

Board of Education suspends grading, passing policies for 2020-21

Special to The Clinton Courier

The Mississippi State Board of Education (SBE) recently voted to suspend three statewide policies regarding assessment and accountability to manage the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on the 2020-21 school year.

All required state and federal assessments will be administered this school year as usual. However, the policy suspensions mean schools and districts will not be assigned A-F letter grades for their performance during the 2020-21 school year, third graders do not have to pass a reading test to qualify for promotion, and high school students do not have to pass end-of-course assessments to meet graduation requirements.

Current third graders will take the Third Grade Reading/Language Arts assessment, but students are not required to meet a passing score on the assessment to be promoted to fourth grade for the 2021-22 school year. Students still must meet all other district requirements for promotion.

All eligible high school students who take required end-of-course high school assessments, including Algebra I, English II, Biology and U.S. History, in the 2020-21 school year are not re-

quired to meet a passing score to meet high school graduation requirements. Students must meet all other state and district requirements to graduate.

Schools and districts will not be assigned A-F letter grades for their performance in the 2020-21 school year, because MDE will not have sufficient data to calculate grades based on state and federal requirements. Schools and districts will retain their most recent letter grades earned in the 2018-19 school year.

The MDE will calculate and report the results of all statewide assessments administered during the 2020-21 school year and will submit information and a waiver request to the U.S. Department of Education to meet federal requirements for assessment and accountability.

“This year’s statewide assessments will provide valuable information about the impact of COVID-19 on learning and will help identify where accelerated learning opportunities for students are most needed,” said Dr. Carey Wright, state superintendent of education. “The policy suspensions are intended to support schools through this intensely challenging year for educators and students.”

Scouts earn badge, serve Nature Center



Special to The Clinton Courier

Scouts BSA Family Scouting Troop 1475B and 1475G, sponsored by Northside Baptist Church, recently worked together to earn the Climbing Merit Badge and perform Conservation Community Service by serving at the Clinton Community Center while learning about native plant life. While working on climbing, Scouts learned about climbing knots, harnesses, repelling, rock climbing, and supporting each other both physically, by ropes, and emotionally, as many overcame fears. Pictured (l to r) are, front row: Lincoln Strickler, Jacob Strickler, Ellie Strickler, Allie Martin and Riley Parham; and back row: David Patterson, Landon Ordone, Nils Crowe, Austin Ordone, Luke Parham, Claudia Cagle and Kendall Salassi. For more information about Scouts BSA, contact Paula Crowe at meritbadges@bsa-jackson.org.

Never Miss an Issue!
Subscribe to

The Clinton Courier

Name

Address

City, State, Zip

Email

Phone

Please check the type of subscription needed:

☐

\$24.00 annually inside Hinds County

☐

\$30.00 annually outside Hinds County

Make checks payable to The Clinton Courier.

Mail to:
Subscriptions
The Clinton Courier
105 East Main Street
Clinton, MS 39056