

**MISSISSIPPI STATEWIDE ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM, EFFECTIVE 2013-2014**

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*Beginning with the 2013-2014 school year, accountability labels will be assigned based on the following school grading assignments:*

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Schools (and Districts) with no 12th grade will have seven (7) components, each worth 100 points, totaling 700 possible points:

1. Reading Proficiency
2. Reading Growth – All Students
3. Reading Growth – Low 25% of Students
4. Math Proficiency
5. Math Growth – All Students
6. Math Growth – Low 25% of Students
7. Science Proficiency

For schools (and districts) with a grade 12, the following schedule will be used:

During the 2013-2014 school year, schools (and districts) with a grade 12 will have 9 components, totaling 900 possible points:

1. Reading Proficiency (100 points)
2. Reading Growth – All Students (100 points)
3. Reading Growth – Low 25% of Students (100 points)
4. Math Proficiency (100 points)
5. Math Growth – All Students (100 points)
6. Math Growth – Low 25% of Students (100 points)
7. Science Proficiency (50 points)
8. U.S. History Proficiency (50 points)
9. Graduation Rate – All Students (200 points)

During the 2014-2015 school year, schools (and districts) with a grade 12 will have 10 components, totaling 950 possible points:

1. Reading Proficiency (100 points)
2. Reading Growth – All Students (100 points)
3. Reading Growth – Low 25% of Students (100 points)
4. Math Proficiency (100 points)
5. Math Growth – All Students (100 points)
6. Math Growth – Low 25% of Students (100 points)
7. Science Proficiency (50 points)
8. U.S. History Proficiency (50 points)
9. Graduation Rate – All Students (200 points)
10. College & Career Readiness (CCR; Math 50% and English/Reading 50%) (50 points)

(Note: The CCR component is contingent upon legislative funding. If for any reason this component is not implemented, the components and their corresponding weights used during the 2013-2014 calculations will be applied.)

Beginning with the 2015-2016 school year, schools (and districts) with a grade 12 will have 11 components, totaling 1000 possible points:

1. Reading Proficiency (100 points)
2. Reading Growth – All Students (100 points)
3. Reading Growth – Low 25% of Students (100 points)

4. Math Proficiency (100 points)
5. Math Growth – All Students (100 points)
6. Math Growth – Low 25% of Students (100 points)
7. Science Proficiency (50 points)
8. U.S. History Proficiency (50 points)
9. Graduation Rate – All Students (200 points)
10. College & Career Readiness (Math 50% and English/Reading 50%) (50 points)  
(Note: The CCR component is contingent upon legislative funding.)
11. Acceleration (Participation and Performance Combined) on the following sliding scale:
  - a. Year 1 (2015-2016): Participation - 70%/Performance - 30% (50 points)
  - b. Year 2 (2016-2017): Participation - 60%/Performance - 40% (50 points)
  - c. Year 3 (2017-2018) and beyond: Participation - 50%/Performance - 50% (50 points)

## Mississippi Statewide Accountability System: Business Rules

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### 1. *Assignment of Grade Classifications*

- 1.1 Standards for student, school, and school district performance will be increased when student proficiency is at a seventy-five percent (75%) and/or when sixty-five percent (65%) of schools and/or districts are earning a grade of "B" or higher, in order to raise the standard on performance after targets are met. (§37-17-6, MS CODE OF 1972)
- 1.2 Grades for schools (and districts) with no 12th grade (elementary/middle schools) will be determined based on the following cut-points:
  - A ≥ 518
  - 455 ≤ B < 518
  - 400 ≤ C < 455
  - 325 ≤ D < 400
  - F < 325
- 1.3 Grades for schools (and districts) with a 12th grade will be determined based on the following cut-points for the 2013-2014 school year:
  - A ≥ 695
  - 623 ≤ B < 695
  - 540 ≤ C < 623
  - 422 ≤ D < 540
  - F < 422
- 1.4 Cut-points for schools with a 12th grade will be reset with the implementation of the College & Career Readiness component and the Acceleration component.
- 1.5 Assignment of district grades will be calculated by treating the district as one (1) large school based on the same grading assignments used for schools.

### 2. *Full Academic Year (FAY)*

- 2.1 In order for a student to meet Full Academic Year (FAY) and be included in the proficiency and growth calculations, he/she must have been enrolled (regardless of attendance) for at least 75% (≥ 75%) of the days from September 1 (of school year) to the first day of testing. This date will be published yearly by the MDE and will be the same for all schools, students, and assessments. For schools on a traditional school calendar, the date will be in the spring.  
Note: 74.5% will not be rounded up to 75%.
  - 2.1.1 Enrollment is defined as enrollment at the school/district level except for students in 4x4 block scheduled courses.
- 2.2 For students in 4x4 block scheduled courses, FAY for the Fall semester will be calculated from September 1 of the school year to the first day of Fall primary test administration. The specific date will be published yearly by MDE. FAY for the Spring semester will be calculated from February 1 to the first day of Spring testing, the same day as schools using a traditional school calendar. These dates will be published yearly by MDE.
- 2.3 The beginning and ending dates will be included in the calculations. Calculations will be based on calendar days, not instructional days. Weekends and holidays will be included in the calculations.
- 2.4 If a student meets FAY at a school other than the school where he/she is enrolled at the time of testing, his/her scores will count at the school where he/she met FAY.
- 2.5 This definition of FAY will not be applied to students for previous years where a previous definition of FAY was applied. In the event that no FAY was calculated for a student in a previous year, this method will be applied.
- 2.6 FAY will be calculated at the school level as well as at the district level. Therefore, it is possible for a student who transfers within a district to meet FAY for a district and be included in the calculations for the grade assignment for the district but not be included in the calculations for

