





MESSAGE FROM THE

# State Superintendent of Education

Mississippi has so much to be proud of regarding the success of our public schools. We now have 87% of schools and 91% of districts earning a grade of C or higher. Results of the latest state assessments show student achievement has reached an all-time high in math, English Language Arts, science and U.S. history. More of our 3<sup>rd</sup> graders are passing the reading assessment on the first attempt, and the chronic absenteeism rate that had reached a record high is now falling. In addition to these accomplishments, districts are preparing more students to be educated and trained for future careers.

It takes the collective effort and hard work of teachers, administrators, parents, communities, policy makers and students to experience such progress. The Mississippi Department of Education is dedicated to overcoming obstacles that may impede those efforts and committed to implementing effective initiatives to see continued growth for students and educators alike.



Raymond Morgigno, Ph.D.  
Interim State Superintendent of Education





**Raymond Morgigno, Ph.D.** - Interim State Superintendent of Education

## Mississippi State Board of Education

The Mississippi State Board of Education's vision is to create a world-class educational system that gives students the knowledge and skills to be successful in college and the workforce, and to flourish as parents and citizens. The Board sets policies and standards that advance public education in Mississippi.

**Glen East, Chair**

Administrator Representative

**Wendi Barrett, Ph.D.**

Teacher Representative

**Bill Jacobs**

At-Large Representative

**Ronnie McGehee, Ph.D.**

At-Large Representative

**Matt Miller, Vice Chair**

Southern Supreme Court District  
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**Mike Pruitt**

At-Large Representative

**Mary Werner**

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**Charlie Frugé**

Senior Student Representative

**Kate Riddle**

Junior Student Representative

**Raymond Morgigno, Ph.D.**

Interim State Superintendent of Education

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**ONLINE REPORTS**

View financial and other statistical data at:  
[mdek12.org/superintendent2023](https://mdek12.org/superintendent2023).





# FACTS & FIGURES

## 2022-23

### Student Enrollment

Student Daily Membership  
**439,787**

Average Daily Attendance  
**392,408**

Average Expenditure/Student  
BASED ON ADA  
**\$14,159**

Long Slow Dist  
Lemon  
ENERGY Bar

NET WT 2.40 OZ (68g)

### Districts & Schools

School Districts  
NOT INCLUDING CHARTER SCHOOLS

**138**

Elementary & Middle Schools  
**633**

Combined Grades  
K-12 ATTENDANCE CENTERS  
& HIGH SCHOOLS WITH GRADES BELOW 9  
**38**

Traditional High Schools  
GRADES 9-12  
**154**

Charter Schools  
**8**



NET WT 2.40 OZ (68g)

### Teachers

Classroom Teachers  
**32,091**

Average Teacher Salary  
**\$53,354**

Extra Life LIME  
ENERGY Bar

NET WT 2.40 OZ (68g)

# Mississippi Succeeds

## MARATHON ACHIEVEMENT

When Mississippi students retained their 2019 historic gains on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) in 2022 despite the pandemic, researchers, journalists and policy and education leaders from around the country turned their attention – once again – to the Magnolia state. Many dubbed the state's success improving student achievement the "Mississippi Miracle."

**Mississippi educators consider the achievements more of a marathon rather than a miracle** because they know the state's progress in education stems from strong policies, effective implementation of statewide education reforms and years of hard work from students, teachers, families and education leaders.

Mississippi's marathon started a decade ago in 2013, when Mississippi 4<sup>th</sup> graders were reading more than one full grade level behind the national average on NAEP. **Quality Counts ranked education in the state 50<sup>th</sup> in the nation.**

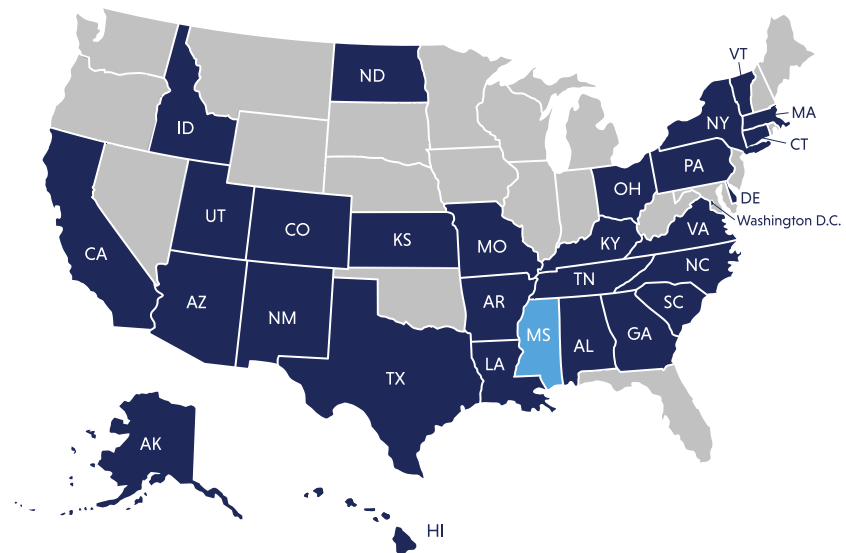
To change the trajectory of achievement, the Mississippi State Board of Education raised academic standards for all students, and lawmakers passed a slate of education reform laws to establish the first state-funded pre-K program, ensure students read proficiently by 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and assign annual A–F grades to schools and districts based on student performance.

The new laws, higher academic standards and a new State Board of Education Strategic Plan set the stage for Mississippi's endurance race to improve student outcomes.

Student achievement got off to a strong start and has gained momentum each year. By 2022, Mississippi's Quality Counts national ranking for education rose to 35<sup>th</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> graders scored higher than the nation's average for reading on NAEP, ranking 21<sup>st</sup> in the nation, and the state's overall grade for education improved from an F to C-, just shy of the nation's grade of C.

**Mississippi's decade of achievement has established its reputation as the nation's frontrunner for effective education policy and implementation.** The state now enjoys attention from researchers and think tanks and national headlines that applaud its achievements in education. The most valuable reward comes from all the states and cities that have turned to Mississippi to shape their own education policies. Thanks to Mississippi's leadership in education, students throughout the country are positioned to achieve greater academic success.

