

2009 Statewide Accountability Timeline

Mississippi Department of Education

IMPORTANT!

The Mississippi Commission on School Accreditation recommended a new state accountability model and the Mississippi State Board of Education approved the model on March 21, 2009. One aspect of the new state accountability model is a growth component which can't be developed until after two years of assessment data is available. As a result, the state accountability model can't be run until after the development of the growth model causing school performance classifications to be determined later than usual. As dates pertaining to the state accountability model become clearer, the accountability timeline will be revised appropriately.

As procedures are enhanced each year, tasks that have been included on the Accountability Timeline in earlier years either do not appear on the timeline or are changed to reflect enhancements.

Note: Hyperlinks are included at certain points in this document. If the document to which a link points is not yet available (has not yet been posted), you will get a "not found" error. Check back at a later date to see if the document has been posted.

June 3 A webinar was conducted to begin the "Sr. Snapshot Verification Process." All students in the 2009 senior snapshot who appear, based on available data, to be "eligible / not tested" will be made available to districts using a secure on-line application. Districts will identify students who transferred English II, Algebra I, or Biology I credit from an accredited school and, therefore, were not required to take those courses in Mississippi. For each identified student, appropriate documentation will be submitted to MDE. Each student for whom appropriate documentation is received via return-receipt mail will be removed from the denominator when the participation rates are calculated.

If any student on the list is shown as not tested, but actually has results on the SATP English II, Biology I and/or Algebra I tests, the district will identify the student and provide a copy of the student report or results label. The student's status will be forced to "tested" when the participation rates are calculated.

The deadline for receipt of completed supporting evidence for the Sr. Snapshot is Thursday, July 2, 2009. No corrections or supporting evidence will be accepted by MDE after 5:00pm on this date.

June 30 [Tuesday] School and district graduation data for 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 is posted on the 2009 Accountability Information Center web page. These are the data values that will be used when running the 2009 AYP model and reported in the NCLB Report Cards in September 2009.

Note: The graduation data referred to above are the "traditional" graduation rates calculated by MIS. Per the regulations issued by the U.S. Department of Education in October, 2008, these accountability calculations will be the last to use the "traditional" graduation rates. Beginning with AYP calculations for 2010, the new "cohort" graduation rates will be used.

- July 2** **[Thursday] Deadline for receipt of completed Senior Snapshot Eligible/Not Tested corrections and supporting evidence. No corrections will be accepted by MDE after 5:00pm on this date.**
- July 3** The state's amendment request to the U.S. Department of Education beginning with the 2008 AYP model proposed that all schools that will definitely be in some level of improvement in the upcoming year notify parents of their available options (e.g., school choice, supplemental educational services) based on the schools' prior year improvement status. For 2009, these are schools that were in improvement prior during 2008/2009 due to having missed AYP for another consecutive year in 2008. Schools whose improvement status cannot be determined for 2009/2010 will wait until the preliminary AYP reports are available (see Aug. 3) before notifying parents of their options. That includes schools that missed AYP in an area for the first time in 2008 and MIGHT move into Improvement-Year 1 based on the 2009 results as well as schools that were holding in improvement in 2008/2009 and MIGHT be cleared based on the 2009 results. ORS will produce a listing of schools that must notify parents at the beginning of the school year and those that will wait until the preliminary AYP reports are available.
- Early July** By this time all school districts will have received printed assessment reports for the following programs – Mississippi Curriculum Test – Second Edition (MCT2), Subject Area Testing Program (SATP), and the Grade 5 and 8 Science Test. Reports are delivered on various dates by Pearson and Riverside.
- Embargo: Districts are not to release their district and school level assessment results until the results are released statewide (see Aug. 21).**
- Aug. 3** [Monday] Districts can login to MAARS using their secure user ID and password and download preliminary 2009 accountability reports for the AYP model. District superintendents and/or their designee(s) already have their secure user IDs and passwords. Districts may appeal the identification of the district or a Title I school for improvement, corrective action, or restructuring and may request a review of the district or school AYP determinations according to the established appeals and review process (see deadline – Aug. 17).
- Regardless of whether an appeal is made, Title I schools identified for improvement, corrective action, or restructuring must notify parents immediately concerning choice and/or supplemental educational services options available as required under NCLB.**
- Aug. 5** [Wednesday] Districts can login to MAARS using their secure user ID and password and download Student Level Accountability Information Files (SLAIF). Each district's SLAIF will contain data records for students who (1) were enrolled in the district at any time during the 2008/2009 school year –AND- (2) could potentially be included within the 2009 AYP model. Basically, that means students in grades 3-8 (actual assigned grade or "peer" grade), students in the senior snapshot that will be used for calculating 2009 NCLB testing participation rates, and students taking one of the SATP courses for the first time (or having Algebra I data from an earlier year that will be used for calculating 2009 AYP proficiency indexes). Each student record will contain all the information used for running the accountability model and calculating testing participation rates.

Aug. 14 [Friday] Districts can login to MAARS using their secure user ID and password and download standardized student level data files for the 2008/2009 MCT2, SATP, and Grade 5 and 8 Science Test. Each district's files will contain records for the students who were tested during the school year – districts will not receive data records for students who were tested in other districts. District superintendents and their designee(s) have been given the required secure user ID and password.

