

Vicksburg Warren School District
District of Innovation

Summary and Waivers Requested

The Vicksburg Warren School District's (VWSD) District of Innovation plan centers around equipping all students from Pre-K through 12th grade for college, career, and life. The plan includes innovation to ensure students meet the growing workforce development needs in Vicksburg, Warren County, and South-Central MS.

- Leadership skills taught in elementary school
- Career exploration embedded throughout elementary and middle school
- Career Academy Days that allow elementary students to participate in project days to become familiar with the high school Academies
- Student voice and choice to determine the Academy and Pathway they will attend
- CTE courses that provide the opportunity to earn certifications
- Experiential learning opportunities that include industry visits, job shadowing, internships, capstone projects, and opportunities to showcase digital portfolios

The VWSD Innovative Academy model will increase students' motivation by focusing on programs of study reflecting their interests and postsecondary goals and includes:

- **ACME:** The mission of the Architecture, Construction, Mechatronics, and Engineering Academy (ACME) is to provide all students with relevant and equitable opportunities to build community relationships with business partners in the fields of architecture, construction, mechatronics, and engineering.
- **CAB:** The mission of the Communications, Arts and Business Academy (CAB) is to develop a highly skilled workforce to meet the needs of the community. Equity will be promoted through collaboration with community partnerships, stakeholders, and business partners, to prepare students for the evolving workforce.
- **HHS:** The Health and Human Service Academy (HHS) will empower students to serve as community champions and provide excellent social service.

Plan Goals:

All goals set forth will be measured by baseline data from the 2021-2022 school year and updated for review annually. All projections are for 5 years, culminating in the 2026-2027 school year.

1. Increase the number of dual credit courses taken by high school students by 3% annually.
2. Improve average senior composite ACT scores from 16.2 to 18.
3. Increase and sustain the district's graduation rate from 88% to 90%.
4. Increase the number of cross-curricular PBL to 28% annually.
5. Increase the number of Graduation Endorsements obtained from 25.67% to 50%.
6. Increase the number of students scoring Silver, Gold and Platinum on the ACT WorkKeys by 10% each year (123 seniors to 198 seniors).
7. Increase the number of signed business partners by 200% by the 2026-2027 school year.
8. Increase the number of students taking advanced placement courses 55%.
9. Improve the rate of FAFSA completion for all seniors from 61% to 80%.

10. Broaden the number of nontraditional students by 3% each year enrolled in each Academy Pathway, to include females, males, and minority students.
11. Create a Pathway of Accelerated Learning (PAL) pilot program in upper elementary school(s) to develop the skills necessary to earn the Distinguished Academic Endorsement upon graduation.

Benchmarks for Goals:

Data will be collected from the student information system and compiled in a data dashboard.

Data will be reviewed by relevant stakeholders and Advisory Boards at regular intervals.

- Attendance
- Retention rates
- Dual Credit and Advanced Placement credits earned
- State Assessment data
- ACT and ACT WorkKeys
- Graduation rates
- College entrance and retention rates (where available)
- Industry certifications earned by students
- Grade Point Averages and Quality Point Averages
- Data on special populations, special education, gender, race, ethnicity, poverty, and other key subcategories within the VWSD to measure equity among programs, Pathways, and Academies

Process Standard	Need for Requested Waiver	Rationale for Waiver Request	MDE Decision
<p>Mississippi Code Title 37 § 37-13-67 - Length of school day 13.1 The teaching day must provide at least 330 minutes of instruction per day.</p>	<p>We request that students be relieved of seat time requirements to accommodate learning on the 5x5 bell schedule. This will allow students to earn more Carnegie units earlier in high school which creates room in their schedule for dual credit and AP courses and will also provide opportunities for CTE students to complete multiple programs. This schedule further supports our efforts to grow the workforce in Vicksburg and Warren County and prepare students for post-secondary college and career goals.</p>	<p>In order to accommodate the 5x5 bell schedule, the VWSD needs relief from the current 140 hour Carnegie unit requirement.</p>	<p>Recommend Approval</p>
<p>Mississippi Code Title 37 § 37-13-67 - Length of school day 13.2 The school district must ensure that during the academic school year a minimum of 140 hours of instruction is provided for each Carnegie unit of credit offered and 70 hours for each one-half (½) unit offered, except for remedial instructional programs, dual enrollment/dual credit, correspondence courses, MS Virtual Public School courses, and innovative programs authorized by the State Board of Education.</p>	<p>We request that students be relieved of seat time requirements to accommodate learning on the 5x5 bell schedule. This will allow students to earn more Carnegie units earlier in high school which creates room in their schedule for dual credit and AP courses and will also provide opportunities for CTE students to complete multiple programs. This schedule further supports our efforts to grow the workforce in Vicksburg and Warren County and prepare students for post-secondary college and career goals.</p>	<p>In order to accommodate the 5x5 bell schedule, the VWSD needs relief from the current 140 hour Carnegie unit requirement.</p>	<p>Recommend Approval</p>