**29** States and jurisdictions have contacted Mississippi for literacy policy guidance and support





# All Eyes on Mississippi

*How Mississippi boosted its reading scores*

| **CBS NEWS** - Sept. 18, 2023

*America Has a Reading Problem. Mississippi Has a Solution.*

| **THE NEW YORK TIMES** - Sept. 1, 2023

*Guest opinion: Grace Christian: 'Mississippi miracle' could serve as reading proficiency model for Colorado*

| **DAILY CAMERA** - July 9, 2023

*How bad are reading skills for Fort Worth kids? Mississippi might be model to fix it | Opinion*

| **FORT WORTH STAR TELEGRAM** - July 5, 2023

*In teaching children to read, Mississippi puts Maryland to shame*

| **MARYLAND MATTERS** - June 26, 2023

*Mississippi Students Surged in Reading Over the Last Decade. Here's How Schools Got Them There*

| **EDUCATION WEEK** - June 19, 2023

*Mississippi Is Offering Lessons for America on Education*

| **THE NEW YORK TIMES** - June 1, 2023

*Tennessee looks to 'Mississippi miracle' as it grapples with stagnant reading scores*

| **YAHOO** - March 1, 2023

*The Mississippi reading model continues to shine*

| **THOMAS B. FORDHAM INSTITUTE** - Feb. 26, 2023

*Mississippi's dramatic fourth-grade reading gains are turning heads. Here's how New Mexico is — and isn't — following suit.*

| **ALBUQUERQUE JOURNAL** - Feb. 21, 2023

*EDITORIAL: How Mississippi improved Black reading scores*

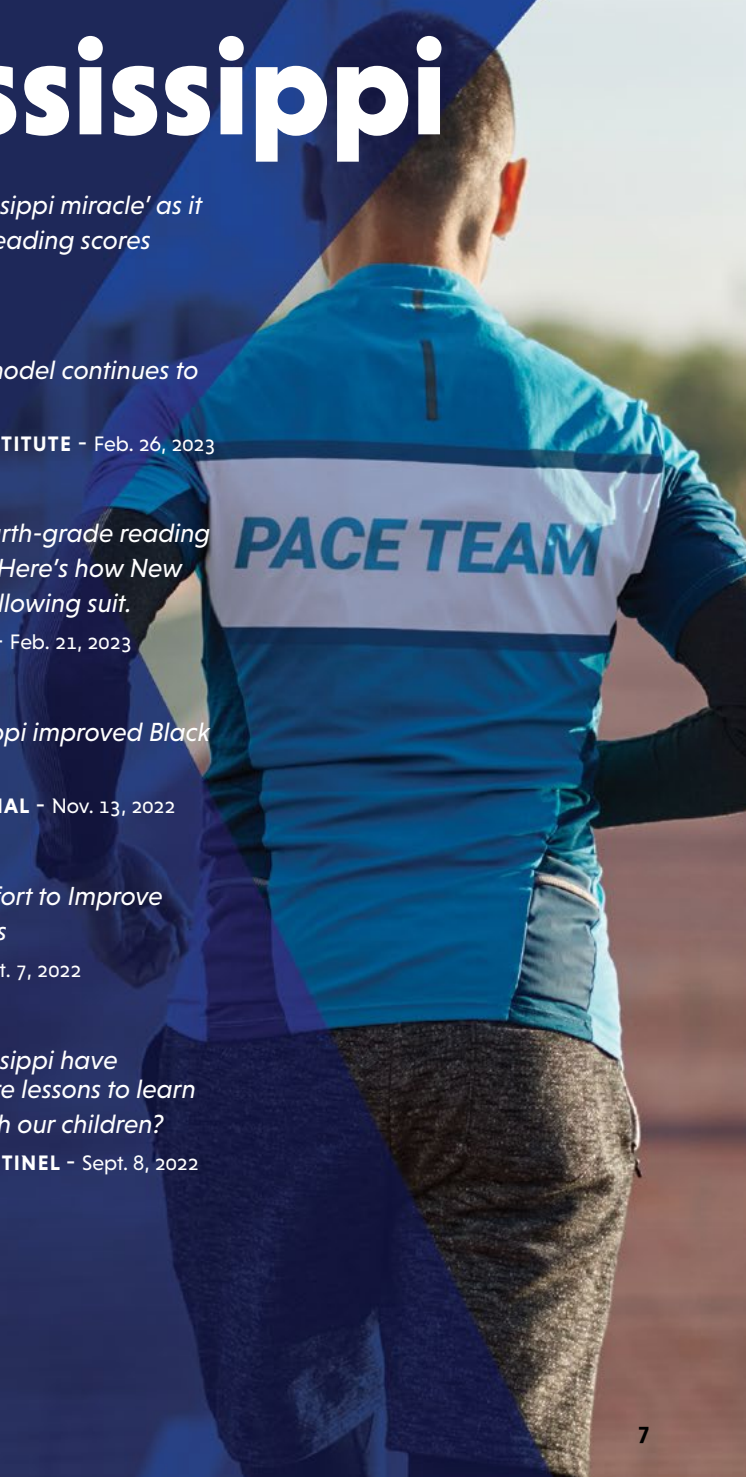
| **LAS VEGAS REVIEW JOURNAL** - Nov. 13, 2022

*In Mississippi, a Broad Effort to Improve Literacy Is Yielding Results*

| **THE NEW YORK TIMES** - Oct. 7, 2022

*Reading reforms in Mississippi have improved scores. Are there lessons to learn about how to better teach our children?*

| **MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL** - Sept. 8, 2022





# Strategic Plan

## MISSISSIPPI STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Mississippi State Board of Education Strategic Plan sets the roadmap for continually improving public education in Mississippi. The plan describes the objectives and strategies the Mississippi Department of Education employs to help local school districts achieve the Board's vision and goals. The Board's goals were created in 2014 and expanded in 2016.

### Strategic Plan Goals

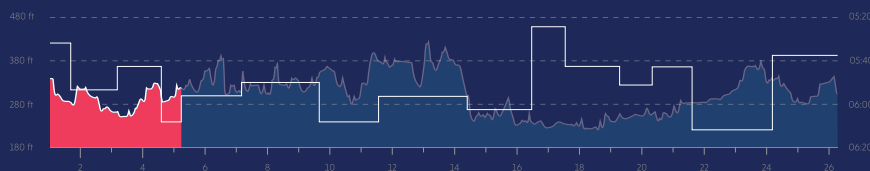
1. All Students Proficient and Showing Growth in All Assessed Areas
2. Every Student Graduates from High School and is Ready for College and Career
3. Every Child Has Access to a High-Quality Early Childhood Program
4. Every School Has Effective Teachers and Leaders
5. Every Community Effectively Uses a World-Class Data System to Improve Student Outcomes
6. Every School and District is Rated C or Higher

Read the complete Mississippi State Board of Education Strategic Plan:  
[mdek12.org/MBE](https://mdek12.org/MBE)



# Goal 1

## All Students Proficient and Showing Growth in All Assessed Areas



# Mississippi Academic Assessment Program

The statewide results from the 2022–23 Mississippi Academic Assessment Program (MAAP), showed **student achievement** hit an **all-time high**, with the percentage of students scoring proficient or advanced reaching 52.6% in mathematics, 46.7% in English Language Arts (ELA), 59.4% in science and 71.4% in U.S. History.

