

State board approves state-wide assessment contract for New Science, U.S. History tests

The Mississippi Board of Education voted on Thursday, May 17, to approve a \$3.3 million statewide testing contract with Data Recognition Corp (DRC) for

the 2018-19 school year to administer 5th and 8th grade science assessments and the Biology I and U.S. History assessments for high school. The science tests are required by federal law. DRC was selected from among five proposals sub-

mitted. DRC's contract may be renewed annually up to five years based on the successful completion of the preceding year's work. The Mississippi Department of Education solicited competitive written proposals in February for 5th and 8th grade science assessments and Biology I and U.S. History assessments that are aligned to the new Mississippi College and Career Ready Standards (MC-CRS) for Science and Social Studies.

New Science standards were approved in 2017 and piloted in school districts in the 2017-18 school year. New Social Studies Standards will be piloted in the 2018-19 school year. As such, the U.S. History test for 2018-19 will be a hybrid of the current test and field test items. The fully revised U.S. History test will be used starting in 2019-20.

Academic standards are typically reviewed and updated every five to seven years. "I appreciate the thoughtful process the evaluation team used to select the assessment vendor," said Rosemary Aultman, chair of the Mississippi State Board of Education. "The goal of these assessments is to provide useful information about how well students are meeting the learning targets that Mississippi teachers have designed."

The other vendors that submitted proposals are Measurement Incorporated, Measured Progress, Inc., Questar Assessment, Inc., and Scantiron Corporation.

DURANT NEWS

by Rowena Hill

The many friends of Mr. and Mrs. David Truitt are thankful he is improving at home after recent surgery in Jackson.

Eddy Johnson and Ralph Moss enjoyed a nice long trip together during last week.

Mrs. C.H. Blanton, Jr. has returned home from a visit with her daughter, Mrs. BEth Momand and family in Arkansas.

All are thankful Pat Burrell is recovering from a freak accident and recent time spent in a Jackson hospital.

The many friends and of Mr. and Mrs. William Henry Hathcock remain in prayer; all are interested in his improvement and extended hospital stay. All hope to get some good news. He and other former residents of this town aren't well. Friends look forward to good news from all. May God give healing to each. We love and care about each and every one of you.

Shirley and Sammy Higginbotham of Clinton spent time Monday with me. I went with them to drive Jay to Central Hills for the week with his friends and others.

Mrs. Ginny Land Hill and others spent time during the weekend in the home of Mrs. Bettie Land and Lamar. It was good to see them in church again. Durant friends don't see them very often now. Everyone is so busy. Prayers are for those in the community who aren't well. We missed all that were absent in church Sunday. Hope it wasn't because of illness and we'll soon be together again.

Sympathy is extended to the family of Noel Wigley. Funeral services were last Thursday in Lexington. He was a good an and a good friend.

Love and prayers are for Mr. and Mrs. Milton Hoover. He spent time during last week not feeling well. We also missed them Sunday in church.

Love and best wishes to Mrs. Gale Sheppard. She is to be married right away. We miss her and hope she will be very happy. We love you Gale.



If you have news of Durant residents/former residents, please drop me a line to 7144 Castalian Springs Rd., Durant, MS 39063.

Constructing an Education



The Holmes County Career and Technical Center's Construction Technology students designed and built a storage unit that was donated to local Holmes County farmer, Lillie Melton (pictured above left) of Hodges Farm and Livestock. This storage unit will be used to house Hodges electric fence battery. By being enclosed in this unit, the battery will be protected from weather elements and extend the life of the battery. The fencing is used to add an additional layer of protection Hodges produce and small livestock. The students implemented such skills as measuring, basic calculations, roof pitch, using power and hand tools along with blueprint reading. James Smith (pictured at right), Construction Technology Instructor, welcomes material donations throughout the school year, so that students will continue to put into practice the skills they are learning in his program. The Career and Technical Programs are open to incoming 10th and 11th graders during the 2018 School Year. (Courtesy photo)

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