Data layouts for the standardized student level test data files can be accessed using the following links:

<http://research.mde.k12.ms.us/pub/docs/MCT2%20Standardized%20Student%20Level%20Test%20Data.pdf> (for the MCT2)

<http://research.mde.k12.ms.us/pub/docs/SATP%20Standardized%20Student%20Level%20Test%20Data.pdf> (for the SATP)

<http://research.mde.k12.ms.us/pub/docs/Science%20Standardized%20Student%20Level%20Test%20Data.pdf> (for the Grade 5 & 8 Science Test)

Aug. 17 [Monday] State, district, and school level 2008/2009 assessment results on the MCT2, SATP, and Grade 5 and 8 Science Test will be posted on MAARS by 5:00pm. **Embargo: The 2008/2009 data will require a username and password, previous year's data will not (see Aug. 21 -- Public Release).** Districts will be provided the user name and password. Members of the media who wish to download the information must sign an embargo agreement before access is granted. Once the embargo agreement is received by the MDE Public Relations office, the user name and password will be made available.

When the embargoed results have been posted, access MAARS at <http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/ors> and click on "Search for State, District, or School Data." Then change the school year to 2008/2009 – you will be prompted to enter the embargo username and password.

Aug. 17 [Monday] 5:00pm is the absolute deadline for receipt by the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) of appeals concerning the identification of districts or Title I schools for improvement, corrective action, or restructuring. The NCLB appeals process conforms to the final regulations for Title I (see Aug. 3).

Aug. 17 [Monday] 5:00pm is the absolute deadline for receipt by the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) of requests for review concerning AYP determinations on the preliminary accountability reports (see Aug. 3).

Aug. 21 [Friday] **Public Release** of 2008/2009 district and school level assessment results on the MCT2, SATP, and Grade 5 and 8 Science Test. The results will be posted on MAARS at 12:01am.

When the assessment results have been posted, access MAARS at <http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/ors> and click on "Search for State, District, or School Data" or "Assessment Information" (to download Assessment Data Files).

Aug. 31 [Monday] Districts can login to MAARS using their secure user ID and password and download final 2009 accountability reports for the AYP model. This includes final reports for Title I districts and schools that appealed their identification for

improvement under NCLB and final reports for districts that made a request for review related to the results of the AYP model.

Note: The state accountability model cannot be run until the development of a growth component is completed in Fall, 2009. Consequently, the Commission on School Accreditation will not review state accountability results until late Fall, 2009.

Sept. 8 [Tuesday] **Public Release** of "Unofficial – not approved by the SBOE" 2009 AYP accountability results at all levels (state/summary, district, and school). The results will be posted on MAARS at 10:00am. Since the state accountability model cannot be run until the development of a growth component is completed in the Fall, 2009, the Commission on School Accreditation will not review state accountability results until late Fall, 2009. After review by the Commission and approval by the State Board of Education, State Accountability Results will be made available.

When the unofficial AYP accountability results have been posted, access MAARS at <http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/ors> and click on "Accountability Information." There will be a link under "Accountability Results" and "2009."

Sept. 10-11 [Thursday and Friday] SBOE meeting. Board will approve final 2009 statewide AYP accountability results. (See Sept. 8 for note regarding State Accountability Model results).

Sept. 11 [Friday] **Public Release** of "Official -- approved by the SBOE" 2009 AYO accountability results at all levels (state/summary, district, and school). The results will be posted on MAARS at noon. Downloadable files containing accountability results will also be posted at that time.

When the official accountability results have been posted, access MAARS at <http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/ors>. Summary tables and listings can be located using the "Accountability Information" option. To view the accountability results for a particular district or school, use the "Search for State, District, or School Data" option. Accountability data can be downloaded using the "Accountability Information" option.

Late Fall Since the state accountability model cannot be run until the development of a growth component is completed in the Fall, 2009, the Commission on School Accreditation will not review state accountability results until late Fall, 2009. After review by the Commission and approval by the State Board of Education, State Accountability Results will be made available.

Sept. 16 [Wednesday] School, district, and state level NCLB Report Cards for 2008/2009 are posted on MAARS by 5:00pm. Districts begin preparation of report cards for distribution to parents. When the Report Cards have been posted in MAARS, they can be accessed at <http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/ors>. Use the "Search for State, District, or School Data" option. Select the desired district (or district and school). The NCLB Report Card is accessed by clicking on the data tab labeled, "NCLB RC." Follow the instructions displayed on the screen.

- TBD Work on restructuring plans begins in Title I schools that were in corrective action during 2008/2009, failed to meet AYP in 2009, and were identified for restructuring.
- Sept. 23 [Wednesday] Districts that intend to produce their own version of the NCLB district and school level Report Cards must submit a copy of the proposed report to the Office of Innovative Support at the Mississippi Department of Education by this date. All NCLB Report Cards must contain all the information required by the U.S. Department of Education. *Note: According to the USDE, the NCLB Report Cards posted on MAARS contain all the required information and can be used by districts to satisfy their reporting requirements.*
- Oct. 07 [Wednesday] Districts must have provided compliant NCLB Report Cards to all parents by this date.