Mississippi Statewide Assessment System
2006-2007

The primary purposes of the Mississippi Statewide Assessment System are to provide information needed for state-level decisions about the effectiveness of instructional programs in local school districts and to provide districts with information to be used in improving instruction. The Mississippi Statewide Assessment System promotes instructional improvement in classrooms throughout the state and provides valid, reliable data for accountability purposes in compliance with MS Code 37-16-1, SB 2156, SB 2488, and the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001.*

The objectives of this program include the following: assistance in the identification of educational needs at the state, district, and school levels; assessing how well districts and schools are meeting state goals and academic growth standards; providing information to aid in the development of policy issues and concerns; providing a basis for comparison of school, district, and state performance; and producing data which can be used to aid in the identification of exceptional educational programs or processes.

Mississippi Curriculum Test The Mississippi Curriculum Test (MCT) was designed to measure student performance in reading, language, and mathematics in grades 2 through 8. The MCT was based on the *2000 Mississippi Language Arts Framework* and the *2000 Mississippi Mathematics Framework*, which defined what students were expected to know and be able to do and were the basis for teacher instruction. Mississippi teachers reviewed all test items and established the proficiency level standards. The MCT was used for holding schools accountable for academic achievement, the academic growth (improvement) of students, and for the computation of Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). The last MCT administration was in May 2007. Beginning with school year 2007-2008, the MCT will be replaced with the MCT2.

Mississippi Curriculum Test, Second Edition (MCT2) The Mississippi Curriculum Test, Second Edition (MCT2) consists of customized criterion-referenced reading/language arts and mathematics assessments in grades 3-8 that are fully aligned with the *2006 Mississippi Language Arts Framework Revised* and the *2007 Mississippi Mathematics Framework Revised*. These assessments allow Mississippi to be in compliance with the requirements of the federal legislation No Child Left Behind (NCLB). The results of these assessments will be used in the Mississippi Statewide Accountability System, specifically the Achievement, Growth, and Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) Models. The results will also provide information that will be used for the purpose of improving instruction and accelerating student achievement. The MCT2 was field-tested in May 2007, and the first live administration will be take place in May 2008. Pearson Educational Measurement is the contractor for the MCT2.

Grades 4 and 7 Writing Assessments The writing assessments measure student performance in on-demand writing. In 2006 – 2007, each student responded to one writing prompt in the narrative, informative, or persuasive mode. These assessments were aligned with the *2000 Mississippi Language Arts Framework*. Mississippi teachers reviewed the writing prompts and designed the scoring rubrics (rules). The Grades 4 and 7 Writing Assessments will not be given in 2007-2008; however, the Grades 4 and 7 Writing Assessments will be administered in March 2009 under the Mississippi Writing Assessment Program for Grades 4, 7, and 10. These new writing assessment will allow students in grades 4 and 7 to respond to their choice of two prompts designed to elicit narrative, informative, or persuasive responses. This assessment is aligned to the *2006 Mississippi Language Arts Framework – Revised*.

Elementary and Middle Grades Science Assessments The Elementary and Middle Grades Science Assessments are criterion-referenced assessments in grades 5 and 8 that allow Mississippi to be in full compliance with the requirements of the federal legislation under *No Child Left Behind*. These assessments are fully customized criterion-referenced tests, and a committee of Mississippi teachers selected by the MDE approved the items that appear on these tests. The tests are aligned with the grade-appropriate objectives in the *Mississippi Curriculum Science Framework 2001* as specified by teacher committees and will meet the requirements of *NCLB*. The results of these assessments will provide information that will be used for the purpose of improving student achievement; the results are not currently used in Mississippi's school accountability system. The first live administration occurred in March 2007. Riverside Publishing is the contractor for the Elementary and Middle Grades Science Assessments.

Subject Area Testing Program The Subject Area Testing Program (SATP) consists of end-of-course, criterion-referenced tests in Algebra I, Biology I, English II, and U.S. History from 1877. The tests for Algebra I, Biology I, and U.S. History contain multiple-choice items. The test for English II consists of two components: a multiple-choice test and a writing assessment. The SATP provides a meaningful assessment of secondary academic content tied to the state's content standards and promotes instructional strategies integrating both content and problem solving. All Subject Area Tests count for graduation; however, the tests required for graduation are determined by the year the student entered the ninth grade. The Subject Area Tests are used for holding schools accountable for academic achievement, the academic growth (improvement) of students, and for the computation of Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). Harcourt Assessment, Inc. is the contractor for the SATP.

