

**OFFICE OF INSTRUCTIONAL ENHANCEMENT AND INTERNAL OPERATIONS**  
**Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Items**  
**July 13-14, 2011**

**OFFICE OF STUDENT ASSESSMENT**

11. Approval of cut scores for the new Biology I Subject Area Test and the Mississippi Science Test in Grades 5 and 8

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Office of Student Assessment is requesting approval of the pass/fail cut score for the Biology I Subject Area Test and the performance level cut scores for the Mississippi Biology I Subject Area Test and the Mississippi Science Tests in grades 5 and 8.

Performance level descriptors were established and approved by the State Board of Education following the approval of the 2010 Mississippi Science Framework. The first operational tests under the new framework were administered during the 2010-2011 school year. A pass/fail cut score must be established for the new Biology I Subject Area Test and cut scores must be established for each performance level descriptor (PLD) for Biology and Science grades 5-8. Cut scores were recommended during the recent standard-setting process involving Mississippi educators.

Recommendation: Approval

Back-up material will be provided at meeting.