

## **2007 Mississippi Mathematics Framework Revised Frequently Asked Questions**

**1. Can my district still offer the 8<sup>th</sup> grade basic mathematics course?**

Pre-Algebra is now considered the 8<sup>th</sup> grade mathematics course. There is not a lower 8<sup>th</sup> grade mathematics course that may be offered. Districts may also offer Transition to Algebra and Algebra I to 8<sup>th</sup> graders.

**2. Can students receive a Carnegie unit for mathematics courses taken in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade?**

Yes, students will receive a Carnegie unit for Pre-Algebra, Transition to Algebra, or Algebra I if taken during the 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

**3. Can students receive a Carnegie unit for Pre-Algebra if taken in the 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> grade?**

No, students will not receive a Carnegie unit for Pre-Algebra or Transition to Algebra if taken in the 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> grade.

**4. Can Pre-Algebra still be offered to 9<sup>th</sup> graders who failed Pre-Algebra in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade?**

Yes, Pre-Algebra may be offered to 9<sup>th</sup> graders who failed Pre-Algebra in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade or who have transferred from another state.

**5. Can school districts use the unrevised version of the 2007 Mathematics Framework?**

No, 2007-2008 is the implementation year of the *2007 Mississippi Mathematics Framework Revised*. All state assessments will be based on the revised version of the 2007 framework.

**6. Were the suggested teaching strategies revised to the Depth of Knowledge (DOK) level of the objectives?**

The suggested teaching strategies were realigned to the revised competencies/objectives. All of the strategies were not revised to the DOK level of the objectives; therefore, teachers should study them carefully before implementing them in their instruction.

**7. Can the MDE provide a pacing of the mathematics framework?**

The pacing of the mathematics framework is determined by the school district and/or school.

**8. Will the 8th grade Mississippi Curriculum Test 2 (MCT2) be based on Pre-Algebra?**

Yes, all 8<sup>th</sup> graders will be required to take the Grade 8 MCT2, which is based on the course Pre-Algebra.

**9. Are 8th graders who are taking Algebra I required to take the MCT2?**

Yes, all 8<sup>th</sup> graders will be required to take the Grade 8 MCT2, which is based on the course Pre-Algebra. The U.S. Department of Education, in compliance with NCLB, requires that all eighth grade students be assessed on the same test (except for students with significant cognitive disabilities).

**10. Which assessments will allow the use of calculators?**

Calculators are allowed on the MCT2 grade 7, MCT2 grade 8 (Pre-Algebra), and Algebra I Subject Area Test.



**11. Which assessments will allow the use of formula charts?**

Formula charts will be provided for the MCT2 grade 8 (Pre-Algebra) and the Algebra I Subject Area Test.

**12. Will the formula be provided for MCT2 test items on assessments that do not allow the use of the formula chart?**

The mathematics curriculum framework does not require students in grades 3 and 4 to know formulas. However, students in grades 5-8 are expected to know any formulas indicated in the curriculum framework. The stimulus for a test item in grades 5-7 and Pre-Algebra will sometimes provide the formula and in other cases will not. Students in Pre-Algebra and Algebra I will be provided formula charts as a part of the state assessment. The Pre-Algebra formula chart can be accessed at <http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/ACAD/osa/MCT2>. The Algebra I formula chart can be accessed at <http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/ACAD/osa/algindex.html>.

**13. What type of ruler is suggested for the MCT2?**

Students in grades 3-8 will need a lead-in edge ruler with English measurement on one side and metric measurement on the other side.

**14. Do districts have to purchase lead-in rulers for all students in grades 3-8 for the math section of the MCT2?**

All students in grades 3 - 8 will need to have rulers for the math section of the MCT2. In the past, the vendor for the MCT provided disposable rulers for students to use on the math section. However, the vendor for the MCT2 will not provide rulers. The MDE recommends that districts purchase lead-in rulers because those rulers provide more accurate measurement than rulers that do not have a lead-in edge. However, the MDE is not requiring districts to purchase lead-in rulers. The MDE did contact large retailers across the state to inform them that districts may want to order lead-in rulers and that students may be looking for those when they bought school supplies for 07-08. The MDE also supplied a copy of that letter to districts that requested it so that they could make local retailers aware of the lead-in ruler.

**15. Will the units for conversions be provided on the state assessments?**

The stimulus for a test item will sometimes provide the units for conversion and in other cases will not.

**16. Will state assessments represent square units as units<sup>2</sup> (feet<sup>2</sup>) or as the square units (square feet)?**

The framework does not specify whether the words “square units” or units<sup>2</sup> should be used. Students should be taught to recognize that the same unit might be represented in more than one way. Units may be represented either way on the state assessments so students should be familiar with both representations.

