72%	74%	80%
5	77%	81%	87%	89%	52%	58%	65%	68%
6	71%	78%	82%	87%	51%	62%	62%	71%
7	57%	65%	70%	71%	39%	46%	53%	54%
8	63%	69%	73%	82%	39%	45%	48%	60%

There are four proficiency levels: Minimal, Basic, Proficient, and Advanced.

Average Cost Per Student in School Year 2003-2004: \$9.58

Source: Mississippi Department of Education Test Data Retrieval System

Norm-Referenced Test 2000-2004

CTBS/5¹ Survey, Form A, 1996 Norms

Mean Normal Curve Equivalent and Corresponding National Percentile Rank²

Grade	Reading					Mathematics					Language				
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
3	48.3	48.6	NA	NA	NA	49.5	51.6	NA	NA	NA	49.9	52.4	NA	NA	NA
	47	47				49	53				50	55			
	38,338	37,830				38,313	37,807				38,333	37,829			
4	50.4	49.3	NA	NA	NA	47.9	49.4	NA	NA	NA	51.2	51.2	NA	NA	NA
	51	49				46	49				52	52			
	37,650	37,575				37,604	37,552				37,650	37,571			
5	49.5	47.5	50.1	NA	NA	48.3	49.3	49.9	NA	NA	50.2	49.4	51.8	NA	NA
	49	45	50			47	49	50			49	53			
	35,422	36,786	37,018			35,396	36,727	36,990			35,421	36,785	37,018		
6	50.4	48.4	NA	50.8	50.9	47.9	48.6	NA	50.6	51.2	49.6	48.9	NA	51.6	51.5
	51	47		52	52	46	47		51	52	49	48		53	53
	34,934	35,225		36,611	36,712	34,866	35,135		36,542	36,677	34,935	35,221		36,610	36,712

Grade	Total ³					%<Q1 ⁴				
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
3	49.5	51.4	NA	NA	NA	25.0	22.1	NA	NA	NA
	49	53								
	38,250	37,554								
4	50.1	50.4	NA	NA	NA	23.5	24.0	NA	NA	NA
	50	51								
	37,529	37,340								
5	49.4	48.8	50.8	NA	NA	25.0	26.5	21.9	NA	NA
	49	48	52							
	35,337	36,516	36,882							
6	49.3	48.6	NA	51.1	51.3	23.3	26.1	NA	20.1	19.2
	49	47		52	53					
	34,783	34,897		36,436	36,585					

¹The CTBS/5 is the multiple-choice norm-referenced test that is part of the Terra Nova Assessment Series published by CTB/McGraw-Hill.

²In each cell of the table, the mean Normal Curve Equivalent (NCE) value is printed first followed by the National Percentile Rank (NPR) corresponding to the mean NCE value. The third value in each cell is the number of students on which the NCE and NPR values were calculated.

³The total is the composite score combining the Reading, Mathematics, and Language subtests on the CTBS/5.

⁴%<Q1 is the percentage of students with scores in the lower quarter of the national distribution (i.e., at or below the 25th percentile). Data reported for the lower quarter of the CTBS/5 distribution include students with a percentile rank of exactly 25.

Average Cost Per Student in School Year 2003-2004: \$1.72

Source: Mississippi Department of Education Test Data Retrieval System

Grade 4 and Grade 7 Writing Assessment 2000-2004

Grade	2000			2001			2002			2003			2004		
	N	Mean	Score	N	Mean	Score	N	Mean	Score	N	Mean	Score	N	Mean	Score
4	38,139	2.0	4 3%	37,942	2.1	4 3%	37,484	2.5	4 12%	37,331	2.2	4 3%	36,419	2.4	4 9%
			3 19%			3 20%			3 32%			3 21%			3 34%
			2 57%			2 64%			2 47%			2 73%			2 52%
			1 17%			1 11%			1 8%			1 2%			1 4%
			0 4%			0 1%			0 1%			0 1%			0 2%
7	35,417	2.0	4 3%	35,625	2.3	4 5%	35,734	2.3	4 4%	37,315	2.3	4 4%	37,943	2.6	4 8%
			3 21%			3 32%			3 27%			3 27%			3 45%
			2 54%			2 52%			2 61%			2 62%			2 44%
			1 16%			1 10%			1 6%			1 6%			1 2%
			0 5%			0 2%			0 1%			0 1%			0 2%

