

DeSoto County Schools
2019 – 2020 School and 2020 – 2021 Related to COVID-19 (Coronavirus)
Accreditation/Board Policy Suspension/Revision

Rule	Proposed Suspension and/or Revision of Rules	Proposed One-year Suspension and/or Revision
<p>Mississippi Statewide Accountability System Accreditation Policy 3.0 – Annual Performance Classification: Districts and Schools are Assigned Annual Performance Classifications based on the Business Rules of the Mississippi Statewide Accountability System.</p> <p>School Improvement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehensive Support and Improvement Schools (CSI) • Targeted Support and Improvement Schools (TSI) • Additional Targeted Support and Improvement Schools (ATSI) 	<p>On March 19, 2020, during its regularly scheduled meeting, the State Board of Education granted approval for districts and schools to maintain the same accountability designation in the 2020 – 2021 school year as assigned in the 2019-2020 school year with no cumulative impact for cases where multiple years with the same designation may lead to a more severe consequences.</p> <p>Schools and districts will retain the same designations for CSI, TSI, and ATSI from the 2018 – 2019 school year. The three-year average performance used in identification would exclude the 2019 – 2020 school year.</p> <p>On March 20, 2020, the MDE submitted an expedited waiver to the United States Department of Education (ED) to waive certain requirements in Section 1111 of the Elementary and Secondary</p>	<p style="color: red;">No change to DCS board policy is required.</p>

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	<p>Education Act of 1965 related to assessment and accountability requirements. On March 27, 2020, the MDE received official approval from ED.</p> <p>ED has not issued a waiver of accountability requirements for the 2020-2021 school year. All accountability data collection reporting will be required for the 2020-2021 school year to meet all state and federal requirements.</p>	
<p>Local Board Governance Process Standards 1 and 1.3: The local school board and the superintendent of schools shall exercise due diligence in performing the respective duties in accordance with applicable laws.</p> <p>Every school board member selected after July 1, 2002, shall spend at least one (1) full day in a school in the district they represent without compensation.</p>	<p>Upon request from the Mississippi School Boards Association, the SBE approved a one-year suspension requiring local school board members to visit each school within the district as a body during the 2019-2020 and 2020 -2021 school years as a result of the impact of COVID-19.</p>	<p>Based on the SBE's one year suspension, DeSoto County Schools will waive the requirements of item four (4) of DCS Board Policy BBBC Board Member Development (Training) Opportunity.</p>
<p>Licensed Certified Staff Process Standard 2:</p>	<p>On March 26, 2020, during its regularly scheduled meeting, the State Board of Education issued a</p>	<p>No change to DCS board policy is required.</p>

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<p>All district professional positions requiring licensed staff are to be filled by staff that are properly licensed and endorsed in accordance with state and federal law.</p>	<p>one-year suspension of the requirement for districts to respond to notifications of noncompliance for licensed staff during school closures as a result of COVID-19 for the 2019-2020 school year.</p> <p>The SBE approved an additional one-year suspension requiring districts to respond to accreditation personnel edits based on data submitted in MSIS to the MDE for the 2020-2021 school year.</p> <p>To ensure districts are aware of their continued responsibilities MDE will provide additional guidance to districts regarding the approval and parameters of any waivers and suspensions approved by the SBE for the 2020-2021 school year. In accordance with Accreditation Policy 2.1, the district superintendent and school principals shall ensure that all data reported to the MDE are true and accurate as verified by supporting documentation on file in the school district.</p>	

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<p>Personnel Appraisal System Process Standard 3: The school district implements an annual, formal personnel appraisal system for licensed staff that includes assessment of employee on-the-job performance.</p>	<p>On March 26, 2020, during its regularly scheduled meeting, the State Board of Education suspended the requirement for districts to submit annual employee performance data for the 2019-2020 school year via SharePoint; however, districts were provided the option to submit available Professional Growth System (PGS) data to MDE for the 2019-2020 school year.</p> <p>The MDE requests an additional one-year suspension of the requirement for districts to submit annual employee performance data for the 2020-2021 school year.</p> <p>The MDE continues to recommend that districts attend future PGS training in preparation for the upcoming school years in which Process Standard 3 is reinstated.</p> <p>The MDE will submit a waiver to the US Department of Education (ED) to waive certain requirements in Section 1111 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965</p>	<p>Based on the MDE's additional one-year suspension, DeSoto County Schools will waive the requirements in DCS Board Policy GBIAB Evaluation of Professional personnel for the 2020-2021 school year.</p>