a school. Scores of all students will be included in the state level calculations regardless of FAY status.

- 2.7 If a student enrolls and withdraws on the same day, the student will be considered as having been enrolled for one (1) day.
- 2.8 (Deleted) Rule 2.9 supersedes.
- 2.9 If FAY cannot be calculated or discerned because of incorrect MSIS coding, the student will be forced to meet FAY at the school/district if the movement of the student appears to be within the same school/district.

### **3. N-Count Minimums**

#### **3.1 School Totals**

3.1.1 In order for a school to earn a grade, the school must have a minimum of ten (10) valid test scores in each of the required components. Schools that do not have the minimum of ten (10) valid test scores for each of the components but meet the 95% minimum participation requirements, the available data will be reported but the school will not receive a grade. If a school does not meet the minimum of ten (10) valid test scores requirement because they do not meet the 95% minimum participation requirement, the school will receive a grade based on the available data for each component. (See Sections 22 and 24 for exceptions to this rule.)

#### **3.2 Low 25% N-Count Minimums**

3.2.1 This subgroup must have a minimum of ten (10) valid test scores. If there are less than ten (<10) students in the Low 25% subgroup, the subgroup will consist of All students except for the students scoring at the highest achievement level. If this calculation still results in a number less than ten (<10), then ALL students will be included in the calculation of the Low 25% subgroup.

3.2.2 At the grade-level, a minimum of four (4) students with valid scale scores are required to identify the Low 25%. If a grade has less than four (<4) students with valid scale scores for the subject, there will be no students identified as being in the Low 25% for that grade level for that subject.

### **4. Participation Rates**

4.1 If a school/district does not meet the 95% minimum participation rate, the school/district will automatically be dropped a letter grade. Although subgroup participation rates will be reported, this penalty will apply to the overall participation rate only. (A 94.5% participation rate will not be rounded to 95%.)

4.2 Elementary schools with no assessments (K, 1, and 2) will not be assigned a participation rate. Therefore, these schools will not be impacted by the participation rate minimum requirements.

4.3 Students may be removed from the denominator of testing participation calculations if he/she meets the criteria set forth by the Office of Student Assessment as having a Significant Medical Emergency which made participation in the state testing impossible. For details regarding the definition of Significant Medical Emergency and the process of requesting a student be removed from the calculations, please contact the Office of Student Assessment.

4.4 High School participation rates will be calculated based on the Senior Snapshot. Data from all statewide high school level end-of-course assessments required for graduation will be used in the participation calculations.

4.4.1 For the 2013-2014 school year, the Senior Snapshot process used for calculating participation rates in high school level end-of-course assessments will remain consistent with previous years. Beginning with the 2014-2015 school year, U.S. History will be included in the participation rate calculations. (Refer to rule 4.5 for additional clarification.)

- 4.5 Students with significant cognitive disabilities (SCD) with no U.S. History assessment scores will be removed from the denominator for the participation rate calculation for U.S. History.
- 4.6 If and when the ACT assessment becomes a state required assessment, it will be included in the participation rate calculations. (See Section 25.)
- 4.7 If a student is expelled but is still enrolled in MSIS for the school/district during the testing window, he/she will be included in the denominator. If the student does not test, the student will count as “not tested.”

## 5. Proficiency

- 5.1 Proficiency will be determined by the percentage of students who achieve a performance/proficiency of Proficient and above. No additional credit will be given for students scoring in a performance/proficiency level above proficient (e.g., “Advanced”). No partial credit will be given for students scoring in any performance level below proficient.
  - 5.1.1 For proficiency components worth fifty (50) points, the weighted percentage of students proficient will be multiplied times 0.5 to determine the points applied to the component.
  - 5.1.2 The science proficiency component for schools with a 12th grade will be based on all science assessments administered at that school. Therefore, for schools with a 12th grade that also have a 5th and/or 8th grade, the science component for that school will still be worth fifty (50) points.
- 5.2 Assessments included in the proficiency calculations will consist of all federally-required statewide assessments in Reading/Language Arts/English, Mathematics and Science, and any additional high school level end-of-course assessments required for graduation. This includes all Alternate Assessments based on Alternate Achievement Standards (AA-AAS) for SCD students. (This rule will need to be reviewed with the implementation of any new statewide assessments.)

