

Mississippi Statewide Assessment System 2005-2006

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. Due to Hurricane Katrina, the NRT administration was suspended during the 2005-2006 school year. Beginning with school year 2006-2007, the NRT will no longer be administered.

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. Due to Hurricane Katrina, the Grades 4 and 7 Writing Assessments were suspended during the 2005-2006 school year.

Elementary and Middle Grades Science Assessments The Elementary and Middle Grades Science Assessments are criterion-referenced assessments in grades 5 and 8 that allow Mississippi to be in full compliance with the requirements of the federal legislation under *No Child Left Behind*. These assessments are fully customized criterion-referenced tests, and a committee of Mississippi teachers selected by the MDE approved the items that appear on these tests. The tests are aligned with the grade-appropriate objectives in the Mississippi Curriculum Science Framework 2001 as specified by teacher committees and will meet the requirements of *NCLB*. The results of these assessments will provide information that will be used for the purpose of improving student achievement; the results are not currently used in Mississippi's school accountability system. Riverside Publishing is the contractor for the Elementary and Middle Grades Science Assessments. The first live administration was to be administered during the 2005-2006 school; however, due to Hurricane Katrina, the administration was suspended. Therefore, the first live administration will occur in March 2007.

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. 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.

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 Occupation-Specific Tests is to assess the performance of local vocational programs, as required by the Carl Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act of 1998, in producing students with essential occupation specific knowledge by assessing students with both critical thinking and knowledge level questions. During the 2005-2006 school year, Southern Illinois University was the contractor for the MS-CPAS. In September 2007, a Request for Proposals was issued for the Mississippi Career Planning and Assessment System, Second Edition (MS-CPAS2).

Functional Literacy Examination The Functional Literacy Examination (FLE) was the minimum competency test currently required to receive a Mississippi high school diploma. It was 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 is being phased out. Students entering ninth grade in 2001-02 (class of 2005), are the last students required to pass any portion of the FLE. Students that are required to pass only the mathematics section of the FLE as a part of their graduation requirements can participate in FLE test administrations through the 2007-08 school year. After the 2007-08 school year, these students can meet the graduation requirement by passing the Algebra I Subject Area Test. Refer to State Board of Education Policy IIB-1 for more information. NCS Pearson, Inc., is the contractor for the FLE.

Mississippi Subject Area Testing Program 2000-2006

| Subject Area Test | School Year 2000-2001 | | | School Year 2001-2002 | | | School Year 2002-2003 | | |
|---|-----------------------|------------------|---------------|-----------------------|------------------|---------------|-----------------------|------------------|--------------|
| | 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 | 79.00% | 26,961 | 339.5 | 81.5% |
| Biology I | 32,789 | 332.6 | NA | 23,625 | 347.4 | 82.40% | 27,051 | 350.8 | 85.7% |
| U.S. History from 1877 | 27,249 | 337.9 | NA | 25,870 | 359.7 | 93.70% | 25,984 | 363.0 | 94.2% |
| English II Multiple Choice | 30,153 | 304.8 | NA | 29,290 | 321.5 | 69.20% | 29,336 | 328.9 | 77.4% |
| English II Writing Assessment ¹ | 32,158 | 1.9 / 2.1 | NA | 29,572 | 2.3 / 2.2 | 83.90% | 29,196 | 2.2 / 2.2 | 91.7% |
| Subject Area Test | School Year 2003-2004 | | | School Year 2004-2005 | | | School Year 2005-2006 | | |
| | Number Tested | Mean Scale Score | % Passing | Number Tested | Mean Scale Score | % Passing | Number Tested | Mean Scale Score | % Passing |
| Algebra I | 27,479 | 352.3 | 90.7% | 28,451 | 355.6 | 91.6% | 28,902 | 352.2 | 91.0% |
| Biology I | 28,390 | 356.8 | 89.2% | 26,178 | 365.6 | 96.4% | 30,313 | 362.3 | 93.3% |
| U.S. History from 1877 | 25,589 | 366.3 | 95.7% | 29,145 | 361.3 | 91.8% | 26,711 | 365.7 | 95.9% |
| English II Multiple Choice | 28,982 | 334.5 | 83.1% | 29,268 | 333.5 | 82.8% | 29,934 | 330.2 | 78.1% |
| English II Writing Assessment ¹² | 29,243 | 1.9 / 2.1 | 84.9% / 89.2% | 29,580 | 1.9 / 2.1 | 87.8% / 91.0% | 30,530 | 2 | 93.7 |

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

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

²Beginning with school year 2005-2006, only the narrative prompt of the English II Writing Assessment is given.

Average Cost Per Student in School Year 2005-2006: \$26.21

Source: Mississippi Assessment and Accountability Reporting System