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	(20 U.S.C § 6311 (b)) related to the reporting of annual employee performance data for the 2020-2021 school year.	
<p>Annual Financial Audit Process Standard 4: Local school boards are required to obtain an annual financial audit of the school district, as conducted under the guidelines of the Office of the State Auditor, no later than nine (9) months after the end of the district’s fiscal year (March 31).</p>	<p>On March 26, 2020, during its regularly scheduled meeting, the State Board of Education suspended the requirement for school boards to obtain an annual financial audit, as conducted under the guidelines of the Office of the State Auditor, no later than nine (9) months after the end of the district’s fiscal year (March 31).</p> <p>The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has authorized recipients and subrecipients with fiscal year-ends through June 30, 2020, to delay the completion and submission of the Single Audit reporting package to six (6) months beyond the normal due date.</p> <p>In consultation with the Office of the State Auditor, the MDE temporarily suspended the deadline set in Process Standard 4 and extended</p>	No change to DCS board policy is required.

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	<p>the deadline by six (6) months to reflect the OMB's extension (September 30, 3030) for the Fiscal Year 2019 audits.</p> <p>The Office of the State Auditor has not issued the deadline to school districts for submission of the Fiscal Year 2020 audits. Fiscal Year 2020 audits are due no later than nine (9) months after the end of the district's fiscal year (March 31, 2021) unless the Office of the State Auditor grants an additional extension based upon OMB's guidance.</p>	
<p>Compulsory School Attendance Process Standard 10: The school district implements procedures for monitoring and reporting student absences as specified in the Mississippi Compulsory Attendance Law.</p>	<p>On March 26, 2020, during its regularly scheduled meeting, the State Board of Education suspended the requirement for districts to monitor and submit student referrals for attendance violations, of compulsory school-age students, after March 16, 2020, the first date of school closures due to COVID-19, through the end of the 2019-2020 school year.</p> <p>Actions taken for petitions filed in accordance with Miss. Code 37-13-</p>	<p>DCS Board Policy JBD Attendance, Tardiness, Excuses was revised to state that "physical presence" not be required for the distance learning option. Students who opt for distance learning will be marked present if the student is authenticated and engaged in the district-wide learning management system, Schoology, for 63% of the school day. The virtual model will be an Asynchronous model which requires students to complete a minimum of 240 minutes of daily assignments and scheduled weekly interactions with the teacher to verify school attendance.</p>

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	<p>91(7) and scheduled court dates prior to March 16, 2020, the first date of school closures due to COVID-19, through the 2019-2020 school year, fall under the jurisdiction of the courts and the MDE will continue to adhere to the courts' rules.</p>	
<p>180 Day School Calendar Process Standard 13: The academic year provides a minimum of 180 teaching days in which both teachers and pupils are in regular attendance for scheduled classroom instruction.</p>	<p>On March 19, 2020, during its regularly scheduled meeting the SBE suspended the requirement mandating each school district to submit a request to alter the school calendar and request forgiveness by the SBE for all days missed as a result of the impact of COVID-19 in the state of Mississippi. The SBE also approved altered school terms for school districts to operate for less than the one hundred eighty (180) days for the 2019-2020 school year.</p> <p>For the 2020-2021 school year, districts will have three (3) options for school opening (or any combination thereof) to meet the one hundred</p>	<p>In accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 37-13-63(2) and as part of the current state of emergency due to COVID-19, MDE voted to waive up to 10 school days during the 2020-2021 school year for school districts that have delayed their established and published start dates. Based on that decision, DCS delayed their start date and adjusted the school calendar accordingly. The adjusted school calendar was approved by the DCS School Board on August 6, 2020.</p>