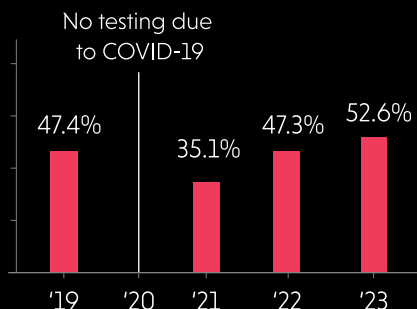
The 2022–23 assessment results showed student achievement resumed the pre-pandemic momentum from 2016 to 2019, during which the percentage of students scoring proficient and advanced increased 1.8% to 5.6% annually in ELA and mathematics.

Student achievement in Mississippi and nationally dropped in 2021 due to the pandemic. Mississippi students mostly rebounded by 2022 and continued to build upon their gains in 2023.

## Overall Percentage Students Scoring Proficient or Advanced Before & After the Pandemic

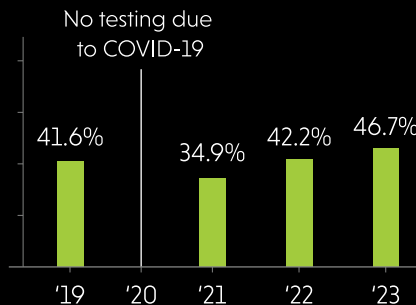
### Mathematics

**+5.2%** Change since 2019



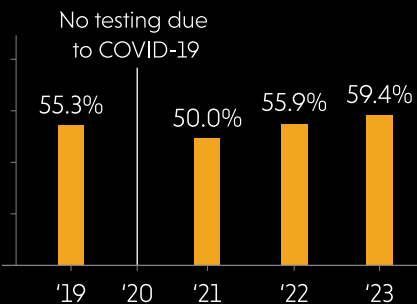
### English Language Arts

**+5.1%** Change since 2019



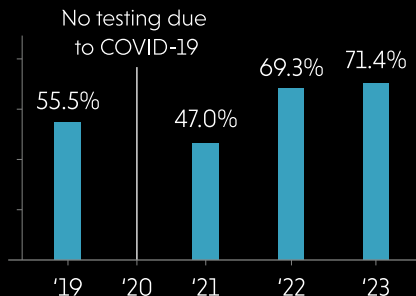
### Science

**+4.1%** Change since 2019



### U.S. HISTORY

**+24.4%\*** Change since 2021



\*New assessment implemented in 2021



## Grade-Level Percentage

Students Scoring Proficient or Advanced  
Before & After the Pandemic

### Mathematics

GRADE	2019	2023	CHANGE FROM 2019 TO 2023
Grade 3	51.4%	54.8%	+3.4%
Grade 4	48.8%	56.7%	+7.9%
Grade 5	38.9%	44.3%	+5.4%
Grade 6	47.6%	45.5%	-2.1%
Grade 7	51.1%	55.6%	+4.5%
Grade 8	44.8%	46.1%	+1.3%
Algebra I	49.3%	65.8%	+16.5%
Overall	47.4%	52.6%	+5.2%

### English Language Arts

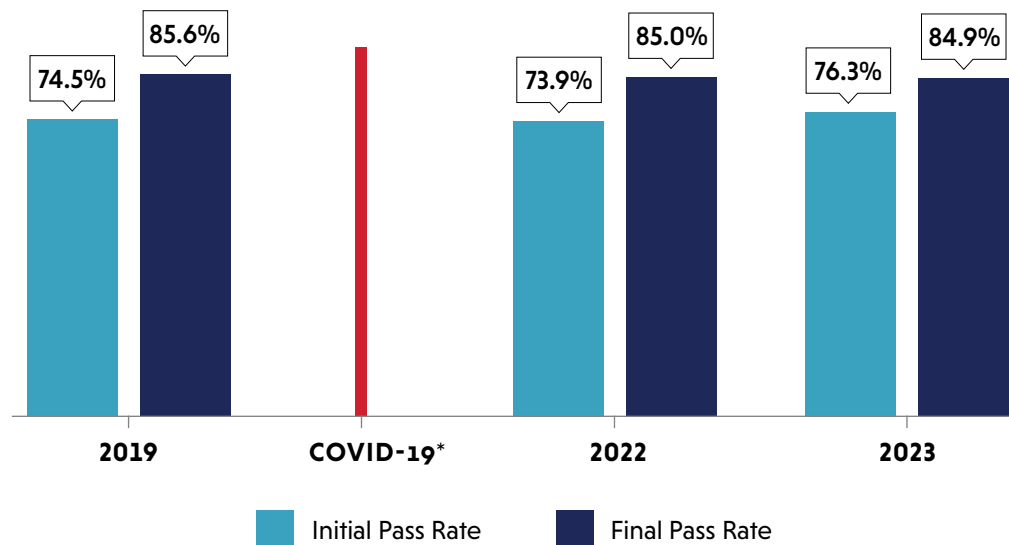
GRADE	2019	2023	CHANGE FROM 2019 TO 2023
Grade 3	48.3%	51.7%	+3.4%
Grade 4	48.5%	53.4%	+4.9%
Grade 5	43.1%	51.9%	+8.8%
Grade 6	33.6%	40.4%	+6.8%
Grade 7	39.0%	40.1%	+1.1%
Grade 8	35.5%	40.7%	+5.2%
English II	43.8%	50.1%	+6.3%
Overall	41.6%	46.7%	+5.1%

# 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Reading Achievement

**84.9% of 3<sup>rd</sup> graders passed the 3<sup>rd</sup>-grade reading assessment** after final retests for the 2022–23 school year.

The 2023 final pass rate is practically the same as the final pass rate in 2022 (85.0%) and 2019 (85.6%). Due to the pandemic, the assessment was canceled in 2020, and the passing requirement was waived in 2021.

