

**MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
 PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE MISSISSIPPI ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM  
 APPROVED BY THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION ON JANUARY 21, 2011**

In its original passage of the Mississippi Accountability System, the State Board of Education established a four-year phase-in for increasing the QDI required for schools/districts to reach each of five tiers of academic achievement. On September 14, 2010, the Joint Legislative Committee on Performance Evaluation and Expenditure Review (PEER) issued a report in which it urged the Department of Education to establish goals “based on research data” rather than tied to “national averages.” Additionally, in October 2010, the Mississippi Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) presented recommendations to the State Board concerning the future of the Statewide Accountability System. These recommendations included:

1. Retain current QDI cut scores.
2. Update prediction (Growth) model only periodically using a consistent methodology (such as a 75 percent threshold of districts/schools reaching successful or above).
3. Incorporate stability and planned change into the system.

On January 21, 2011, the Mississippi State Board of Education voted to seek public comment in accordance with the Administrative Procedure’s Act (APA) regarding the adoption of the TAC’s recommendations, as well as a change in labeling criteria and points awarded for certain credentials in the High School Completion Index.

Adoption of this methodology for updating accountability benchmarks would result in any benchmark increases applied to the following school year rather than the current school year. Consequently, there would be no change to the model for the current school year (2011), since the percentage of districts/schools reaching successful or above remains well below the 75% threshold, or the following school year (2012), since any changes are applied to the following school year.

<b>QDI Cut-Points As Recommended</b>					
<b>Cut Score Range</b>	<b>Year</b>				
	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>
Top Range	200-300	200-300	200-300	200-300	TBD
	166-199	166-199	166-199	166-199	TBD
	133-165	133-165	133-165	133-165	TBD
	100-132	100-132	100-132	100-132	TBD
Bottom Range	Below 100	Below 100	Below 100	Below 100	TBD

In October 2010, the Commission on School Accreditation (CSA) recommended to the State Board raising the value of a GED credential from 125 to 200 points and raising the value of an Occupational Diploma credential from 150 to 175 points in HSCI calculations, as well as reversing the “Low Performing” and “At Risk of Failing” labels within the state accountability model.

The first recommendation was to reverse the criteria for “Low Performing” and “At Risk of Failing” labels.

Currently, districts/schools labeled as “Low Performing” are those districts/schools that have a QDI of less than 100, but who are meeting growth expectations, while those labeled as “At Risk of Failing” have a QDI between 100 and 132 but are not meeting growth expectations.

While adoption of the Commission on School Accreditation’s recommendation would result in districts/schools being labeled as “At Risk of Failing” having a QDI of less than 100 but are meeting growth expectations and those with a QDI between 100 and 132 who are not meeting growth expectations labeled as “Low Performing,” the hierarchy of performance would remain the same:

Star District/School  
High Performing  
Successful  
Academic Watch  
Low Performing  
At Risk of Failing  
Failing

The second recommendation was to

- increase the point value of the GED credential from 125 to 200 points, and
- increase the value of the Occupational Diploma from 150 to 175 points

in the calculation of the High School Completion Index (HSCI) in the 2011 Mississippi Accountability System.