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	<p>eighty (180) teaching day requirement:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Traditional Schedule 2) Hybrid Schedule 3) Virtual Schedule <p>A traditional schedule requires students to be physically present in school with scheduling modifications to follow the Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) and Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommendations.</p> <p>A hybrid schedule combines online and face-to-face instruction for students. Schools must meet distance learning requirements.</p> <p>A virtual schedule provides instruction through distance learning.</p> <p>On August 27, 2020, the SBE voted to allow all school districts to operate for less than 180 days by providing a ten (10) day waiver in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 37-13-63(2). Any reduction of school days must be related to COVID-19</p>	

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	<p style="color: red;">in order for this waiver to apply. School districts may not reduce the school calendar at the end of the school year, if the ten (10) days are not utilized for COVID-related calendar adjustments during the 2020 – 2021 school year.</p>	
<p>330 Minutes of Instruction Per Day Process Standard 13.1: The teaching day must provide 330 minutes of instruction per day.</p>	<p>On March 26, 2020, during its regularly scheduled meeting, the State Board of Education suspended the requirement for 330 minutes of instruction per day from March 16, 2020, the first date of school closures due to COVID-19 through the end of the 2019-2020 school year.</p> <p>The SBE approved an additional one-year suspension for the 2020-2021 school year of Miss. Code Ann. 37-13-67 which states, “the number of hours of actual teaching which shall constitute a school day shall be determined and fixed by the Board of Trustees of the school district at not less than five and one-half (5 ½) hours. The suspension will allow districts flexibility with their re-entry</p>	<p style="color: red;">DeSoto County Schools will waive the requirements stated in Board Policy AF School Day to allow for the flexibility outlined by the Mississippi Department of Education.</p>

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	plans/scheduling options in an effort to comply with the MSDH and the CDC guidelines as a result of the ongoing impact of COVID-19 during the 2020-2021 school year. With the suspension of the 330 minutes of instruction per day, districts shall meet a minimum of 240 minutes (4 hours) of instructional time per day.	
<p>Instructional time for Carnegie unit credit Process Standard 13.2: Districts must ensure that during the academic school year a minimum of 140 hours of instruction is provided for each Carnegie unit of credit offered and 70 hours for each one-half (½) unit offered.</p>	<p>On March 26, 2020, at its regularly scheduled meeting, the State Board of Education suspended the requirement of the minimum of 140 hours of instruction required for each Carnegie unit of credit offered and 70 hours for each one-half (½) unit offered for the 2019-2020 school year. School districts were required to determine a process for awarding a Carnegie unit credit for courses that are incomplete for school year 2019 – 2020. Carnegie units were not be granted for courses where the student was never enrolled during the 2019 – 2020 school year. Districts were not to enroll a student in a Carnegie unit bearing course after March 16, 2020, the first date of school closures due to COVID-19, for</p>	<p>Based on the MDE’s suspension of seat-time requirements, DeSoto County Schools will waive the requirements included in DCS Board Policy JFA Carnegie Unit. The administrative team developed a Mastery of Content Learning Plan that was approved by the school board on July 20, 2020. The approved plan is posted on the DCS website. https://www.desotocountyschools.org/academicservices</p>

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	<p>the sole purpose of awarding a Carnegie unit credit, unless one (1) of the following conditions are met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) the district is on a 4x4 block schedule and the student is taking a one-half (½) credit course, or (2) the student is enrolling in an approved online course through Mississippi Online Course Approval (MOCA) with the expectation that the student will complete the course by the end of the Spring 2020 semester. <p>Based on approved school board policy, local school districts had the authority to issue a standard high school diploma to any student who met the minimum graduation requirements as approved by the State Board of Education during the 2019-2020 school year. See Appendix A in <i>Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2019</i>.</p> <p>The MDE approved an additional one-year suspension of the minimum of 140 hours of instruction</p>	