**17. Will school districts receive data from the Spring 2007 MCT2 field test?**

School districts will not receive data from the Spring 2007 MCT2 field test. The purpose of the field test was to collect information about the test items for the purpose of constructing the Spring 2008 test forms. For the Spring 2007 field test, students were given a sample of test items rather than a complete test.

**18. When will the Student Progress Monitoring System (SPMS) be aligned to the newly revised framework?**

The plan is to have all the items in SPMS aligned to the revised curriculum frameworks by the end of August 2007.

**19. When will practice tests be available to school districts?**

Practice tests will be available in October or November 2007.

**20. Are practice tests available only to districts that use the SPMS?**

The practice tests will be available to all school districts via the MDE website. The practice tests will be available at <http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/ACAD/osa/practicetests>.

**21. Is MCT Coach a publication of the MDE?**

MCT Coach is not a publication of the MDE.

**22. When will the test blueprint be available?**

A draft test blueprint is available now. The test blueprint can be accessed at <http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/ACAD/osa/blueprints>.

**23. Will there be a Minimal performance level on the MCT2?**

Yes, the four proficiency levels will remain: Minimal, Basic, Proficient, and Advanced.

**24. The Performance Level Descriptor (PLD) document states that students need to master “all” objectives listed under a certain category (Proficient, Advanced, Basic) to fall into that category. Does that mean that a student has to answer every “proficient” question correctly on the test to be called “Proficient”? What will happen if a student answers all proficient questions correctly but missed a basic question?**

Teachers need to prepare students to have mastered all objectives listed in each level of the PLD document because the framework covers the year’s content for each grade level. However, just as we had with the MCT, we will have a range of scale score performance on the MCT2. Some students will score in the “low” Proficient range, while others will score in the “high” Proficient range. Not until the MCT2 Standard Setting Committees meet in June 2008 will we know how many questions students will have to answer correctly before they “reach” Proficient. Students will not have to answer “all” proficient questions correctly to reach the Proficient range. Student scores and thus their PLD category will be a result of their overall performance. There will be no condition that keeps a student from Proficient merely because the student answered a “basic” question incorrectly.

**25. Will the Depth of Knowledge (DOK) level of sample items be indicated on the practice tests?**

Information about the items on the practice tests, including DOK, will be provided in an accompanying scoring guide.

**26. Will Level 3 DOK test items weigh more than Level 1 and 2 DOK test items?**

The items on the state assessments are not weighted.

**27. Will state assessments have test items that are higher than the DOK level of the objective in the framework?**

The vast majority of test items will be written to the DOK level of the objective in the framework. The only test items that may be written to a higher DOK level than the DOK level of the objective are those test items written at the advanced level as indicated by the Performance Level Descriptors.

**28. Will there be any training on creating valid assessments that match the DOK level of the objectives?**

The curriculum framework [http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/Curriculum/index\\_1.htm](http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/Curriculum/index_1.htm), *Performance Level Descriptors* <http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/ACAD/osa/pld>, and *Test Item Specifications* <http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/ACAD/osa/itemspecs> all should be used together to guide the alignment of teacher-constructed assessments. A brief guide to the concept of alignment is available from the MDE at [http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/ACAD/osa/Brief\\_Guide\\_to\\_Test\\_Construction\\_1.pdf](http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/ACAD/osa/Brief_Guide_to_Test_Construction_1.pdf).

**29. How will teachers know if classroom assessments will accurately prepare students for the statewide assessments?**

Teachers have more guidance to assist them in preparing classroom assessments for mathematics that are aligned to the state assessments than ever. The *Test Item Specifications* <http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/ACAD/osa/itemspecs> provide information about the state assessments and at least one sample test item for every objective in the framework. The *Performance Level Descriptors* <http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/ACAD/osa/pld> also indicate the specific skills and knowledge that students need to acquire to demonstrate a proficient level of mastery as well as the difference between proficient mastery and basic or advanced performance. In the late fall, the MDE will provide practice tests based on the test items field tested in Spring 2007. Teachers will be able to develop aligned classroom assessments only if they carefully study each of these documents and the curriculum frameworks.

**30. Can the MDE suggest sample assessments for each objective?**

Test item specifications are available on the website at <http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/ACAD/osa/itemspecs>. The purpose of the test item specifications is to provide illustrations of what items of different content and at different DOK levels look like. The example items do not provide a complete sampling of what students should know or be able to do.

**31. When will school districts receive the Curriculum Guides based on the Understanding by Design concept?**

A portion of the curriculum guide will be available in August 2007. The complete curriculum guides are scheduled to be available in October 2007.

