

Accountability rating systems are not an exact science, and Mississippi's model is experiencing growing pains. A good example of the complexity of this issue is the unintended consequence that resulted from MDE's recent attempt to address one of the problems.

Several months ago, the Mississippi Department of Education announced that it would reset the cut scores that determine whether a school or district gets an A, B, C, D, or F rating. The reason cited was that last year's scores were set impractically high and should be lowered ([read why](#)). But when new cut scores were announced for 2017, the majority had been **raised**, not lowered, making it **more difficult** for schools and districts to attain a higher rating.

Cut Score Comparison Old 2016 vs. New 2017

DISTRICTS (1,000 points)			
Grade	Adopted by SBE 2016	Adopted by SBE 2017	Change
A	672	668	-4
B	588	599	+11
C	523	536	+13
D	464	489	+25
F	<464	<489	+25

ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOLS (700 points)			
Grade	Adopted by SBE 2016	Adopted by SBE 2017	Change
A	455	442	-13
B	385	377	-8
C	330	328	-2
D	277	269	-8
F	<277	<269	-8

HIGH SCHOOLS (1,000 points)			
Grade	Adopted by SBE 2016	Adopted by SBE 2017	Change
A	738	787	+49
B	626	679	+53
C	552	612	+60
D	470	547	+77
F	<470	<547	+77

While the score required for a school district to be rated an A was lowered by four points, the scores required to attain a B, C, or D rating were raised. **Had the cut scores for school districts been lowered by four points at B, C, and D, as they were for A, 11 school districts would have achieved a higher rating than was awarded this year.**

- Five districts that were rated C would have been rated B
- Two districts that were rated D would have been rated C
- Four districts that were rated F would have been rated D