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	<p>required for each Carnegie unit of credit and 70 hours for each one-half (1/2) unit offered for the 2020-2021 school year. The suspension will allow districts flexibility within their re-entry plans/scheduling options in an effort to comply with MSDH and CDC guidelines as a result of the ongoing impact of COVID-19 during the 2020-2021 school year.</p> <p>Each district shall be required to develop a plan to ensure the mastery of content for each Carnegie unit awarded in lieu of meeting the 140-hour requirement for one (1) Carnegie unit awarded and 70 hours for each one-half (1/2) unit awarded. The plan shall be approved by the local school board and posted on the district's website no later than September 30, 2020.</p>	
<p>Graduation Requirements Process Standard 14.1: Each student receiving a standard high school diploma has earned the minimum number of Carnegie units as specified in Appendix A.</p>	<p>On March 19, 2020, during its regularly scheduled meeting, the State Board of Education suspended citations associated with changing local school board graduation requirements mid-year for the 2019-</p>	<p>Based on the recent waivers granted by the MDE, DCS will waive Board Policy IHF Graduation Requirements.</p> <p>IHF Graduation Requirements – For the 2020-2021 school year, DeSoto County Schools will adopt the</p>

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<p>Process Standard 14.2: Each student receiving a standard diploma has met assessment requirements on each of the required high school end-of-course (EOC) subject area tests or met one (1) of the options in lieu of passing the test as outlined in Appendix A-5.</p>	<p>2020 school year. The local school board had the authority to suspend and/or amend the graduation requirements set forth by the local school board for the 2019-2020 school year. Students were not allowed to graduate with less than the minimum number of Carnegie units set forth by the State Board of Education and outlined in Appendix A.</p> <p>The student was required to meet both the minimum number of Carnegie unit requirements and the required courses as outlined in Appendix A.</p> <p>Local districts may establish additional local requirements approved by the local school board as authorized under Miss. Code Ann. 37-16-7. Local districts have the option of granting high school diplomas as outlined in Appendices A-1, A-2, A-3, and A-4. The waivers granted by the State Board of Education for the 2019-2020 school year allowed districts to amend or</p>	<p>Mississippi Department of Education 24-credit diploma option – Appendix A-2.</p> <p>The following Board Policies will not be waived for the 2020-2021 school year. However, this decision will be reviewed as the MDE provides further guidance.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. IHFAA Graduation Requirements/Subject Area Testing; 2. IHFAD Graduation Assessment Options. 3. IHFADA Assessments Required for Graduation

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	<p>establish local board policy to waive additional requirements above the state minimum and allow students to graduate using the minimum requirements outlined in Appendices A-1, A-2, A-3, and A-4.</p> <p>The local school board shall establish graduation requirements for the 2020-2021 school year prior to the first day of school. Such requirements shall meet the minimum number of Carnegie units set forth SBE and outlined in Appendix A. The local school board lacks the authority to suspend and/or amend the local district's graduation requirements for the 2020-2021 school year mid-year unless the SBE grants authority.</p> <p>1. Any student grades 7 through 12 that is enrolled in Algebra I, Biology, English II and/or U. S. History during the 2019 – 2020 school year and earns the Carnegie Unit credit <u>will not be required to take and/or pass the corresponding EOC subject area</u></p>	

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	<p><u>test(s) or meet one (1) of the options in lieu of passing the test(s) in order to meet the graduation requirements.</u></p> <p>2. Any student grades 7 through 12 enrolled in school during the 2019 – 2020 school year as of March 16, 2020, the first date of school closures due to COVID-19, that has passed the Algebra I, Biology, English II, and/or U.S. History course(s), but <u>has not passed the corresponding EOC subject area test(s) or met one (1) of the options in lieu of passing the test(s), will be allowed to graduate, if all other state and local graduation requirements have been met.</u></p> <p>3. Any student in grades 7 through 12 who took a Fall 2019 EOC assessment <u>as a first-time test taker (4x4 districts) and failed the corresponding EOC assessment will not be required to re-take the corresponding EOC assessment or meet one (1) of the options in</u></p>	

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	<p><u>lieu of passing the test(s), in any future school year to meet graduation requirements.</u></p> <p>4. Any student enrolled in Algebra I, Biology, English II, or U.S. History in the 2019 – 2020 school year who fails the course in the 2019 – 2020 school year and must repeat the course in the 2020 – 2021 school year (or thereafter) to earn the Carnegie Unit credit will be required to pass the corresponding EOC assessment or meet one (1) of the options in lieu of passing the assessment as outlined in Appendix A-5.</p> <p>5. Any student currently enrolled in school in the 2019 – 2020 school year who earned a Carnegie Unit credit in Algebra I, Biology, English II or U.S. History in a school year prior to 2019 – 2020, <u>but took the test as a first time test taker in the Fall 2019 or was planning to take the assessment as a first-time test taker in Spring 2020 will not be required to take and/or pass the EOC assessment</u></p>	