Mississippi Career Planning and Assessment System, Second Edition The Mississippi Career Planning and Assessment System, Second Edition (MS-CPAS2) is the state vocational testing program. The purpose of the MS-CPAS2 Occupation-Specific Tests is to assess the performance of local vocational programs, as required by the Carl Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act of 1998, in producing students with essential occupation specific knowledge by assessing students with both critical thinking and knowledge level questions. The Research and Curriculum Unit at Mississippi State University is the contractor for the MS-CPAS2.

Functional Literacy Examination The Functional Literacy Examination (FLE) was the minimum competency test currently required to receive a Mississippi high school diploma. It was initially given in the 11th grade with repeat testing in the 11th and 12th grades for those not passing. The test included multiple-choice questions in reading, mathematics, and written communications, along with a direct writing prompt. The FLE was initially developed and implemented in the mid-1980s. With the implementation of the Subject Area Testing Program, students were required to pass the Subject Area Tests to receive a high school diploma, and the FLE was phased out.   Students entering ninth grade in 2001-02 (class of 2005) are the last students required to pass any portion of the FLE. Students that are required to pass only the mathematics section of the FLE as a part of their graduation requirements may participate in FLE test administrations through the 2007-08 school year. After the 2007-08 school year, these students must meet the graduation requirement by passing the Algebra I Subject Area Test. Refer to State Board of Education Policy 7602 for more information.

MS-CPAS Secondary Occupational Specific Programs
Statewide Mean Percent of Items Correct (2006-07)

CODE	PROGRAM NAME	No. Tested	% Correct
100	Aging Services	6	65.71%
102	Food Products (Meats)	13	55.16%
103	Agriculture Business and Management	23	67.20%
104	Agriculture Power & Machinery	149	60.11%
105	Agriculture Production	245	56.98%
106	Agriscience	153	61.69%
107	Allied Health	1360	72.98%
108	Aquaculture Technology	21	61.90%
109	Audio & Television Broadcasting	7	55.51%
110	Automotive Body Repair	151	57.39%
111	Automotive Service Technology	578	60.01%
112	Basic Electronics	34	57.44%
113	Building Trades	555	58.36%
114	Business & Computer Technology	958	63.94%
117	Design & Merchandise Technology for Fashions	119	55.02%
120	Computer Graphics Technology	22	53.51%
122	Computer Systems & Programming Technology	91	66.45%
123	Cooperative Education	492	75.01%
125	Culinary & Related Foods Technology	323	75.43%
127	Diesel Equipment Repair & Service	12	69.29%
128	Early Childhood Services and Education	381	76.23%
129	Electrician	43	51.36%
131	Forestry	81	58.91%
132	Furniture Manufacturing and Upholstery	13	61.10%
133	Industrial Maintenance Trades	29	49.56%
134	General Drafting	140	68.42%
135	Graphics & Print Communications	20	49.50%
136	Heating & Air Conditioning	19	60.90%
137	Horticulture	51	57.34%
138	Hotel, Restaurant and Tourism Mgmt.	32	59.02%
140	Machine Tool Operation/Machine Shop	33	74.89%
141	Marketing Management Technology	386	61.43%
142	Masonry	46	50.59%
143	Metal Trades (Machine Shop)	87	64.98%
144	Metal Trades (Welding)	257	65.33%
145	Outboard Marine Engine Mechanics	13	87.03%
146	Plastics & Polymer Science Applications	15	72.19%
147	Residential Carpentry	103	62.10%
148	Small Engine Repair	6	53.33%
149	Technology Applications	290	66.38%
151	Vehicle & Mobile Equipment Mechanics	125	53.37%

152	Welding	173	64.21%
167	AEST - Agribusiness & Entrepreneurship Tech.	249	48.74%
169	AEST - Science of Agricultural Animals	223	53.87%
170	AEST - Science of Agricultural Environment	271	55.99%
171	AEST - Science of Agricultural Mechanization	159	58.69%
172	AEST - Science of Agricultural Plants	375	47.91%