

## **Chapter 28: Curriculum**

*Rule 28.1 Curriculum Guides.* The Mississippi Department of Education will provide curriculum frameworks to set forth expectations of students by specifying course titles and content. Frameworks may be updated every five to seven years based on revisions to national standards. As subject areas are revised and approved by the State Board of Education, the modifications

will be disseminated to the appropriate individuals in the educational community. An up-to-date copy of each framework shall be kept on file at the Mississippi Department of Education.

For a copy of the Mississippi Extended Curriculum Frameworks, please visit the Mississippi Secretary of State's website at Regulations and Enforcement, Administrative Code, Title 7: Education K-12; Elementary Part # 35.

For a copy of the Mississippi Extended Curriculum Frameworks, please visit the Mississippi Secretary of State's website at Regulations and Enforcement, Administrative Code, Title 7: Education K-12; Middle School Part # 36.

For a copy of the Mississippi Extended Curriculum Frameworks, please visit the Mississippi Secretary of State's website at Regulations and Enforcement, Administrative Code, Title 7: Education K-12; High School Part #37.

For a copy of the Common Core Essential Elements for English Language Arts, please visit the Mississippi Secretary of State's website at Regulations and Enforcement, Administrative Code, Title 7: Education K-12; Part # 18.

For a copy of the Common Core Essential Elements for Mathematics, please visit the Mississippi Secretary of State's website at Regulations and Enforcement, Administrative Code, Title 7: Education K-12; Part # 19.

Source: *Miss. Code Ann. § 37-1-3 (Revised 2/2012)*

*Rule 28.2 Approved Courses for the Secondary Schools.* The Mississippi Department of Education will provide a list of the Approved Courses for the Secondary Schools of Mississippi to each school district. This list contains all approved courses that can be offered in the Mississippi secondary schools. The list will be updated each year to reflect revisions to the curriculum frameworks approved by the State Board of Education. Additions, deletions, and modifications to the course listing will be disseminated to the appropriate individuals in the educational community. This list will vary for districts implementing innovative programs authorized by the State Board of Education.

Source: *Miss. Code Ann. § 37-1-3 (Revision 12/2012)*

### *Rule 28.3 Access to a Substantive and Rigorous Curriculum Policy*

1. In compliance with Section 37-15-39 of the Mississippi Code of 1972, the purpose of this policy is to ensure that each student has a sufficient education for success after high school and that all students have equal access to a substantive and rigorous curriculum that is designed to challenge their minds and enhance their knowledge. The intent of this policy is to increase the preparation of all students for and their participation in substantive and rigorous curriculum experiences and specifically in Advanced Placement Courses and innovative programs authorized by the State Board of Education.

2. Beginning with the 2007-2008 school year, all high schools must offer at least one (1) Advanced Placement (AP) course in each of the four (4) core areas (mathematics, science, language arts, and social studies). Distance learning or the Mississippi Department of Education's Mississippi Virtual Public School may be used as an appropriate alternative for the delivery of AP courses. Any public high school implementing innovative programs authorized by the State Board of Education is exempt from Part II of this policy.
3. All school districts may offer Pre-Advanced Placement (Pre-AP) courses in each of the four (4) core areas (mathematics, science, language arts, and social studies). Pre-AP course means a middle, junior high and/or high school level course that specifically prepares students to enroll and participate in an AP course. Beginning with the 2007-2008 school year, if Pre-AP courses are offered, the school district must submit a Pre-Advanced Placement Program Proposal to the Mississippi Department of Education's Office of Curriculum and Instruction. The proposal must indicate the Pre-AP courses that will be offered and the College Board training that the Pre-AP teachers will obtain in order to teach the Pre-AP courses. The proposal must also indicate the process for identifying students for Pre-AP courses. Each teacher planning to teach a Pre-AP course must have completed the College Board's Pre-AP Summer Institute, Vertical Teams Training, the Pre-AP Workshop, or other training specifically designed for Pre-AP teachers. The district is responsible for providing documentation (when requested) of participation in the Pre-AP training. The Pre-AP Program Proposal will be approved for a period of five years. Whenever a district makes changes to the Pre-AP Program, the district shall submit a new Pre-AP Program Proposal Form to the Mississippi Department of Education's Office of Curriculum and Instruction for approval prior to implementing changes. Any public high school implementing innovative programs authorized by the State Board of Education is exempt from Part III of this policy.
4. Subject to appropriation, funding shall be made available so that all sophomores in Mississippi's public schools may take an examination (Preliminary Scholastic Assessment Test (PSAT) or ACT PLAN Assessment) that measures the students' ability to succeed in an AP course. The examination results should be used to identify students who were not recognized during middle school as students who would benefit from taking AP courses.
5. Beginning with the 2007-2008 school year, each teacher planning to teach any AP course must have completed the College Board endorsed AP Summer Institute (APSI) for the course and must have obtained the AP certification through the Mississippi Department of Education's Office of Educator Licensure. Documentation showing completion of the College Board APSI is required. Teachers with the AP certification must comply with Licensure renewal guidelines. AP teachers must complete the AP Summer Institute (APSI) at least every five years, which can be used for licensure renewal if completed during the validity period. Teachers in districts implementing innovative programs authorized by the State Board of Education must have completed a district or program-specific training or other training specifically designed for teachers of innovative programs authorized by the State Board of Education.