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	<p><u>or meet one (1) of the options in lieu of passing the assessment when school reconvenes.</u></p> <p>6. The composite score option outlined in Appendix A-5 <u>will not be available to students who do not have four (4) EOC subject area test scores.</u></p> <p>7. Students who are not currently enrolled in the 2019 – 2020 school year, but are still attempting to meet the graduation requirements through re-test opportunities will be required to pass the EOC assessment or meet one (1) of the options in lieu of passing the assessment as outlined in Appendix A-</p> <p>“Enrolled” refers to students enrolled in a public school (in-state or out-of-state) or a nonpublic school accredited by the MDE or other regionally accrediting agency to be determined by the local school district. Students transferring from a public school (in-state or out-of-state)</p>	

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	<p>or a nonpublic accredited by the MDE or other regionally accrediting agency to be determined by the local school district was eligible to enroll in a subject area tested course unit bearing course after March 16, 2020, the first date of school closures due to COVID-19, through the 2019-2020 school year, if the student was previously enrolled in the course in his/her transferring school.</p> <p>On March 20, 2020, the MDE submitted an expedited waiver to the United States Department of Education (ED) to waive certain requirements in Section 1111 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 related to assessment and accountability requirements. On March 27, 2020, the MDE received official approval from ED. The waiver related to federal and state assessments applied only to the 2019-2020 school year.</p> <p>ED has not issued a waiver of assessment requirements for the</p>	

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	<p>2020-2021 school year. Any students grades 7 through 12 enrolled in Algebra I, Biology, English II, and/or U.S. History during the 2020-2021 school year will be required to take and pass the corresponding EOC subject area test(s) or meet one (1) of the options in lieu of passing the test(s) in order to meet the graduation requirements regardless of their expected graduation date/year.</p>	
<p>Mississippi Statewide Assessment System Process Standard 16: The school district adheres to all requirements of the Mississippi Statewide Assessment System.</p>	<p>On March 19, 2020, during its regularly scheduled meeting, the State Board of Education granted approval to suspend all federal and state requirements of the Mississippi Statewide Assessment System for the 2019 – 2020 school year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-K and Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (post-test); • Mississippi Academic Assessment Program (MAAP) and MAAP-Alternate (MAAP-A) English Language Arts, Mathematics and Science - 	<p>Currently, the following assessments will be administered as scheduled.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-K and Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (post-test); • Mississippi Academic Assessment Program (MAAP) and MAAP-Alternate (MAAP-A) English Language Arts, Mathematics and Science - Grades 3- 8 and High School End-of-Course; • U.S. History; • Statewide sponsored administration of the ACT for 11th graders; • English Language Proficiency Test (ELPT); and

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	<p>Grades 3- 8 and High School End-of-Course;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U.S. History; • Statewide sponsored administration of the ACT for 11th graders; • English Language Proficiency Test (ELPT); and • Career Planning and Assessment System (CPAS). <p>On March 20, 2020, the MDE submitted an expedited waiver to the United States Department of Education (ED) to waive certain requirements in Section 1111 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 related to assessment and accountability requirements. On March 27, 2020, the MDE received official approval from ED. The waiver related to federal and state assessments applied only to the 2019-2020.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Career Planning and Assessment System (CPAS). <p>Policies related to these assessments will be revisited as additional guidance is provided by the MDE and ED.</p>

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<p>Pre- K Programs Process 17.2: Early Childhood Programs</p>	<p>Due to the impact of school closures related to COVID-19 and the impact on professional development opportunities, on April 16, 2020, during its regularly scheduled meeting, the State Board of Education suspended the required pre-kindergarten teacher assistant requirements by one (1) school year, such that requirements are as outlined below:</p> <p>By August 1, 2021, 50% of regular education pre-kindergarten teachers, special education pre-kindergarten, and assistant teachers in each district will meet the requirements described in the Early Learning Guidelines for Classrooms Serving Three-and Four-Year-Old Children.</p> <p>By August 1, 2023, 100% of regular education pre-kindergarten teachers, pre-kindergarten special education teachers, and assistant teachers in each district will meet the requirements described in the Early Learning Guidelines for Classrooms</p>	<p>No change to DCS board policy is required.</p>