## 6. Growth

- 6.1 Growth is determined by whether or not a student increases in performance/proficiency levels from one (1) year to the next based on the following criteria:
  - An increase of ANY performance/proficiency level
  - Staying at the same performance/proficiency that is at or above Proficient from one (1) year to the next
  - An increase within the lowest two (2) performance/proficiency levels that crosses over the mid-point of the level. (Example: Bottom half of Basic to top half of Basic)
- 6.2 Additional weight in the numerator is given for the following increases:
  - Any increase of two (2) or more performance/proficiency levels will be given a weight = 1.2.
  - Any increase to the highest performance/proficiency level will be given a weight = 1.25.
  - An increase within the highest performance/proficiency level and any other increase is given a weight = 1.

Note: Because additional weight is given, it is mathematically possible for a school or district’s growth value to be greater than 100 points for any/all of the four (4) growth components.

- 6.3 Any decrease in performance/proficiency levels = 0.
- 6.4 The lowest two (2) performance/proficiency levels will be split into half at the mid-point of the range. In the event that the range is an odd number and cannot be split into two (2) equal halves, the lower half of the performance/proficiency level will be one (1) point larger than the upper half. (Example: If the range of the performance/proficiency level is thirteen (13) scale score points, the bottom half of the range will be seven (7) scale score points and the upper half of the range will be six (6) scale score points.)

The splitting of the lowest two (2) performance/proficiency levels into half at the mid-point range is not intended to create two (2) new separate performance/proficiency levels. Therefore, students who move from the bottom half of the lowest performance/proficiency level to the bottom half of the second lowest performance/proficiency level will not be given additional weight for increasing two (2) performance/proficiency levels. That student will be considered to have increased one (1) performance/proficiency level.

Note: Rules regarding the splitting of the lowest two (2) performance/proficiency levels are subject to review and change with the implementation of any new assessments.

- 6.5 Assessments used for calculation of growth will include:
- Grade-level (3-8) assessments in Reading/Language Arts;
  - Grade-level (3-8) assessments in Mathematics;
  - High School level assessments in Reading/Language Arts;
  - High School level assessments in Mathematics;
  - Alternate Assessments (3-8 and High School) in Reading; and
  - Alternate Assessments (3-8 and High School) in Mathematics.
- Note: Growth will not be calculated for Science or U.S. History.
- 6.6 Students taking Algebra I in 7th or 8th grade are required by No Child Left Behind (NCLB) to also take the grade-level assessment in mathematics. Therefore, these students will have two (2) growth calculations: grade-level to grade-level and grade-level to Algebra I. The grade-level to grade-level growth calculation will be applied to the current school. The grade-level to Algebra I growth calculation will be banked until the student's 10th grade year.
- 6.7 To calculate growth for the High Schools for Math-All Students, Math-Low 25%, Reading-All Students and Reading-Low 25%, the 8th grade grade-level assessments will be used as the baseline. The exceptions to this are as follows:
- If a student takes Algebra I during his/her 8th grade year, his/her 7th grade grade-level assessments will be used as the baseline and banked until the student is in the 10th grade.
  - If a student takes Algebra I in the 7th grade, his/her 6th grade grade-level math assessment will be used as the baseline and banked until the student is in the 10th grade.
- 6.8 If a student does not have the previous year's grade-level assessment, the student will be excluded from the growth calculation(s) except in the cases of the high school level assessments.
- 6.9 For students taking high school level assessments in grades lower than 10th grade, growth will be banked until the student's 10th grade year and then applied.
- 6.10 If a student does not take the required high school level assessments until 11th or 12th grade year, growth will be calculated and applied in the first year he/she has a valid score. The exception to this will be for students taking the alternate assessment. For students taking the alternate assessment, a cap of two (2) years will be applied to the growth calculations. Therefore, if a student takes the alternate assessment in 8th grade and does not take the high school level alternate assessment until 11th or 12th grade, he/she will not be included in the growth calculations.
- 6.11 Students who are retained in grades 3-8 will have a growth calculation based on the retained grade from the previous year. (Example: A 4th grade student who was retained will have growth calculated based on his/her previous year's 4th grade assessment scores.)
- 6.12 For K-3 schools, growth of 4th grade students in the district will be used for the growth calculations of the K-3 school in which they met FAY. Growth of the 3rd grade students who are retained will be included with the 4th grade student growth calculations.
- 6.13 The student must meet FAY for the current year in order to be included in the growth calculations but is not required to meet FAY for the previous year.
- 6.14 Growth will not be calculated for students who take the Alternate Assessment in the current year but took the grade-level general education assessment the previous year or vice versa.
- 6.15 The denominator for the growth calculation includes any FAY student with two (2) valid assessment scores (as defined above). The numerator will include any student included in the denominator who has demonstrated growth as defined above, and weighted accordingly.