Students are provided with three attempts to pass the test. Though the 2023 final pass rate was nearly identical to previous years, the **initial pass rate increased to an all-time high of 76.3%** since the passing score was raised in 2019.

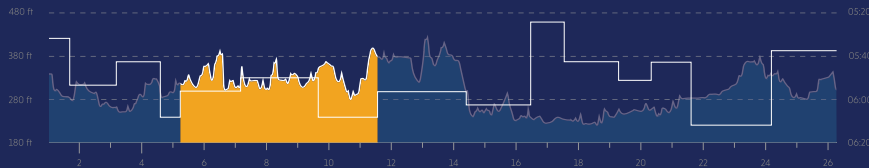


\*No tests administered in 2020; passing requirement waived in 2021.

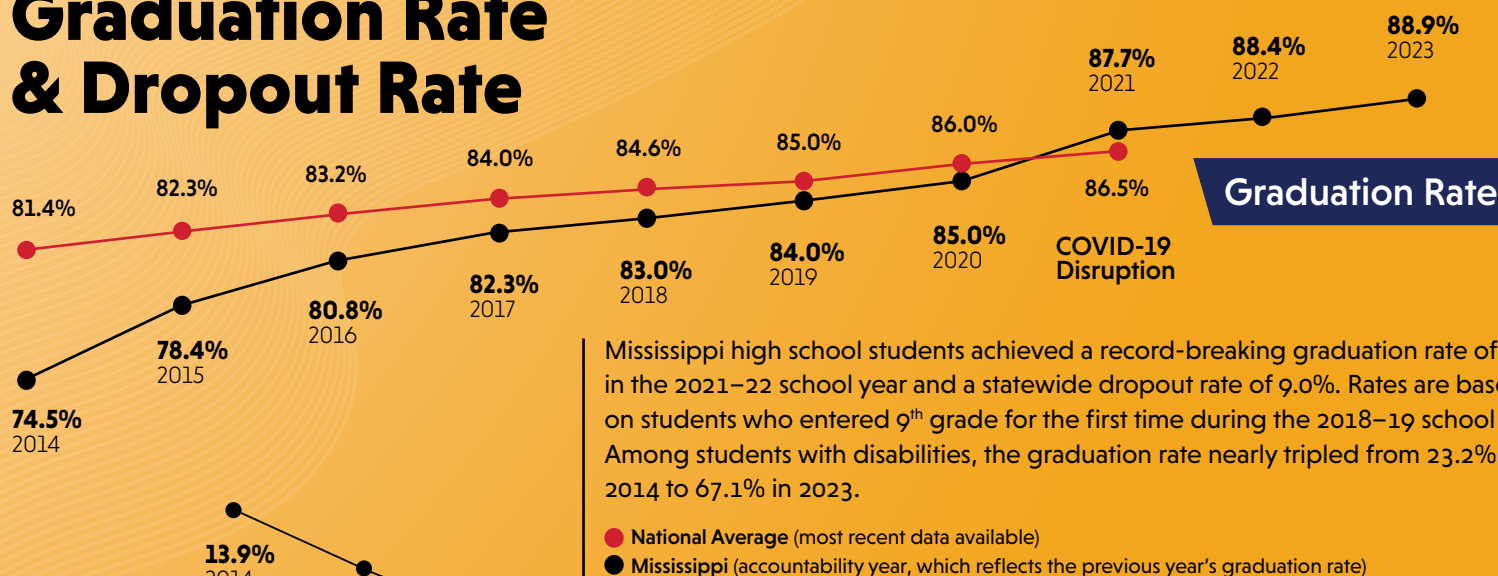


## Goal 2

# Every Student Graduates from High School and is Ready for College and Career

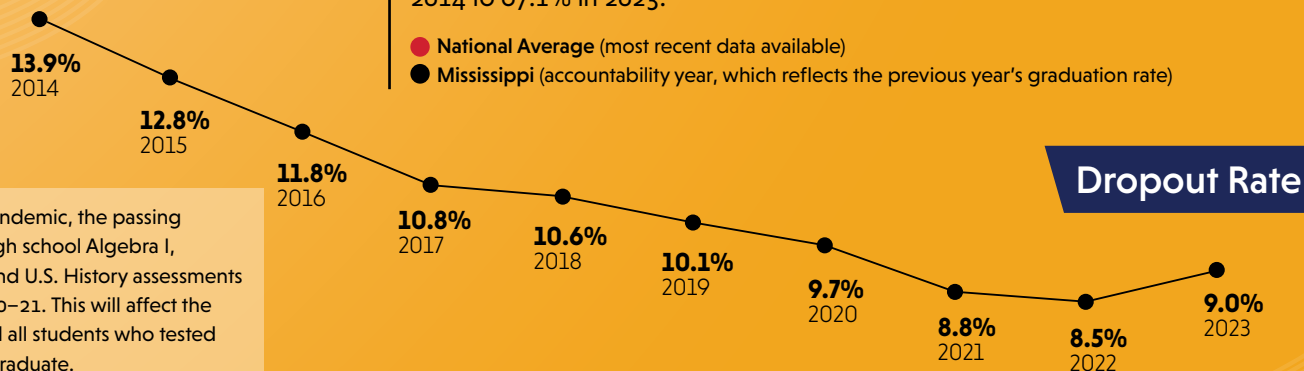


# Graduation Rate & Dropout Rate



Mississippi high school students achieved a record-breaking graduation rate of 88.9% in the 2021–22 school year and a statewide dropout rate of 9.0%. Rates are based on students who entered 9<sup>th</sup> grade for the first time during the 2018–19 school year. Among students with disabilities, the graduation rate nearly tripled from 23.2% in 2014 to 67.1% in 2023.

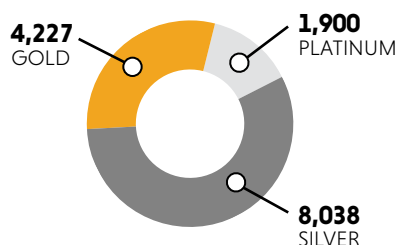
**Note:** Due to the pandemic, the passing requirements for high school Algebra I, English II, Biology and U.S. History assessments were waived in 2020–21. This will affect the graduation rate until all students who tested under the waivers graduate.