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	<p>Serving Three-and Four-Year-Old Children.</p> <p>The MDE, at the June 11 regular State Board Meeting, approved an additional one-year extension of the requirement for Early Childhood Programs:</p> <p>By August 1, 2022, 50% of regular education pre-kindergarten teachers, special education pre-kindergarten, and assistant teachers in each district will meet the requirements described in the Early Learning Guidelines for Classrooms Serving Three-and Four-Year-Old Children.</p> <p>By August 1, 2024, 100% of regular education pre-kindergarten teachers, pre-kindergarten special education teachers, and assistant teachers in each district will meet the requirements described in the Early Learning Guidelines for Classrooms Serving Three-and Four-Year-Old Children.</p>	

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<p>Gifted Education Programs Process Standard 17.8 In accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 37-23-197, the board shall specifically promulgate rules, regulations and guidelines which establish model programs of gifted education and also establish minimum criteria for gifted education programs.</p>	<p>Miss. Admin. Code 7-3: 35.1, State Board Policy Chapter 35, Rule 35.1 establishes the operation of the State gifted program is governed by the Regulations for Gifted Education Programs in Mississippi and the Standards of Gifted Education Programs in Mississippi. The Regulations for Gifted Education Programs 2013, p. 22, require that:</p> <p>A group of all intellectually gifted students is provided services by a properly endorsed teacher in a self-contained room for a recommended 300 minutes per week, or a minimum of 240 minutes per week.</p> <p>The MDE requests a reduction in the minimum service time provided to intellectually gifted students to 150 minutes per week for the 2020-2021 school year. (August 27, 2020)</p>	<p>No change to DCS board policy is required.</p>
<p>Instructional Management System & Literacy Based Promotion Act Process Standard 20.2:</p>	<p>On March 26, 2020, during its regularly scheduled meeting, the State Board of Education granted approval to suspend all requirements</p>	<p>Based on the State Board of Education's action on June 11, 2020, DCS Board Policy IEBA Instructional Management Intervention Plan Dyslexia, DCS Board Policy IEBA Dyslexia, and</p>

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<p>The instructional management system includes a tiered instructional model including academic interventions, behavior interventions, and <i>Literacy Based Promotion Act</i> requirements.</p>	<p>of the Mississippi Statewide Assessment System for the 2019 - 2020 school year including the 3rd grade Reading assessment as required by the <i>Literacy Based Promotion Act</i>.</p> <p>All students enrolled in Grade 3 in the 2019 – 2020 school year shall be promoted to Grade 4 for the 2020 – 2021 school year if the student meets all other district requirements for promotion.</p> <p>The dyslexia screener that is to be administered to all students during the spring of their kindergarten year will be suspended for the 2019 – 2020 school year.</p> <p>The screener shall be administered in the 2020-2021 school year as required.</p> <p>There has been no waiver of assessment requirements for the 2020-2021 school year. All students enrolled in Grade 3 during the 2020-2021 school year shall meet the requirements of the LBPA.</p>	<p>Board Policy ICHI Literacy Based Promotion will not be suspended for the 2020-2021 school year.</p>

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Rule	Proposed Suspension and/or Revision of Rules	Proposed One-year Suspension and/or Revision
	<p>For the 2020-2021 school year, the MDE recommends extending the timeline for the administration of the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment and the literacy and numeracy screeners for grade K-3 from 30 school days to 45 school days from the first day of school.</p> <p>For enrollment in the 2020-2021 school year, the MDE recommends a waiver of the requirements to meet and document Good Cause Exemptions (GCEs) and a waiver of LBPA district reporting requirements, as it was not feasible to maintain documentation or administer assessments during the school closure in the spring of 2020. (August 27, 2020)</p>	
<p>Academic Promotion/Progression/Retention of Students & Uniform Grading Policy Process Standard 21:</p>	<p>Due to the impact of school closures related to COVID-19, the MDE suspended citations associated with changing local school board policies mid-year related to</p>	<p>Based on the flexibility provided, DCS will utilize a standard 10-point grading scale for the 2020-2021 school year.</p> <p>A – 90-100 B – 80-89 C – 70-79</p>