- 6.16 After the implementation of the Common Core assessments, if a student comes to Mississippi from another state and has taken the same Common Core assessment as given in Mississippi, his/her score will be used to calculate growth for the student and the student's growth will be included in the calculations (provided that he/she meets FAY). If the student took a Common Core assessment (in another state) that is different from the assessments given in Mississippi, he/she will not have a growth calculation.

## 7. *Lowest 25% of Students*

- 7.1 Calculation methodology for students whose baseline assessment score is 3rd – 7th grade:
- 7.1.1 The Lowest 25% in reading and the Lowest 25% in mathematics are determined using the same method but applied separately to reading data and to mathematics data. The procedure used to identify the Lowest 25% of the students in a school is applied separately by grade, and the identified students are combined across all grades to comprise the Lowest 25% and to determine learning gains.
- The process:
1. Rank the scores of all FAY students in the grade from highest to lowest based on their prior year scale scores. Students without a score from the prior year, or students in high school without an 8th grade test score, are not included. (See Rules 7.1.2 and 7.1.3 for additional clarification.) Do not include scale scores from the alternate assessment. (See Rule 7.4.)
  2. Divide the number of students in the list by four (4). If the result is not a whole number then automatically round up to meet the 25% minimum.
  3. Count, from the lowest score up, the number of students identified in step 2. Then identify the scale score that corresponds to that student. This scale score becomes the boundary score.
  4. Identify all students with the boundary score determined in step 3. All students with the same boundary score or lower scale score will be included in the Lowest 25% group for that subject/grade.
  5. Repeat the process for each grade for the subject then combine students to form the Lowest 25% for the school for the subject.
- Note: The number of students in the Lowest 25% group must meet the minimum n-count as defined in Section 3.2. If the minimum n-count is not met, the rules outlined in Section 3.2 will be applied. (See Section 3 for more details on N-Count minimums.) It is possible for the Lowest 25% to be more than 25% when steps 4 and 5 are applied.
- 7.1.2 The Lowest 25% for high schools will be identified based on their 8th grade cohort and their 8th grade grade-level assessment score. The exception will be for those students who take a high school level course before the 10th grade, in which case, those students will be excluded from the Lowest 25% group.
- 7.1.3 The Lowest 25% for schools whose highest grade is lower than fourth grade will be identified based on the students who attended the school, not based on their fourth grade school's Lowest 25% group. Therefore, a student may be identified in the Lowest 25% in one (1) school, but not the other.
- 7.2 The Lowest 25% for a district will be identified using the same method described above [i.e., the district will be calculated as if it were one (1) school]. Therefore, it is possible that some students may be identified as the Lowest 25% for their school but not for their district, or for their district but not their school.
- 7.3 The Lowest 25% for the state will be identified using the same method [i.e., the state will be calculated as if it were one (1) school].
- 7.4 Scores from the alternate assessment for SCD students will not be included in the identification of the Lowest 25%.

## 8. Graduation Rate

- 8.1 The federally-approved four-year graduation rate will be used. (SECTION 37-17-6, MS CODE OF 1972)  
Definition: The number of students who graduate in four (4) years from a school and LEA with a regular high school diploma divided by the number of students who entered four (4) years earlier as first-time 9th graders, with adjustments for deaths, emigration, and transfers in and out. Ninth grade students who repeat 9th grade will stay in their original cohort.  
Definition: A "regular high school diploma" is the standard high school diploma that is fully aligned with the state's academic content standards. No exceptions are made for students with disabilities (SCD students or non-SCD students) or students receiving an occupational diploma, GED, certificate of attendance, etc.
- 8.2 For schools with a 12th grade that have been in existence for less than four (4) years, the district's graduation rate will be applied to the school's graduation component calculation.
- 8.3 The schools/district graduation rate will be multiplied by 2.0 to calculate the points applied to the graduation component for schools/districts.

## 9. Acceleration

- 9.1 Beginning in school year 2015-2016, high schools will have an Acceleration component in their calculations.
- 9.2 The Acceleration component refers to the percentage of students taking and passing the assessment associated with the accelerated courses such as Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE), or SBE-approved industry certification courses. For students taking dual credit and dual enrollment courses, passing refers to students who are passing the course with a "C" or above. For AP courses, the student must score at least 3 on the AP exam. For IB courses, the student must score at least 4 on the IB exam. For AICE courses, the student must obtain a passing score on the exam. (Passing scores of "A", "B", "C", "D", and "E" on the AICE exams are not based on the American "A-F" grading scale.) For industry certification courses, the student must pass the exam.
- 9.2.1 College courses must be credit-bearing courses with a minimum of three (3) semester hours credit and may be in any subject/content area.
- 9.3 The Acceleration component will consist of a Participation and a Performance component. These two (2) components will be combined for one (1) score worth fifty (50) points and phased in on the following sliding scale:
- Year 1 (2015-2016): (Participation-70%/Performance-30%) ÷ 2
  - Year 2 (2016-2017): (Participation-60%/Performance-40%) ÷ 2
  - Year 3 (2017-2018) and beyond: (Participation-50%/Performance-50%) ÷ 2
- 9.4 Calculation of Participation
- 9.4.1 The numerator for the Participation component calculation will be the number of students taking accelerated courses such as AP, IB, AICE, dual credit, dual enrollment, or industry certification courses based on the definition above.
- 9.4.2 The denominator for the Participation component calculation shall include all students not identified as Significant Cognitive Disabilities (SCD) students whose Mississippi Student Information System (MSIS) grade or peer-grade equivalent is 11th or 12th grade plus any 9th or 10th grade students who are taking and passing these assessments/courses plus any 11th or 12th grade SCD students who are taking and passing these assessments/courses. (9th and 10th grade students and SCD students will not be included in the denominator unless they are also included in the numerator.)
- 9.4.3 Students participating in multiple accelerated courses during the same school year will be given additional weighting in the numerator as follows:

