

Descriptor Term:

IDDI

GED PROGRAM

ISSUE DATE: **7-18-05**

REVISED: **10-8-12**

The Jackson County School District shall provide a program of GED preparatory instruction as part of the Alternative School Program. The program shall be administered in accord with section 37-13-92 of the Mississippi Code of 1972 annotated and State Board Policy 902.

As mandated by Senate Bill 2855 the following shall apply:

1. Students enrolled in the Jackson County GED Program shall not be classified as dropouts and the Jackson County School District shall continue to receive MAEP funding for the students while they are enrolled in the GED Program.
2. Students placed in the GED Program shall not be eligible to participate in regular academic courses or other programmatic activities within the school district, including athletics, choir, band, or any other extracurricular activities; except that a GED student may participate in existing job and skill development programs or in programs developed in conjunction with the GED Program and the Vocational Education Director.
3. The Jackson County School District will contract with the Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College for the purpose of GED testing.
4. The GED option will offer a full range of instruction that aligns with the core content measured by GED tests. Content will align with high school mathematics, writing, social studies, reading, and science.
5. Evaluation of student's progress will be conducted at regular intervals and appropriate records shall be maintained.
6. GED option graduates will receive recognition for their achievement by participating in a separate ceremony held near the same time period.

Qualification of Students for the Jackson County GED Program

Students must meet the following criteria to qualify for the GED Program:

1. The student must be at least 16 years of age;
2. The student must be at least one (1) grade levels behind or have acquired less than four (4) Carnegie units;
3. The student must have taken every opportunity to continue to participate in course work leading to a regular high school diploma;
4. Students who have been referred to the Alternative Education Program for disciplinary reasons shall not be eligible for placement in the GED Program until behavioral modification goals for exiting the Alternative Education Program have been attained.
5. Students must be eligible to attend school in the Jackson County School District and meet district attendance and discipline policy.

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6. Students will be required to take the TABE Locator Assessment and score at 8th grade level. Only with a principal's waiver can a student scoring lower than 8th grade be admitted.
7. Students must commit to attending the GED Program for a minimum of ~~27.5~~ **15** hours per week for instruction and workforce development.
8. Counseling is required prior to enrollment and will be available throughout participation in the program.
9. Students enrolled in subject area courses through January 31 in a school with a traditional class schedule will be required to take the subject area test(s). Students enrolled in subject area courses through October 31 or through March 31 on a 4x4 block schedule will be required to take subject area test(s).

Placement in the Jackson County GED Program

Recommendation for student placement in the Jackson County GED Program will be made by a committee of school staff consisting of campus administrators, counselors, classroom teachers and support staff. Documentation of the committee recommendation shall be maintained for each student.

The recommendation for placement in the Jackson County GED Program must be approved by the superintendent or the assistant superintendent of the Jackson County School District.

Students placed in the Jackson County School District GED Program must have written parental or guardian consent prior to placement in the program.

Documentation of parental consent for placement will be maintained for each student.

Students placed in the Jackson County School District Program will have an Individual Education and Career Plan (IECP) developed at the time of placement that emphasizes academic/instructional needs, job readiness skills, and work experience options.

Students cannot circumvent the State's Compulsory School Attendance Law or receive a GED certificate/diploma prior to their age equivalent peers. Any exception to this policy must be approved by the Mississippi Department of Education by the Superintendent of Education.

Instructional Staff for the Jackson County GED Program

Qualified instructional staff will be assigned to instruct and supervise GED classes Monday through Friday during regular school hours.

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Teachers employed in the GED Program by the Jackson County School District must meet minimum teacher licensure requirement of the Mississippi Department of Education.

The student/teacher ratio in the GED program shall not exceed 15:1. Alternative Education/GED Option Program in the revised State Board Policy 902, December 2009.

LEGAL REF: MS CODE 37-13-92 and 37-35-1 through 11