

# DRAFT

## PRESS RELEASE

Jackson, Mississippi  
Mississippi Department of Education

### Subject Area Testing Program

During the 2002-2003 school year the Mississippi Subject Area Testing Program (SATP) was administered to students in Algebra I, Biology I, U.S. History from 1877, and English II. This was the second year that results from the SATP counted as a graduation requirement for most of the students taking the test.

Each test yields a scale score in the range of 100-500. The passing score on each test is a scale score of 300. Another measure of student performance on the SATP is the percentage of students who pass each test.

The following results are for the Algebra I, Biology I, and U.S. History tests and for the reading/language (multiple choice) component of the English II test.

The average scale score for students taking each of the tests during the 2002-2003 school year was higher than it was for students taking the tests during 2001-2002. Algebra I scores increased from 335.9 to 339.5, Biology I scores from 347.4 to 350.8, U.S. History scores from 359.7 to 363.0 and scores on the English II reading/language test increased from 321.4 to 328.9.

The percentage of students passing the tests on the first attempt in 2002-2003 was higher than the percentage of students who passed the tests in 2001-2002. The percentage of students passing the Algebra I test increased from 79.0% to 81.5%; in Biology I, the percentage increased from 82.4% to 85.7%; in U.S. History, the percentage increased slightly from 93.7% to 94.2%, and the percentage passing the English II reading/language test increased from 69.2% to 77.4%.

The following results are for the English II Writing Assessment.

The average writing assessment score in 2002-2003 was 2.2 for both the narrative writing prompt and the informative writing prompt. The percentage of students passing both writing prompts on the first attempt increased from 83.9% in 2001-2002 to 91.7% in 2003-2003.

See attached tables.