- 2 courses: 1.1
- 3 courses: 1.2
- 4 courses: 1.3
- 5 courses: 1.4

9.5 Calculation of Performance

- 9.5.1 The numerator for the Performance component calculation will be the number of students taking and passing accelerated assessments/courses such as AP, IB, AICE, dual credit, dual enrollment, or industry certification courses based on the definition above.
- 9.5.2 The denominator for the Performance component calculation will consist of all students participating in the courses identified in the participation calculations but with no additional weight applied for students taking multiple courses.
- 9.5.3 Students who are enrolled in accelerated courses but do not take the required assessment will be considered as “not proficient” in the performance calculations.
- 9.6 For students taking and passing multiple courses, the additional weighting used in the participation calculations will be applied. Example: A student taking and passing two (2) courses would count as 1 student in the denominator and 1.1 in the numerator. A student taking two (2) courses but only passing one (1) will count as 1 in both the numerator and the denominator.
- 9.7 Students who take an accelerated course during their 11th grade year but do not take an accelerated course during their 12th grade year will be counted in the denominator both years, but in the numerator during their 11th grade year only.
- 9.8 FAY requirements will not be applied to the participation or proficiency calculations in the Acceleration component.

**10. Banking Scores: High school end-of-course assessments taken before 10th grade**

- 10.1 Scores of students taking Algebra I, Biology I, English II, or U.S. History end-of-course assessments in a grade below 10th grade will be “banked” for proficiency/achievement and growth calculations until the student is in the 10th grade and then applied to a) the student’s school of origin where he/she took the assessment and b) the student’s 10th grade school (if the student met FAY requirements the year he/she was assessed and during his/her 10th grade year). (See Section 6 for additional clarification on Growth.)
- 10.2 If a student transfers out of district before or during their 10th grade year, his/her scores (achievement and growth) will be applied to the school of origin (if FAY was met) but not to the receiving school in the new district.
- Note: Refer to Section 4 (Participation) and 6 (Growth) for additional information.

**11. Focus Schools (Pending USDE approval)**

- 11.1 Schools identified as “D” or “F” schools for two (2) consecutive years and not identified as “Priority” will be identified as “Focus” schools. (SECTION 37-17-6, MS CODE OF 1972)
- 11.2 If at least 10% of the schools in the state are not graded as “D” schools, the lowest 10% of schools, which are not already identified as Priority Schools, will be identified as Focus Schools. (SECTION 37-17-6, MS CODE OF 1972)
- 11.3 Beginning with the 2013-2014 grade assignments, any school designated as “Focus” will implement Focus School interventions for a minimum of two (2) years. If the school’s grade level improves, the school will take the higher grade level but continue to be considered as a “Focus School” for federal reporting and will continue to implement the Focus school interventions for the two-year minimum.

**12. Priority Schools (Pending USDE approval)**

- 12.1 Schools identified as “F” schools for two (2) consecutive years will also be identified as “Priority” schools. (SECTION 37-17-6, MS CODE OF 1972)
- 12.2 If at least 5% of the schools in the state are not graded as “F” schools, the lowest 5% of school grade point designees will be identified as Priority Schools. (SECTION 37-17-6, MS CODE OF 1972)
- 12.3 Beginning with the 2013-2014 grade assignments, any school designated as “Priority” will implement Priority School interventions for a minimum of three (3) years. If the school’s grade level improves, the school will take the higher grade level but continue to be considered as a “Priority School” for federal reporting and will continue to implement the Priority school interventions for the three-year minimum.

**13. Reward Schools (Pending USDE approval)**

- 13.1 Schools identified as “A” schools will also be identified as “Reward” schools. (§37-17-6, MS CODE OF 1972)
  - 13.1.1 Any school also meeting the federal criteria for “Reward-High Progress” or “Reward-High Performing” will be recognized.

**14. Annual Measurable Objectives (AMOs) (Pending USDE approval)**

- 14.1 AMOs will be reported for federal requirements but will not be factored into the calculations for the assigning of A-F accountability labels.
  - 14.1.1 All “C,” “D,” and “F” schools not identified as Priority or Focus will develop an action plan regarding subgroups not meeting AMOs.