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<p>The district follows an established board policy that defines criteria for the academic promotion/progression/retention of students.</p> <p>Process Standard 21.1: The school district implements a uniform grading policy.</p>	<p>promotion/progression/retention of students or the district’s uniform grading policies.</p> <p>The local school board shall establish criteria for the academic promotion/progression/retention of students for the 2020-2021 school year prior to the first day of school. The local school lacks the authority to suspend and/or amend the local district’s criteria for academic promotion/progression/retention of students for the school year 2020-2021 mid-year unless the SBE grants authority.</p>	<p>D – 60-69 F – 59 and below</p>
<p>Student Teacher Ratios Process Standard 28: Student Teacher Ratios do not exceed the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Process Standard 28.1 Student teacher ratios do not exceed 22 to 1 in kindergarten, except in instances in which a full-time assistant teacher is in the classroom. If a full-time 	<p>On March 26, 2020, during its regularly scheduled meeting, the State Board of Education issued a one-year suspension requiring districts to request waivers to the State Board of Education or the Commission on School Accreditation to comply with student-teacher ratios for Process Standards 28.1, 28.2, 28.3, 28.4, and 28.5 for the 2019 – 2020 school year.</p>	<p>No change to DCS Board Policy is required.</p>

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<p>assistant teacher is employed, 27 may be enrolled.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Process Standard 28.2 Student teacher ratios do not exceed 27 to 1 in classrooms serving grades 1 through 4 unless approved by the State Board of Education. • Process Standard 28.3 Student teacher ratios do not exceed 30 to 1 in self-contained classrooms serving grades 5 through 8. A one-year waiver may be requested for classes that do not exceed more than two (2) students beyond the allowable student teacher ratio. • Process Standard 28.4 Student teacher ratios do not exceed 33 to 1 in departmentalized academic core classes serving grades 5 through 12. A one-year waiver may be requested for 	<p>Requiring districts to respond to notifications of non-compliance of student-teacher ratios during school closures due to the state of emergency produced an undue burden on districts during the emergency closures for the 2019-2020 school year.</p> <p>The State Board of Education approved an additional one-year suspension requiring districts to request waivers to the SBE or the Commission on School Accreditation to comply with student-teacher ratios for Process Standards 28.1, 28.2, 28.3, 28.4, and 28.5 for the 2020-2021 school year. The suspension will allow districts flexibility within their re-entry plans/scheduling options in an effort to comply with MSDH and CDC guidelines as a result of the ongoing impact of COVID-19 during the 2020-2021 school year.</p>	

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<p>classes that do not exceed more than two (2) students beyond the allowable student teacher ratio.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Process Standard 28.5 The total number of students taught by an individual teacher in academic core subjects at any time during the school year shall not exceed 150. A teacher who provides instruction through intra-district or inter-district distance learning or supervises students taking virtual courses will be exempt from the 150-student limitation. A lab facilitator or principal designee will be responsible for the assignment of grades and related activities at the receiving school. 		
<p>Pupil Transportation Process Standard 29:</p>	<p>The SBE approved a one-year suspension of the State Board of</p>	<p>No change to DCS Board Policy is required.</p>

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<p>The school district complies with the applicable policies of the State Board of Education and state and federal laws in the operation of its transportation program.</p>	<p>Education requirement for certified bus drivers to renew the two-year MDE Bus Driver Certification Card. This one-year suspension is applicable to all certified bus drivers with a valid MDE Bus Driver Certification Card with an expiration date of July 31, 2020, or July 31, 2021.</p>	
<p>School Safety Process Standard 31: The school district complies with State Board Policies and State and Federal laws to provide Safe Schools. Each school has a comprehensive School Safety Plan on file that has been approved annually by the local school board.</p>	<p>On April 16, 2020, during its regularly scheduled meeting, the State Board of Education suspended the deadline of June 30, 2020 and extended the deadline for submission of the annual 40 required hours of training for MCOPS grant recipients from June 30, 2020 until August 1, 2020 in order to be compliant with MCOPS grant requirements.</p> <p>The State Board of Education also suspended the deadline of June 30, 2020, and extended the deadline for submission of the annual 40 required hours of training until August 1, 2020, for school resource officers (SROs) employed with</p>	<p style="color: red;">No change to DCS Board Policy is required.</p>