Average Cost Per Student in School Year 2003-2004: \$3.12

Source: Mississippi Department of Education Test Data Retrieval System

Mississippi Subject Area Testing Program 2000-2001 through 2003-2004

Subject Area Test	School Year 2000-2001			School Year 2001-2002			School Year 2002-2003			School Year 2003-2004		
	Number Tested	Mean Scale Score	% Passing	Number Tested	Mean Scale Score	% Passing	Number Tested	Mean Scale Score	% Passing	Number Tested	Mean Scale Score	% Passing
Algebra I	31,557	324.0	NA	22,985	335.9	79.0%	26,961	339.5	81.5%	27,479	352.3	90.7%
Biology I	32,789	332.6	NA	23,625	347.4	82.4%	27,051	350.8	85.7%	28,390	356.8	89.2%
U.S. History from 1877	27,249	337.9	NA	25,870	359.7	93.7%	25,984	363.0	94.2%	25,589	366.3	95.7%
English II Multiple Choice	30,153	304.8	NA	29,290	321.5	69.2%	29,336	328.9	77.4%	28,982	334.5	83.1%
English II Writing Assessment ¹	32,158	1.9 / 2.1	NA	29,572	2.3 / 2.2	83.9%	29,196	2.2 / 2.2	91.7%	29,243	1.9 / 2.1	84.9% / 89.2%

The mean scale scores range from 100-500; the writing assessment scores range from 0-4 . The passing score was set after 2000-2001 test administration.

¹For the English II Writing Assessment mean score, the narrative prompt mean is listed first followed by the informative prompt.

Average Cost Per Student in School Year 2003-2004: \$31.19

Source: Mississippi Department of Education Test Data Retrieval System

Functional Literacy Examination 1997-2004

Mean Scale Score / Percent Passing

School Year	Reading	Mathematics ¹	Written Communication	Composite ²	Percent Passing ²
2003-2004	256.7	266.5	257.6	NA	NA
2002-2003	258.6	266.8	258.3	NA	NA
2001-2002	269.4	266.8	264.9	801.1	89.8%
2000-2001	269.2	263.6	266.8	799.7	89.7%
1999-2000	270.1	265.0	267.7	803.0	90.0%
1998-1999	269.8	265.6	266.6	802.0	90.8%
1997-1998	269.6	263.8	264.8	798.3	88.6%

Number Tested

School Year	Reading	Mathematics ¹	Written Communication	Composite ²	
2003-2004	106	27,130	98	NA	
2002-2003	1,543	26,927	1,532	NA	
2001-2002	27,175	27,168	27,103	27,065	
2000-2001	27,305	27,304	27,178	27,149	
1999-2000	28,041	28,039	27,922	27,895	
1998-1999	27,617	27,615	27,528	27,483	
1997-1998	27,947	27,947	27,821	27,793	

Reading, Mathematics, and Written Communication scale scores vary from 100-300. Composite scale scores vary from 300-900.

¹Starting in 2002-2003, for most students mathematics is now the only section of the FLE required for graduation.

²The composite and percent passing for 2002-03 and 2003-04 is not applicable because the majority of the students taking that administration only needed to pass the mathematics section.

Average Cost Per Student in School Year 2003-2004: \$11.74

Source: Mississippi Department of Education Test Data Retrieval System

MS-CPAS Secondary Occupational Specific Programs

Statewide Mean Percent of Items Correct (2003-2004)

CODE	PROGRAM NAME	No. Tested	% Correct
08LM	Agriculture Business and Management	18	68.7%
22LM	Agriculture Power and Machinery	169	65.5%
28KM	Agriculture Production	194	50.8%
09LM	Agriscience	201	56.6%
02LL	Allied Health	1209	71.1%
10LM	Automotive Body Repair	161	59.1%
05LM	Automotive Mechanics	489	58.2%
12LM	Building Trades	524	53.3%
01LM	Business and Computer Technology	1077	74.4%
13LM	Carpentry (Residential)	98	55.7%
07LL	Child Care and Guidance Management and Services	374	70.0%
34LM	Clothing and Textile	107	66.5%
54LM	Computer Systems Technology	62	71.1%
14KM	Cooperative Education	592	69.5%
19LM	Culinary and Related Foods Technology	315	78.5%
15LL	Diesel Equipment Repair	4	*
04LM	Electrician	59	61.4%
03LL	Electronics	38	61.4%
24LL	Forestry	67	62.4%
17LM	General Drafting	178	65.2%
18LL	Graphic and Print Communications	32	55.0%
26LL	Heating and Air Conditioning	17	52.0%
29LL	Horticulture	43	50.3%
43LM	Machine Tool Operation	17	88.1%
53KM	Marketing Management Technology	326	62.1%
11LL	Masonry	39	57.4%
20LL	Metal Trades/Machine Shop Option	102	63.9%
52LL	Metal Trades/Welding Option	217	56.8%
27LM	Small Engine Repair	18	38.2%
30LL	Technology Applications	318	59.2%
06LM	Vehicle and Mobile Equipment Mechanics	196	56.9%
21LM	Welder/Welding Technologist	129	62.9%

**Percent correct is not reported for less than 10 students.*

Code	Definition
LL	Secondary Active Test
RR	Postsecondary Active Test
KM	Secondary Pilot Test 2004
LM	Secondary Active Test 2003
PS	Postsecondary Pilot Test 2004
RT	Postsecondary Active Test 2003

Average Cost Per Student in School Year 2003-2004: \$13.73