**15. English Learners (EL)**

- 15.1 Scores of English Learners (EL) will be included in the calculations UNLESS the district requests that the scores of an EL student who is first year in the country be excluded from their proficiency (not participation) calculations.
  - 15.1.1 A student whose HLS (Home Language Survey) indicates the presence of a language other than English must be assessed for English-language proficiency within thirty (30) days of enrollment at the beginning of the school year. Students who register after the beginning of the school year must be assessed within two (2) weeks of enrollment. LEAs have the option to exclude the test scores for recently arrived EL students. “Recently Arrived” applies to the amount of time the student has been served in any school within the United States, NOT to the length of time the student has lived in the United States. LEAs must identify first-year EL students designated for exclusion on or before February 1, annually. (For more information, contact the Office of Federal Programs.)
  - 15.1.2 “Recently arrived” ELs may also be excluded from the Acceleration component and College & Career Readiness component. These students will automatically be included (if FAY is met) unless the district requests these students be excluded. The process for requesting the exclusion will be communicated by the MDE.
  - 15.1.3 Any EL student whose scores are excluded based on rule 15.1 will have their score invalidated in the accountability calculations. Therefore, the score will NOT be used the following year as a baseline for any growth calculations.

**16. Students with Disabilities**

- 16.1 United States Department of Education (ED) regulations limit the number of scores of children taking alternate assessments for students with significant cognitive disabilities (SCD) scoring proficient or above to 1% of the students at the state and district level. This rule does not apply

at the school level because these regulations recognize that some schools offer specialized services or are near specialized medical facilities that attract higher numbers of students with significant special needs. Therefore, if a district has >1% of their total population scoring proficient or above on an alternate assessment, the percent above 1% will be adjusted.

- 16.2 All eligible SCD students who are enrolled before or during the January MSIS data submission will be expected to participate in statewide assessments. If an SCD student, who would otherwise be eligible to participate in the alternate assessment, is enrolled after the January MSIS data submission, he/she may be removed from the denominator of participation calculations if the IEP committee determines that there is insufficient time for the teacher to gather both baseline and final assessment data that would yield a valid assessment for that student. The district will need to notify the Office of Student Assessment of any such student that may need to be removed from the participation calculations. If the student transfers from another school within the state after this deadline, and it is verified by the Office of Student Assessment that no baseline data from the school of origin is available, the district must notify the Office of Student Assessment and request that this student be removed from the participation calculations. (This rule will need to be updated and revised with the implementation of any new alternate assessment.)
- 16.3 Non-SCD students are not allowed to participate in alternate assessments. If any such students have alternate assessment data, the test data will be considered not valid.
- 16.4 Students with disabilities will be those students whose SPED indicator in MSIS is "Y" (Yes) at the end of month 8 (closest approximation to the test administration dates).
  - 16.4.1 In order for a student to be counted as SCD, his/her SCD indicator and SPED indicator must be set to "Y" (Yes) in MSIS.
- 16.5 Students with disabilities who are coded as "ungraded" (56 or 58) in MSIS will be assigned a peer-grade calculation based on his/her age on September 1 of the current school year.

#### **17. Duplicate Test Scores**

- 17.1 If a student takes the general education (grade-level) assessment AND the alternate assessment, the scores from the general education assessment will be used in the school/district accountability calculations.
- 17.2 If MSIS records indicate two (2) valid assessment scores for the same assessment in the same year, the score from the first administration date will be used. In the event that MSIS records indicate two (2) valid assessment scores for the same assessment on the same date, the higher of the two (2) scores will be used in the school/district accountability calculations.

#### **18. Invalid Test Scores**

- 18.1 Students with invalid test scores will be counted as "not tested" for participation calculations. The first VALID test score will be used in the proficiency, growth, and participation calculations.
- 18.2 If an invalid score is validated after the accountability calculations are performed and final school/district grade classifications have been assigned, the school/district's grade classifications will not be recalculated and adjusted to reflect the validated score. If during the next year, the student tests again and has a valid test score, that test score, although it was not the student's first test score, will be used during the next year's calculations. Please refer to the Office of Student Assessment regarding deadlines for appealing invalid test scores.
- 18.3 If a student's MSIS grade level (or peer grade level for ungraded students) does not match his/her assessment grade level, the student's scores will not be included in the numerator for participation, growth, or proficiency calculations. (The student will count as not proficient, not meeting growth, and not tested.) Likewise, the student's scores will not be used the following year in growth calculations.

Note: This rule does not apply to high school end-of-course assessments or high school alternate assessments.

**19. Rounding**

19.1 In the calculation of each of the components in the accountability system that are reported to schools, the final value of each component will be rounded to one (1) decimal place (tenths place). After the components are summed, the total value will be rounded to a whole number and reported for the final grade value calculation.

Example:

Reading Proficiency	80.5
Reading Growth – All Students	80.5
Reading Growth – Low 25% of Students	80.5
Math Proficiency	80.5
Math Growth – All Students	80.5
Math Growth – Low 25% of Students	80.5
Science Proficiency	80.5
Total Score	564

Note: Other rounding rules are embedded in the explanations of the specific components.