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	<p>school districts that created their own police departments.</p> <p>The MDE requests an additional extension of the August 1, 2020 deadline, granted on April 16, 2020, until December 31, 2020, for the submission of the annual 40 hours of training for MCOPS grant recipients and SROs as a result of the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on training opportunities.</p> <p>The district shall conduct all required drills as outlined in the Mississippi School Safety Manual for the 2020 – 2021 school year, specifically, fire drills, tornado drills, and active shooter drills. All drills shall be conducted under the MSDH and the CDC guidelines in place at the time the drills are conducted.</p> <p>The district will not be cited for noncompliance, if the drills are modified or the district is unable to conduct the drills within the timelines outlined in the Mississippi School</p>	

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	<p>Safety Manual as a result of the impact of COVID-19.</p> <p>In accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 37-7- 321(2), any person employed by a school board as a security guard or school resource officer or in any other position that has the power of a peace officer must receive a minimum level of basic law enforcement training, as jointly determined and prescribed by the Board on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Training and the SBE, within two (2) years of the person’s initial employment in such position. The MDE requests a one (1) year extension of the required two (2) year timeline to receive the required training for any person that was initially employed by a school district during the 2019 – 2020 or the 2020 – 2021 school years. This extension is being requested as a result of the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on training opportunities. (August 27, 2020)</p>	

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<p>Youth Detention Centers Process Standard 32: The school district complies with state statute and State Board of Education policy for education of juveniles in youth detention centers.</p> <p>Process Standard 32.1: Educational requirements of Miss. Code Ann. § 42-21-321 and Miss. Admin. Code 7-3: 30.6, State Board Policy Chapter 30, Rule 30.6</p>	<p>On March 26, 2020, during its regularly scheduled meeting, the State Board of Education suspended citations associated with the education of juveniles in youth detention centers due to the impact of school closures related to COVID-19. The educational services provided to youth in detention centers shall be commensurate to the services provided to their peers in the sponsoring school district (i.e. online content or instructional packets) after March 16, 2020, through the end of the 2019-2020 school year.</p> <p>The educational services provided to youth in detention centers shall be commensurate to the services provided to their peers in the sponsoring school district (i.e. online</p>	<p>No change to DCS Board Policy is required.</p>

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	content or instructional packets) for the 2020 – 2021 school year.	
<p>Cursive Writing</p> <p>Miss. Code Ann. § 37-13-10:</p> <p>The standard course of study shall include the requirement that the public schools provide instruction in cursive reading and writing, implemented across the curriculum, so that students create readable documents through legible cursive handwriting by the end of the fifth grade, and that students pass with proficiency a teacher-constructed test demonstrating the students competency in both reading and writing cursive.</p>	<p>On May 21, 2020, during its regularly scheduled meeting, the State Board of Education suspended the requirement that students pass with proficiency a teacher-constructed test demonstrating competency in both reading and writing cursive, from March 16, 2020, the first date of school closures due to COVID-19, through the date classes resume following the state of emergency. This test shall be suspended for students who would have taken it during the 2019 – 2020 school year based on district practice.</p> <p>The MDE requests an additional one-year suspension of the requirement that students pass with proficiency a teacher-constructed test demonstrating competency in</p>	<p>No change to DCS Board Policy is required.</p>

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	both reading and writing cursive for the 2020 – 2021 school year.	
<p>Curriculum and Course of Study</p> <p><i>Essentials for College Math and Essentials for College Literacy Requirements</i></p> <p>Miss Admin. Code 7-3: 28.6, State Board Policy Chapter 28, Rule 28.6 establishes the policies needed at the school level to teach either course and for students to earn the necessary scores for nonpostsecondary remediation.</p>	<p>Senior students eligible for this class must enter with an ACT sub-score of 15-18 in the respective content area (English or mathematics).</p> <p>The MDE requests eliminating the ACT sub-score enrollment requirement for the 2020-2021 school year.</p>	<p>No change to DCS Board Policy is required.</p>