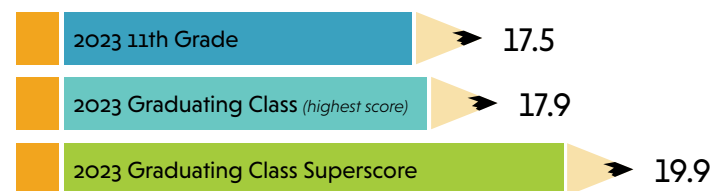
## ACT WorkKeys

The ACT WorkKeys assessments enable students to earn ACT National Career Readiness Certificates, which certify the essential skills needed for success in jobs across industries and occupations. ACT WorkKeys scores may also be used instead of ACT results in the state's accountability measure that evaluates how schools and districts prepare students for college and the workforce.

**14,165** Mississippi students earned ACT National Career Readiness Certificates in 2022–23



## ACT



The Mississippi Legislature provides funding for all public-school students to take the ACT in their junior year of high school. The test measures college readiness at a critical time in high school when there is still time to provide interventions to improve ACT performance. Mississippi is one of 16 states that administers the ACT statewide. The ACT now generates superscores for students who take the ACT more than once. The superscore includes the student's best scores from each of the four tested ACT subjects.



# 2 DAYS A MONTH

## Chronic Absenteeism

The pandemic increased chronic absenteeism, but the number of students who were chronically absent fell from 128,275 (28%) in 2021–22 to 108,310 (23.9%) in 2022–23.

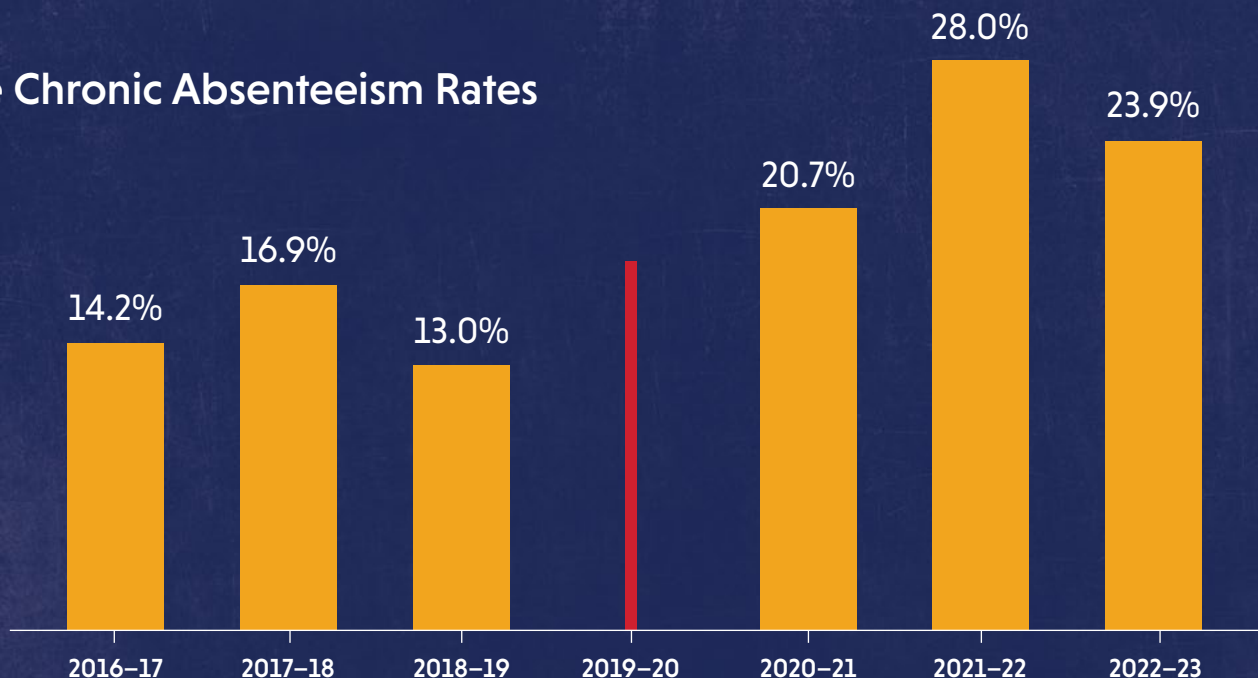
Chronic absenteeism is defined as missing 18 days (10%) of the school year for any reason, which includes excused and unexcused absences and suspensions. Chronic absence differs from Average Daily Attendance (ADA), which is the average number of enrolled students who attend school each day. A school's ADA can mask the number of students who are chronically absent.

The MDE launched an attendance awareness campaign in September 2023 called **Every School Day Counts - Attend to Achieve** to help combat chronic absenteeism in the state. The campaign highlights the benefits of regular school attendance and emphasizes ways to prevent students from being chronically absent.

View Resources: [mdek12.org/attend](https://mdek12.org/attend)

That's all it takes to be **CHRONICALLY ABSENT**

### State Chronic Absenteeism Rates



Note: School Year 2019–20 was the year of the COVID-19 pandemic. Attendance was not recorded in the same manner as in the other school years.

# Advanced Coursework

## Advanced Placement

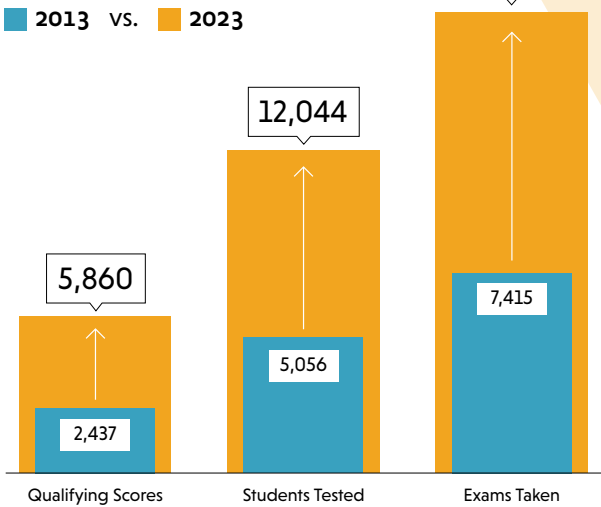
In 2023, the number of Mississippi students taking Advanced Placement (AP) exams reached a record high of 12,044 public-school students taking 16,983 AP exams, with a record high of 5,860 exams earning a qualifying score.

Compared to 2022, the numbers mark a 14.3% increase of students taking AP exams, a 14.8% increase of tests taken and a 5.1% increase of exams with a qualifying score of three or higher. **Hispanic and African-American students achieved the greatest AP gains** with the number of Hispanic students earning a qualifying score increasing by 11.5 %, and the number of African-American students achieving a qualifying score increasing by 15.6%.

