

Descriptor Term:

IHFD

**STUDENT ASSESSMENT
EXTERNAL REVIEW TEAMS**

ISSUE DATE: **9-16-02**

The Mississippi Curriculum Test is a criterion-referenced assessment that is administered to all students in grades 2-8 each spring. It is part of the Mississippi Curriculum Content Assessment System (MCCAS) and is used to determine the level of student mastery of those skills in the Mississippi Curriculum Frameworks. Students in grades 3 and 7 are required, as part of the MCCAS, to achieve a passing score on the curriculum benchmarks for those grades. These benchmarks are established by the Mississippi Department of Education and published in their assessment literature.

According to Mississippi Board of Education Policy IIC-4, "each school district shall form External Review Teams that will recommend promotion/retention for a student failing grade 3 and 7 benchmarks." The policy also requires that the individuals serving on the review team shall not be members of the staff at the school of the child whose data is being analyzed.

The Jackson County School District will fulfill the requirement of State Board Policy IIC-4 by forming a District External Review Team that will analyze the test results for students who do not meet the required score for passing the benchmarks. The team will consist of a third grade teacher, a seventh grade teacher and an administrator or counselor from each attendance center. These nine individuals and a central office staff member with curriculum/assessment responsibilities will compose the External Review Team for the district.

In order to comply with the requirement of Policy IIC-4 related to members of the team not being from the school of the student whose data is being reviewed, the members of the District External Review Team will not participate in reviews of student data of any student from his/her attendance center. This will provide a team of seven team members to review the data of each student.

Each school will submit a packet of information on each student being reviewed by the District External Review Team. The packet may include copies of the MCT score reports, previous MCT data, student work samples, observational assessments, grade and attendance data, and other testing information. The data will be reviewed by the team and a recommendation for promotion or retention will be made based on the requirements of State Board Policy IIC-4 and the evidence presented by the data.

Once a recommendation is developed by the District External Review Team, all paperwork, including a narrative description of the rationale for the recommendation, will be returned to the school. School-level personnel will then meet with the parent(s), explain the recommendation and the possible ramifications of both promotion and retention, and obtain signatures of the parent(s) to document the final decision regarding whether the student will be retained or promoted.

Placement decisions pertaining to students with disabilities, as defined under IDEA, will continue to be made based on the student's IEP.