Exception: Teachers who have served with Educational Testing Service as readers for the AP exam(s) may have the initial training waived and will automatically earn the AP certification if the appropriate documentation is provided. These teachers should complete the APSI at least every five years or serve as a reader for the AP exam(s) at least every five years.

Source: *Miss. Code Ann. § 37-1-3 (Revised 12/2012)*

*Rule 28.4 Early Learning Guidelines for Four Year Old Children.* The Mississippi Department of Education will provide standards and guidelines for Mississippi schools serving three year old children and four year old children. The standards and guidelines may be updated every five to seven years based on revisions to national standards. As the documents are revised and approved by the State Board of Education, the modifications will be disseminated to the appropriate individuals in the educational community. An up-to-date copy of the standards and guidelines shall be kept on file at the Mississippi Department of Education.

For a copy of the Mississippi Early Learning Standards for Classrooms Serving **Four- year-old Children**, please visit the Mississippi Secretary of State's website at Regulations and Enforcement, Administrative Code, Title 7: Education K-12; Part # 5.

For a copy of the Mississippi Early Learning Standards for Classrooms Serving **Three- year old Children**, please visit the Mississippi Secretary of State's website at Regulations and Enforcement, Administrative Code, Title 7: Education K-12; Part # 6.

Source: *Miss Code Ann. §37-3-49 (Revised 2/2012)*

*Rule 28.5 Credit Recovery Policy.* The purpose of the credit recovery policy is to provide guidance to Local Education Agencies (LEAs) with credit recovery programs. Credit recovery allows students who have been unsuccessful in mastering particular content or skills an opportunity to apply for credit recovery as an alternative to repeating the entire course.

1. Credit recovery is defined as a course-specific, skill-based learning opportunity for students who have previously been unsuccessful in mastering content/skills required to receive course credit or earn promotion. In order to be eligible for credit recovery, a student must have:
  - a. Completed the entire course and received a failing grade for the course, and/or
  - b. Failed a SATP assessment
2. Beginning with the 2008-2009 school year, any LEA that provides a credit recovery program shall develop and implement a policy that has been adopted by the school board and that includes rules, regulations, and processes. This policy shall be available to faculty, students, and parents/guardians. At a minimum, LEAs must address the following areas:

- a. Admission to and removal from the credit recovery program
  - i. LEAs shall establish an application process that requires parental consent.
  - ii. LEAs shall establish minimum criteria to determine eligibility for participation in the credit recovery program.
  - iii. LEAs shall determine the number of credit recovery courses that a student can take at one time.
  - iv. Students shall not remain in a credit recovery course for more than one year.
  - v. Only students who have failed a course may enroll in credit recovery to earn a minimum passing grade. Credit recovery cannot be used by a student who has passed the course to improve the students assigned course grade.
  - vi. A student who has passed a SATP class, but failed the SATP assessment may enroll in credit recovery for remediation only. The grade earned for the SATP class remains unchanged.
- b. Instruction:
  - i. LEAs shall determine the instructional methodology used for the credit recovery program (e.g. online program, Mississippi Virtual Public School, direct instruction, computer assisted instruction, etc.)
  - ii. LEAs shall provide professional development for teachers and facilitators involved with the credit recovery program.
  - iii. Credit recovery curriculum shall be based on the Mississippi Curriculum Frameworks competencies and objectives.
  - iv. LEAs are responsible for establishing specific procedures for evaluation of student progress and determining grades.
  - v. Beginning with the school year 2016-17, a student who selects credit recovery to earn a Carnegie unit may only earn the minimal passing grade on the district's grading scale.

Source: *MS Code Ann 37-1-3 (Revise 10/2015)*