The **pass rate on AP exams** among all Mississippi students has increased from 32.9% in 2013 to **34.5% in 2023**.

### ADVANCED PLACEMENT

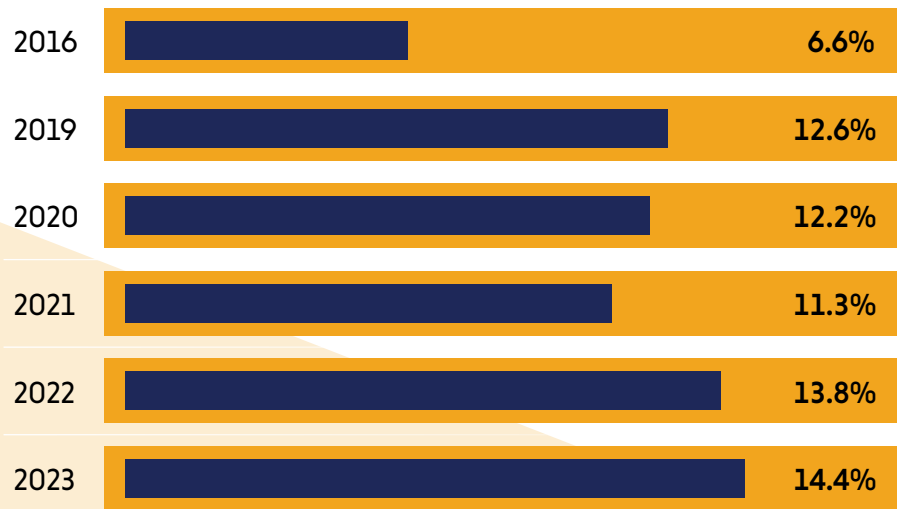
Participation and Achievement more than doubled in 2023.



## Dual Credit & Dual Enrollment

Dual credit and dual enrollment courses enable students to take college courses while in high school and receive both high school and college credit. The percentage of students participating in dual credit courses **more than doubled from 6.6% in 2016 to 14.4% in 2023**. In 2023, 94.7% of students passed their courses and earned college credit.

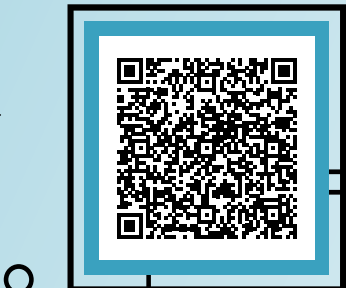
### Dual Credit Enrollment



# Computer Science

The Mississippi Computer Science and Cyber Education Equality Act of 2021 supports MDE's Computer Science for Mississippi initiative, which began in 2016 to expand computer science in schools with the goal of implementing a continuous K-12 computer science program for all Mississippi public schools by 2024. The law requires computer science programming to be in place in all schools by 2025.

See a complete list of K-12 computer sciences courses.



Elementary  
**111 Courses**

COMPUTER SCIENCE  
COURSES TAUGHT  
IN 2022-23

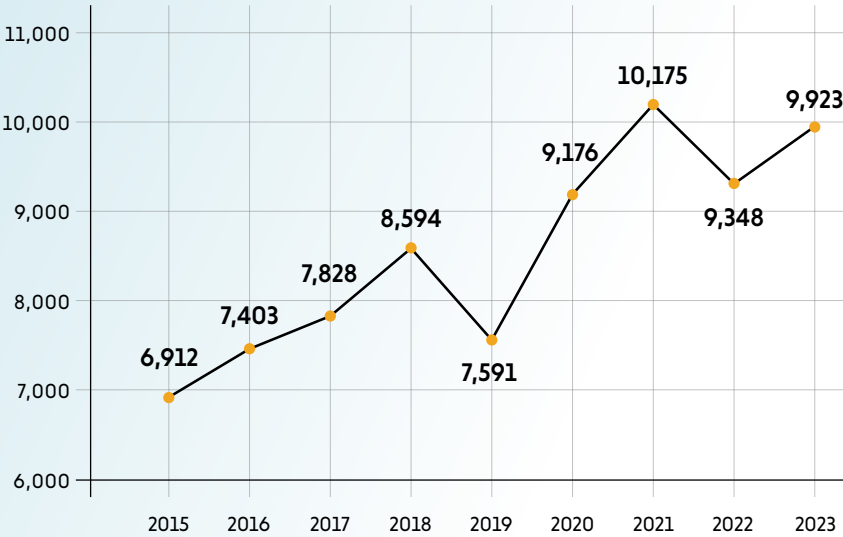
Middle and  
High School  
**1,507 courses**

# Career & Technical Education

Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses help students develop marketable skills and earn national industry certifications needed to achieve their occupational goals. Students who take at least two CTE courses in the same field of study are CTE concentrators. First-year enrollment in CTE courses declined in 2020-21 due to the pandemic, which caused the total number of 2021-22 concentrators to decline. In 2022-23, the number of concentrators surpassed pre-pandemic numbers.

CTE completers had the state's **highest average graduation rate of 99.5%** for the 2022-23 accountability year.