**20. School Reconfigurations or Redrawing of District Lines**

20.1 A school’s accountability calculations will be based on the grade configuration of the school (and the students in that school) on the date that corresponds with the Full Academic Year rules at the time of testing. (See Section 2 for details on Full Academic Year.) The calculations are applied to the school the following year, regardless of any reconfigurations or redistricting that takes place during the summer after testing or during the school year before testing.

**21. Alternative, Career, Technical, and Vocational Schools**

21.1 No school grades or differentiated accountability labels will be assigned to alternative, career, technical, and/or vocational schools. Scores of students attending these schools will be included in the school grade of the student’s official MSIS home school of enrollment.

**22. Schools without Tested Subjects or Grades**

22.1 Elementary/Middle Schools

22.1.1 Any elementary/middle school that does not have reading or math scores because the school does not have the required grade level, the scores from the students in the next higher grade in the tested subject within the same district will be applied back to the student’s lower elementary school of origin. In order for the scores to be applied, the student must meet FAY at the lower grade school, the current school and if there is a gap in years, anywhere in the district for the years in between.

Example 1, K-2 School:

- Reading and Math Proficiency - The reading and math scores from students in grade 3 who attended the K-2 school and are still in the same district will be used to calculate the math and reading proficiency for that K-2 school.
- Science Proficiency - An equating process will be used to adjust the scores for this component.
- Growth - The reading and math scores from students in grade 4 who attended the K-2 school and are still in the same district will be used to calculate the growth for Reading-All Students, Math-All Students, Reading-Low 25%, and Math-Low 25% for that K-2 school. The students would have to have met FAY in

- the K-2 school during 2nd grade,
- the 4th grade school in the same district, and
- any school within the same district during 3rd grade.

Example 2, K-3 School:

- Reading and Math Proficiency - The reading and math scores from students in grade 3 at the school will be used to calculate the math and reading proficiency for that K-3 school.
- Science Proficiency - An equating process will be used to adjust the scores for this component.
- Growth - The reading and math scores from students in grade 4 who attended the K-3 school and are still in the same district will be used to calculate the growth for Reading-All Students, Math-All Students, Reading-Low 25%, and Math-Low 25% for that K-3 school.
- All applicable FAY rules will apply.

Example 3, K-4 School:

- Reading and Math Proficiency - The reading and math scores from students in grades 3 and 4 at the school will be used to calculate the math and reading proficiency for that K-4 school.
- Science Proficiency - An equating process will be used to adjust the scores for this component.
- Growth - The reading and math scores from students in grades 3 and 4 at the school will be used to calculate the growth for Reading-All Students, Math-All Students, Reading-low 25%, and Math-Low 25% for that K-3 school.
- All applicable FAY rules will apply.

Example 4, 6-7 School:

- Reading and Math Proficiency - The reading and math scores from students in grades 6 and 7 at the school will be used to calculate the math and reading proficiency for that 6-7 school.
- Science Proficiency - An equating process will be used to adjust the scores for this component.
- Growth - The reading and math scores from students in grades 6 and 7 at the school will be used to calculate the growth for Reading-All Students, Math-All Students, Reading-Low 25%, and Math-Low 25% for that 6-7 school.
- All applicable FAY rules will apply.

22.1.2 An equating process to adjust the points required will be used for elementary/middle schools that do not have science scores because the school does not have a 5th or 8th grade.

22.2 High Schools

22.2.1 Schools with missing data for components specific to high schools (U.S. History, graduation rates, etc.) will have proxy data (i.e., district average, historical average, etc.) applied if available. If no proxy data is available, an equating process will be used to adjust for the missing components.

22.3 Schools with only Pre-Kindergarten and/or Kindergarten will not be assigned a school grade label. (Pending legislative amendment)

