

By: Senator(s) Longwitz

To: Education

SENATE BILL NO. 2489

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-16-7, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
2 AUTHORIZE AND DIRECT THE STATE DEPARTMENT TO REPLACE SATP AND  
3 PARCC STUDENT ASSESSMENTS WITH THE ACT TEST; TO PROVIDE THAT  
4 BEGINNING WITH THE 2014-2015 SCHOOL YEAR STUDENTS SHALL BE  
5 REQUIRED TO PASS THE ACT TEST WITH A SATISFACTORY SCORE DETERMINED  
6 BY THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION FOR PROMOTION TO GRADE LEVELS AND  
7 HIGH-SCHOOL GRADUATION; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

9 **SECTION 1.** Section 37-16-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
10 amended as follows:

11 37-16-7. (1) Each district school board shall establish  
12 standards for graduation from its schools which shall include as a  
13 minimum:

14 (a) Mastery of minimum academic skills as measured by  
15 assessments developed and administered by the State Board of  
16 Education. Beginning with the 2014-2015 school year, the State  
17 Department of Education shall not require school districts to  
18 administer the Subject Area Testing Program (SATP) test or the  
19 multistate Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and  
20 Careers (PARCC) test for student promotion to grade levels or



21 high-school student graduation purposes, and shall only require  
22 school districts to administer the ACT Test at the appropriate  
23 grade levels. Upon the effective date of this act, the State  
24 Superintendent of Education shall immediately initiate the  
25 procedure outlined in the Bylaws of the Partnership for Assessment  
26 of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) to withdraw the state  
27 from the consortium. Students who enter Grade 9 in the 2014-2015  
28 school year and in school years thereafter shall be required to  
29 pass the ACT college readiness assessment test with a satisfactory  
30 score as determined by the State Board of Education. The State  
31 Board of Education is authorized to phase-in satisfactory ACT Test  
32 scores for graduation purposes.

33 (b) Completion of a minimum number of academic credits,  
34 and all other applicable requirements prescribed by the district  
35 school board.

36 (c) By school, information on high-school graduation  
37 rates. High schools with graduation rates lower than eighty  
38 percent (80%) must submit a detailed plan to the Mississippi  
39 Department of Education to restructure the high-school experience  
40 to improve graduation rates.

41 (2) A student who meets all requirements prescribed in  
42 subsection (1) of this section shall be awarded a standard diploma  
43 in a form prescribed by the State Board of Education. Students  
44 who meet these requirements but do not pass the required ACT Test



45 will receive a Certificate of Completion which is not equivalent  
46 to a standard high-school diploma.

47 (3) The State Board of Education may only establish student  
48 proficiency standards for promotion to grade levels leading to  
49 graduation based upon the ACT Test.

50 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
51 and after July 1, 2014.