CTE Concentrators

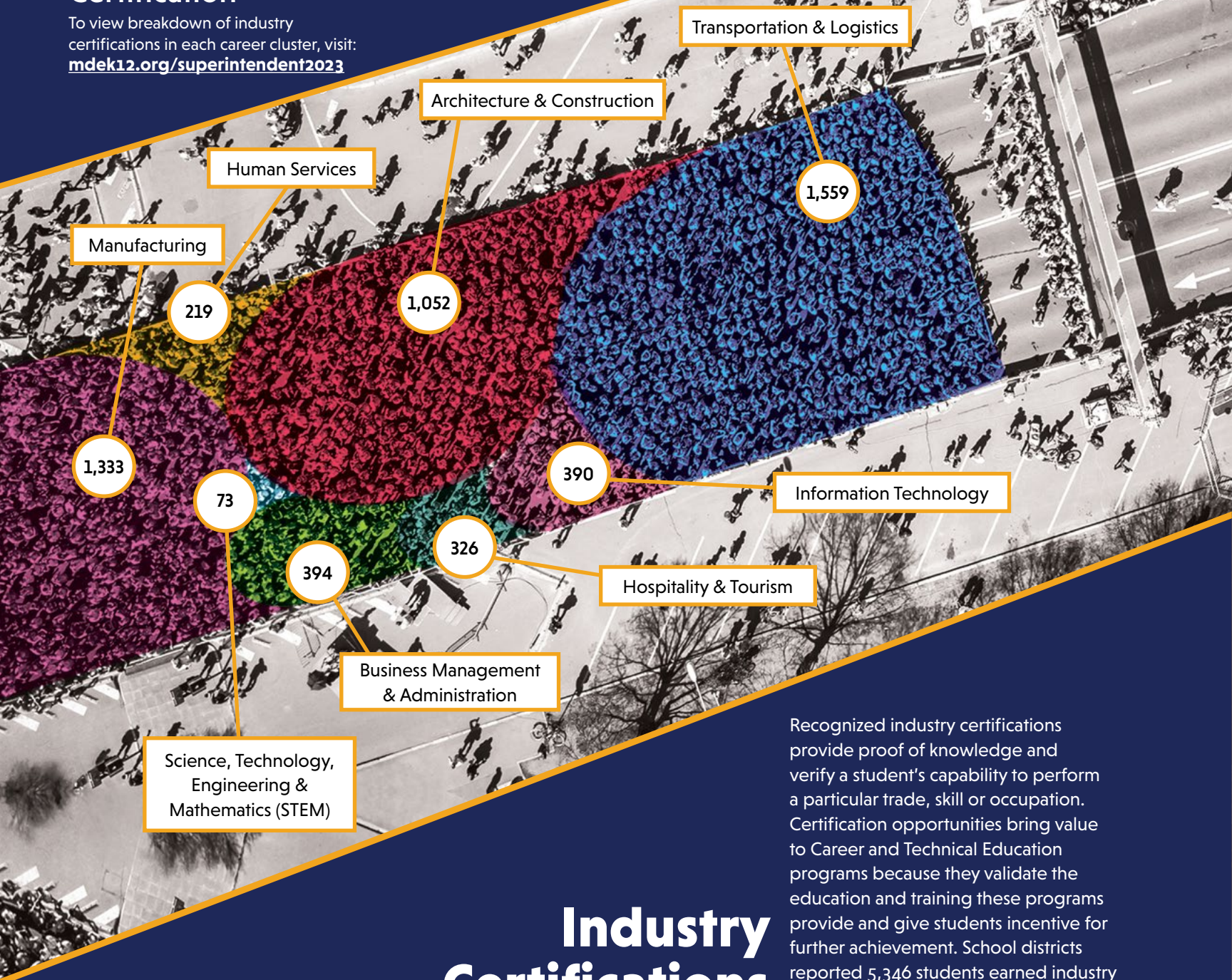




# Career Cluster

## 5,346 Students Earned an Industry Certification

To view breakdown of industry certifications in each career cluster, visit:  
[mdek12.org/superintendent2023](https://mdek12.org/superintendent2023)



Recognized industry certifications provide proof of knowledge and verify a student's capability to perform a particular trade, skill or occupation. Certification opportunities bring value to Career and Technical Education programs because they validate the education and training these programs provide and give students incentive for further achievement. School districts reported 5,346 students earned industry certifications in 2022–23.

# Industry Certifications

# Innovative Programs

## Mississippi Career Academies

MDE partnered with the National Career Academy Coalition to help districts build the career academy model in their high schools. Supports include professional development, academy coaches, on-site study visits, virtual counseling and master scheduling.

Career academies are small schools within existing high schools in which students can learn academic subjects through the lens of a career in which they may be interested. In partnership with local employers, teachers develop real-world projects to help students develop the attitudes and transferable skills to be successful in college, career and life. Districts engage with their communities to align academies to the workforce and economic development needs of a region.

The career academy model helps districts see growth in ACT scores, student achievement, attendance rates and student engagement. Nearly one quarter of Mississippi districts are exploring, planning, or implementing the career academy model, and approximately 40 high schools operate career academies.

Model academies have undergone a review process by the National Career Academy Coalition and exemplify the career academy research-based best practices. Academies in review are attempting certification and those in the baseline analysis phase are assessing their progress toward a career academy.

## Model Academies as of 2022–23

### Madison County Schools

- Germantown High School (Healthcare)
- Madison Central High School (Engineering)
- Velma Jackson High School (Digital Media)

## Academies Under Review in 2023–24

- Madison County Schools - Ridgeland High School
- Vicksburg-Warren School District - Warren Central High School

## Districts with High Schools in Baseline Analysis Phase in 2023–24

- Meridian Public School District
- North Bolivar Consolidated School District
- Starkville-Oktibbeha Consolidated School District
- Hinds County School District
- Jackson Public Schools
- Vicksburg-Warren School District



# Early College High Schools

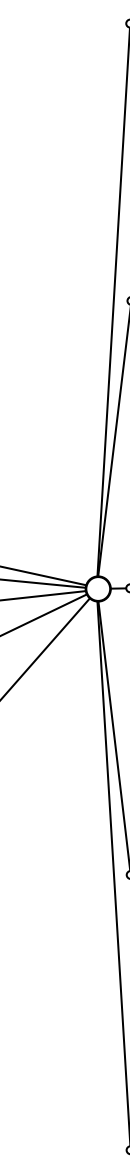
Early college high schools are small schools located on a partnering college campus that serve as a bridge from secondary to post-secondary education for students who traditionally might not have the highest expectation of continuing their education after high school.

Underrepresented students who participate in early college high school see many benefits, including:

- Successful completion of high school
- College credits earned, potentially resulting in an associate degree
- Enrollment in college directly after high school





	<b>SCHOOL/DISTRICT</b> Golden Triangle	<b>104</b> 2022–23 Enrollment	<b>244</b> Graduates to Date	<b>15,047</b> College Credits Earned to Date	<b>174</b> ASSOCIATE DEGREES <b>5</b> CAREER/TECH CERTIFICATES Associate Degrees Earned to Date
	<b>FOUNDED</b> — 2015 <b>HIGHER EDUCATION PARTNER</b> — East Mississippi Community College				
	<b>SCHOOL/DISTRICT</b> Natchez-Adams	<b>196</b> 2022–23 Enrollment	<b>196</b> Graduates to Date	<b>12,262</b> College Credits Earned to Date	<b>157</b> Associate Degrees Earned to Date
	<b>FOUNDED</b> — 2016 <b>HIGHER EDUCATION PARTNER</b> — Copiah-Lincoln Community College				
	<b>SCHOOL/DISTRICT</b> River City (Vicksburg-Warren)	<b>324</b> 2022–23 Enrollment	<b>324</b> Graduates to Date	<b>18,002</b> College Credits Earned to Date	<b>128</b> Associate Degrees Earned to Date
	<b>FOUNDED</b> — 2016 <b>HIGHER EDUCATION PARTNER</b> — Hinds Community College				
	<b>SCHOOL/DISTRICT</b> Jackson Public Schools	<b>129</b> 2022–23 Enrollment	<b>129</b> Graduates to Date	<b>6,496</b> College Credits Earned to Date	<b>43</b> Associate Degrees Earned to Date
	<b>FOUNDED</b> — 2018 <b>HIGHER EDUCATION PARTNER</b> — Tougaloo College				
	<b>SCHOOL/DISTRICT</b> Greenville Public	<b>71</b> 2022–23 Enrollment	<b>35</b> Graduates to Date	<b>450</b> College Credits Earned to Date	<b>N/A*</b> Associate Degrees Earned to Date
	<b>FOUNDED</b> — 2018 <b>HIGHER EDUCATION PARTNER</b> — Mississippi Valley State University				

