

# State board of education votes to adjust baseline accountability scores for schools with a 12th grade

The Mississippi State Board of Education (SBE) voted Thursday, August 23, to reset the baseline scores for establishing accountability grades for schools that have a 12th grade. The change would address the lack of comparability to growth scores in prior years and would take effect for the 2017-18 accountability results.

The SBE's decision followed a recommendation from the Commission on School Accreditation (CSA) and the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to reset the scores.

The scores for assigning school and district letter grades for 2017-18 were set last year based on 2016-17 student performance data. Because the growth for 2016-17 for schools with a 12th grade was not comparable to growth computed in 2017-18, the CSA and TAC recommended the baseline scores for earning each letter grade from A through F be reset.

The differences in growth were caused by the use of three different high school

assessments over a three-year period. Last year's growth calculations for schools with a 12th grade still included data from the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC), which was administered in 2014-15.

Dr. Chris Domaleski, associate director of the National Center for the Improvement of Educational Assessment and chair of the MDE's TAC, said many states have faced the challenge of calculating growth on different assessments.

"Mississippi has now had the same high school assessments for three consecutive years, so future growth calculations will no longer include the residual effects of changing assessments," Domaleski said.

Mississippi first implemented the Mississippi Academic Assessment Program (MAAP) in 2015-16, which includes tests in English Language Arts and Mathematics for grades 3-8 and high school Algebra I and English II. The TAC and CSA did not recommend making any changes to baseline scores for elementary

and middle schools or for school districts. The elementary and middle school baseline scores were established last year based on only MAAP data.

Accountability letter grades for the 2017-18 school year are scheduled to be released in September.

"The Board made this decision after careful thought and deliberation and with consideration of what is in the best interest of students," said Dr. Jason Dean, SBE chair. "We believe this adjustment will ensure the accountability model accurately reflects student progress



**September 1** - Ernest and Jacqueline Wilson

**September 2** - Charlie and Jean Hudson

**September 4** - Brett and Terri Atkinson, Jason and Christi Richmond

To add your birthdays and anniversaries to our list, please send your information by mail to P.O. Box 60, Lexington, MS 39095; fax 662-834-1074; email

and provides a meaningful comparison of how well students are learning from year to year."

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Crop	CBOT Month	Delivery Period	Futures Price	EGT Basis	Net Price	Change
Wheat	Jul 19	2019 Jun	5.55	-0.22	5.33	-0.12
Corn	Sep 18	2018 Aug-Sep	3.47	0.05	3.52	-0.02
Corn	Dec 18	2018 Dec	3.62	0.05	3.67	-0.02
Corn	Sep 19	2019 Aug	3.88	-0.04	3.84	-0.01
Soybeans Sidon	Nov 18	2018 Aug-Nov	8.48	-0.75	7.73	-0.07
Soybeans G'wood	Nov 18	2018 Aug-Nov	8.48	-0.57	7.91	-0.07
Soybeans G'wood	Jan 19	2018 Dec	8.62	-0.27	8.35	-0.09
Soybeans Minter City	Nov 18	2018 Aug-Nov	8.48	-0.60	7.88	-0.07
Rice	Sep 18		10.510			-0.275
Rice	Nov 18		10.600			-0.120
Cotton	Oct 18		83.52			1.710
Cotton	Dec 18		83.34			1.710

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## Conservation Corner

by James Cummins  
 Executive Director  
 of Wildlife Mississippi

The 2018 summer season has been a hot one. In the South, we take for granted that we are accustomed to the heat and oftentimes neglect to seriously monitor ourselves for signs of hyperthermia.

As we heat up, our bodies begin to sweat and as the sweat dries from our skin, the surface of our body cools down, helping to regulate our internal temperature. However, being too hot for too long causes a breakdown in this natural cooling system—this can cause several illnesses, all grouped under the name hyperthermia. These include:

- Heat syncope – a sudden dizziness that may happen when you are active in hot weather. Some heart medications may enhance this feeling.
- Heat cramps – a painful tightening of the muscles in your stomach, arms, or legs. These usually result when you engage in strenuous activity in the heat.
- Heat edema – swelling in your ankles and feet when you get too hot. Putting your legs up should help; but if not, seek medical attention.
- Heat exhaustion – includes feeling thirsty, dizzy, weak, uncoordinated, and nauseated. Profuse sweating and a rapid pulse sometimes accompany these symptoms even though your body temperature may be normal. Af-

ter getting to a cool place and getting liquids, if your symptoms do not improve rapidly, seek immediate medical attention as this can quickly progress to:

- Heat stroke – a life threatening result of too much heat! Signs include fainting; a body temperature of 104°F or higher; a change in behavior (confusion, grumpiness, acting strangely, or staggering); dry, flushed skin and either a strong, rapid pulse or a slow, weak pulse; and a lack of sweating. This form of hyperthermia can rapidly result in a coma, or even death, and needs to be treated as quickly as possible.

While the elderly and those with health problems are most at risk, even the very young can succumb to the effects of the heat.

We can all lower our risk of heat-related illnesses by drinking plenty of water, fruit or vegetable juices (caffeine and alcohol can cause dehydration), and limiting our time outdoors in the hottest part of the day.

Also, always remember to check on the elderly and those that are homebound.

*James L. Cummins is executive director of Wildlife Mississippi, a non-profit, conservation organization founded to conserve, restore and enhance fish, wildlife and plant resources throughout Mississippi. Their web site is www.wildlifemiss.org.*

## “NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX LEVIES FOR THE UPCOMING FISCAL YEAR FOR THE TOWN OF GOODMAN”

The Town of Goodman will hold a public hearing on its proposed budget and proposed tax levies for the fiscal year 2018 on Thursday, September 6, 2018, 4:30 p.m., at the Goodman Town Hall located at 9912 Main Street, Goodman, MS.

The Town of Goodman is now operating with projected total budget revenue of \$486,484. \$60,000, or 12% of such revenue is obtained through Ad Valorem Taxes. For the next fiscal year, the proposed budget has total projected revenue of \$ 538,700. Of that amount, 12% or \$65,000 is to be financed through a total ad valorem tax levy.

The decision to not increase the ad valorem tax millage rate for the fiscal year 2019 above the current fiscal year's ad valorem tax millage rate means you will not pay more in ad valorem taxes on your home, automobile tag, utilities, business fixtures and equipment and rental and real property, unless the assessed value of your property has increased for the fiscal year 2018.

The Town of Goodman millage rate remains the same as last year at 37.38.

Any citizen of the Town of Goodman is invited to attend this public hearing on the proposed budget and tax levies for the fiscal year 2019 and will be allowed to speak for a reasonable amount of time and offer tangible evidence before any vote is taken.