**23. State and Other Special Schools**

- 23.1 Mississippi School of the Arts (MSA) and Mississippi School for Math and Science (MSMS)
  - 23.1.1 The Mississippi School of the Arts and Mississippi School for Math and Science will not earn grades. (Pending technical amendment to SB2396)
  - 23.1.2 If a student takes a high school end-of-course assessment for the first time while at MSA or MSMS, his/her scores will be sent back to their school/district of origin and rolled into the state totals.
  - 23.1.3 (Pending the implementation of the College Readiness component) Students enrolled at MSA and/or MSMS during the time of the Senior Snapshot will have their ACT scores sent to their high school of origin.
- 23.2 Mississippi School for the Blind (MSB) and the Mississippi School for the Deaf (MSD)
  - 23.2.1 The Mississippi School for the Blind and the Mississippi School for the Deaf will not earn grades but will have results reported to meet federal regulations. (Minimum N-counts and FAY rules will apply.) (Pending technical amendment to SB2396)
- 23.3 Other State/Special Schools
  - 23.3.1 State agencies (i.e., Hudspeth, Ellisville State School, etc.) will not earn grades.
  - 23.3.2 Students placed in non-public schools (special private schools; i.e., Millcreek, CARES, etc.) but are enrolled in regular Mississippi public schools will have their scores included in the calculations of the school/district in which he/she is enrolled in MSIS.
  - 23.3.3 Students enrolled in schools 200 and 500 have no enrollment and are not used for any of the usual statistical and reporting purposes. If a student is enrolled in a public school during the testing window, he/she would have to be tested (and counted in the testing participation rates) and his/her score (if FAY) would be used for accountability purposes.
- 23.4 Students in Correctional Facilities/Juvenile Justice System
  - 23.4.1 According to the USDE, these facilities are considered “programs” not schools and would not be assigned accountability labels.
  - 23.4.2 If a student, who is still enrolled in MSIS, is in such a program and is not tested, the student will count as “not tested” in the participation rate calculations of the school/district. If the student is tested, his/her scores will count at his/her MSIS resident school.
- 23.5 Virtual Public Schools
  - 23.5.1 Only schools classified under the U.S. Department of Education’s EDEN (Education Data Exchange Network) reporting requirements as a separate school entity will receive a grade.

**24. 9th Grade Only Schools**

- 24.1 Scores of a 9th grade only school will be combined with the high school to which that school feeds and calculated as one (1) school but reported as two (2) separate schools. In other words, both schools will earn the same school grade because it will be based on the same data calculations.

**25. College & Career Readiness Indicator**

The College & Career Readiness component will be dependent on legislative action. The following rules will apply only if the state legislature mandates statewide ACT testing and appropriates funding for such testing.

- 25.1 The ACT will be used as the College & Career Readiness Indicator.
- 25.2 The College & Career Readiness component will be comprised of a Mathematics and an English/Reading component. These two (2) components will be equally weighted and combined for one (1) score worth fifty (50) points:  $(\text{Math} + \text{English/Reading}) \div 2$
- 25.3 A student will be included in the numerator for Mathematics if he/she is considered College & Career Ready in Mathematics by having a score on the Mathematics component of the ACT at or above the ACT College Readiness Benchmark for the Mathematics component at the time of the student's assessment.
- 25.4 A student will be included in the numerator for English/Reading if he/she is considered College & Career Ready in English/Reading by having a score on the English component of the ACT at or above the ACT College Readiness Benchmark OR if his/her score on the Reading component of the ACT is at or above the ACT College Readiness Benchmark at the time of the student's assessment.  
Note: As of September 1, 2013, the ACT College Readiness Benchmarks are as follows: English - 18; Reading - 22; and Mathematics - 22.
- 25.5 Science ACT sub-scores will not be included in the College & Career Readiness component.
- 25.6 ACT Composite scores will not be included in the College & Career Readiness component. (Rationale: ACT does not designate a composite score to indicate college readiness.)
- 25.7 The highest sub-score for each student (at the time of the Senior Snapshot) in Mathematics and English/Reading, as described above, will be used in the College & Career Readiness Indicator accountability calculations.
- 25.8 Contingent upon legislative funding, the state will pay for one (1) statewide ACT administration to be held in the spring for students classified in MSIS as juniors. Ungraded students whose birthdates link them to the cohort of students identified as juniors will also be included. Students may take the ACT as many additional times as they choose, at their own expense.
- 25.9 Students identified in MSIS as SCD will not be required to participate but may participate if the IEP committee deems it appropriate.
- 25.10 The ACT scores of all students identified in the Senior Snapshot will be included in the calculation except students identified in MSIS as SCD. However, if a student identified in MSIS as SCD takes the ACT, his/her score will be included in the calculations.
- 25.11 A student's score will be applied to the school in which the student is enrolled in MSIS at the time of the Senior Snapshot.
- 25.12 No other assessments will be allowed as a substitution for the ACT in the College & Career Readiness component.

## 26. *Senior Snapshot*

The Senior Snapshot (SS) is a method of identifying high school students for the high school assessment participation rate calculation required by the ED. Because students may take the high school level assessment at any time during high school to meet federal regulations, MDE uses this method to capture the status of students before the end of their fourth year in high school. The SS captures ALL students who have been enrolled in a MS public school for three (3) years (grades 10-12). If the student does not meet the three-year enrollment criteria, he/she will not be included in the denominator for participation rate calculations.

## 27. *Other*

- 27.1 Deceased Students
  - 27.1.1 Students indicated in MSIS as deceased will not be included in any accountability calculations.
- 27.2 Foreign Exchange Students
  - 27.2.1 For school year 2013-2014, foreign exchange students will automatically be included in accountability calculations just as any other students. However, if a school/district

wishes to have a foreign exchange student excluded from the accountability calculations, the request should be made through the Internal Review Process.

- 27.2.2 Beginning in school year 2014-2015, MSIS will have a “Foreign Exchange Student Exemption” flag that schools/districts may use to identify and request exemption for these students. Schools/districts will be required to provide supporting documentation.