

Policy II: Testing Program

Status: ADOPTED

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TESTING PROGRAMS

This school district 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 to 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 the state department of education certifies that such data is acceptable for the purposes of Mississippi Code Section 37-16-3. 37-16-5

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 examinees during testing or alter or interfere with examinees' 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;
 - 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 of 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. Any person submitting a false certification to the State Department of Education that each statewide test in a school was administered in strict accordance with the Requirements of the Mississippi Statewide Assessment System as adopted by the State Board of Education, and with willful intent, is guilty of a felony and upon conviction thereof shall be fined not more than Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$ 15,000.00), or be imprisoned for not more than three (3) years, or both. Upon conviction, the State Board of Education may suspend or revoke the administrative or teaching credentials, or both, of the person convicted.
4. The district attorney shall investigate allegations of violations of this section, either on his own initiative following a receipt of allegations, or at the request of a school district or the State Department of Education.
5. The district attorney shall furnish to the State Superintendent of Education a report of the findings of any investigation conducted pursuant to this section.

6. 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 at state 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 final for all uses of that data.
7. Nothing in this section may be construed to prohibit or interfere with the responsibilities of the State Board of Education or the State Department of Education in test development or selection, test form construction, standard setting, test scoring, and reporting, or any other related activities which in the judgment of the State Superintendent of Education are necessary and appropriate. ' 37-16-4

TRANSFER STUDENTS

All students seeking to transfer from any school, public, private or homeschool within or outside of the boundaries of the State of Mississippi, to the Itawamba County 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. All students seeking to transfer from any school, public, private or homeschool within or outside of the boundaries of the State of Mississippi, which is not accredited by a regional or state agency, to the Itawamba County School District shall 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 administrative head of each public school shall administer the test or tests to such pupil or pupils as shall apply for transfer to such public 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 the applicant not less than five days prior to the date of administration of such test. No transfer of a pupil shall be effected until the test has been given and the pupil is assigned according to the grade and class for which the test shows he is best suited.

For placement in Grades 1-8, the student shall take a standardized achievement test or a teacher-made test, at the discretion of the Itawamba County School District, based on the curriculum for the age and grade of the student.

For placement in Grades 9-12 and Carnegie Unit classes, the student shall take teacher-made tests for the units in the non-accredited program. Student who wear a grade of 70 or above will be given credit as having earned a Carnegie Unit for that subject. Said grade will be recorded on the student's record with a notation "This unit is assigned based on successful completion of the district test for this subject".

No pupil shall be assigned to a grade and 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 attendance center 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. ' 37-15-33

If any student is transferred or reassigned within the school district by order of the board of trustees of that school district as designated by 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. ' 37-15-33

SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENTS

Students with disabilities shall be included in general statewide and district-wide assessments programs, with appropriate accommodations, where necessary. 37-16-4

The Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards for this policy are standards 7, 14 and 16.
