

TESTING PROGRAMS

ISSUE DATE: 5-22-00

The Board of Education of the Jackson County School district, pursuant to 37-16-5, shall periodically assess student performance and achievement in each school. Such assessment programs shall be based upon local goals and objectives which are compatible with the state's plan for education and which supplement the minimum performance standards approved by the State Board of Education. Data from district assessment programs shall be provided by the State Department of Education when such data is required in order to evaluate specific instructional programs or processes or when the data is needed for other research or evaluation projects. This district may provide acceptable, compatible district assessment data to substitute for any assessment data needed at the state level when State Department of Education certifies that such data is acceptable for the purposes of Section 37-16-3, as pursuant 37-16-5 (1983).

The district adheres to all requirements of the Mississippi Assessment System.

The district adheres to all testing guidelines and procedures prescribed by the State Board of Education.

1. It is unlawful for anyone knowingly and willfully to do any of the following acts regarding mandatory uniform tests administered to students as required by the State Department of Education and the General Educational Development Test (GED):
 - a. give examinees access to test questions prior to testing;
 - b. copy or reproduce all or any portion of any secure test booklet;
 - c. coach students during testing or alter or interfere with responses in any way;
 - d. make answer keys available to examinees;
 - e. fail to account for all secure test materials before, during, and after testing;
or
 - f. participate in, direct, aid, counsel, assist in, encourage or fail to report any of the acts prohibited in this section.
2. Any person violating any provisions or subsection (1) of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be fined not more than One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00), or be imprisoned for not more than ninety (90) days or both. Upon conviction, the State Board of Education may suspend or revoke the administrative or teaching credentials, or both, of the person convicted.
3. The district attorney shall investigate allegations of violations of this section, either on its own initiative following a receipt of allegations, or at the request of a school district or the State Department of Education.
4. The district attorney shall furnish to the State Superintendent of Education a report of the findings of any investigation conducted pursuant to this section.

5. The State Board of Education shall establish statistical guidelines to examine the results of state mandated tests to determine where there is evidence of testing irregularities resulting in false or misleading results in the aggregate or composite test scores of the class, grade, age group, or school district. When said irregularities are identified, the State Superintendent of Education may order that any group of students identified as being required to retake the test do so at the state's expense under state supervision. The school district shall be given at least thirty (30) days notice before the next test administration and shall comply with the order of the State Superintendent of Education. The results from the second administration of the test shall be for all uses of that data.

All students seeking to transfer from any school, public or private, within or outside of the boundaries of the State of Mississippi, to this school district may be required to take a test to determine the grade and class to which the pupil shall be assigned at the time of pupil transfer.

The principal shall administer the test or tests to such pupil or pupils as shall apply for transfer to such school. Such test or tests shall be administered within thirty days after the filing of each such application for transfer. Notice of the giving of such test shall be given to the applicant not less than five days prior to the date of the administration of such test.

No transfer of a pupil shall be effected until the test is given and the pupil is assigned according to the grade and class for which the test shows he is best suited. No pupil shall be assigned to a grade and the class more than three (3) grades above or below the grade or class that the pupil would have been assigned to had the pupil remained in the school from which the transfer is being made. Pending the administration of the test herein provided for and its grading and an assignment based thereon, the superintendent of the school district or the principal to which the pupil seeks admission may assign the pupil temporarily to a grade and class comparable to that in which the pupil would have been had the pupil continued in the school from which the transfer was being made.

If any student is transferred or reassigned within the school district by order of the school board as designated by the law of the State of Mississippi and not at his own request, the requirement of that pupil's taking the standardized test shall be waived. Likewise, if a pupil shall transfer from one school district to another school district in the manner provided and required by the laws of the State of Mississippi, the requirement of such pupil taking the standardized test shall be waived, as pursuant to 37-15-33.

Any transfer student from a school or program (correspondence, tutorial, or home study) not accredited by a regional or state agency is given either a standardized achievement test(s) or teacher-made special subject test(s) to determine the appropriate classification of the student.

Legal Reference: MS Code 37-16-1 through 3; 37-16-4; 37-16-5; 37-15-33
Reference: Accreditation Requirements of the State Board of Education,
Bulletin 171