\*Mississippi Valley State University does not offer an associate degree.

# Districts of Innovation

Districts of Innovation give districts flexibility in structure through exemptions from select regulatory areas to expand learning choices, enhance learning through innovative instruction, reduce achievement gaps and increase student engagement. Districts are selected for renewable five-year terms through an application process. Mississippi currently has 11 Districts of Innovation.

**DESIGNATED IN 2016**

Corinth School District  
Gulfport School District

**DESIGNATED IN 2017**

Booneville School District  
Grenada School District

**DESIGNATED IN 2018**

Hinds County School District

**DESIGNATED IN 2019**

Oxford School District

**DESIGNATED IN 2020**

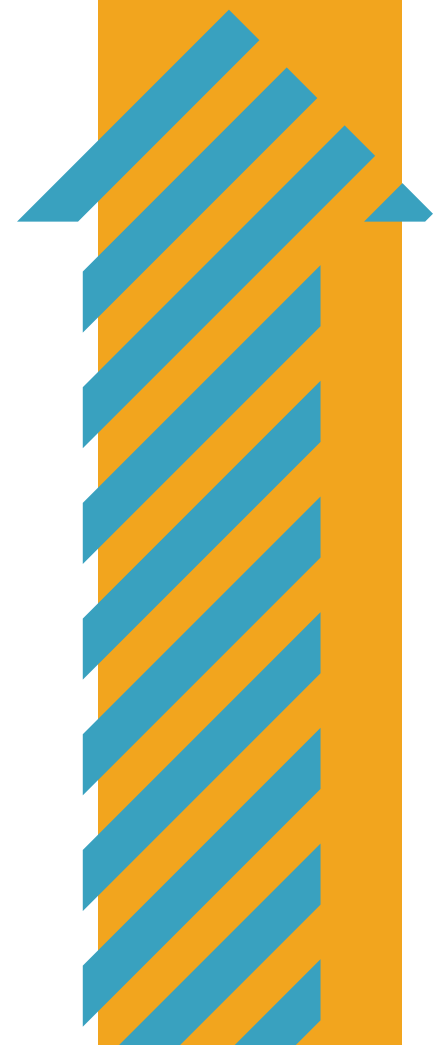
Rankin County School District  
Tupelo Public School District

**DESIGNATED IN 2021**

Pascagoula-Gautier School District  
Starkville-Oktibbeha Consolidated  
School District

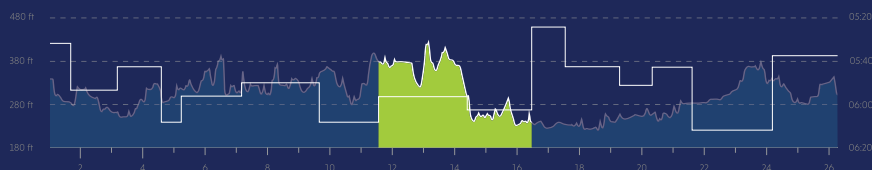
**DESIGNATED IN 2023**

Vicksburg-Warren School District



## Goal 3

# Every Child Has Access to a High-Quality Early Childhood Program

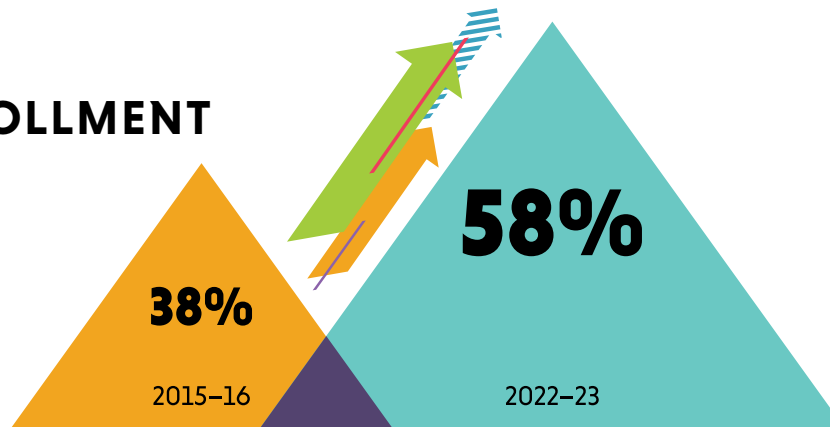




# Growth of Public Pre-K

Public pre-K in Mississippi includes local, state and federally funded programs. Thanks to an **increase in state funds allocated for pre-K**, the percentage of 4-year-olds enrolled in pre-K rose from 38% in 2015–16 to 58% in 2022–23.

## PRE-K ENROLLMENT 4-YEAR-OLDS



## Early Learning Collaboratives

Early Learning Collaboratives (ELC) provide high-quality pre-K to 4-year-olds through partnerships among school districts, Head Start agencies, childcare centers and non-profit organizations. Mississippi started building its first publicly funded early childhood education infrastructure in 2013 after the passage of the Early Learning Collaborative Act. The law initially provided \$3 million to establish 11 ELCs in underserved areas throughout the state. Based on their success, the Legislature increased funding in subsequent years. Appropriations for ELCs have steadily increased since 2014–15 to a cumulative total of \$102 million. More than 23,600 4-year-olds have attended an ELC since 2014–15. As of August 2023, there were 37 ELCs.

## State Invested Pre-K Programs

The Mississippi Legislature in 2022 appropriated \$20 million in new state funding to provide grants to public schools not participating in an ELC. The State Invested Pre-K (SIP) programs expanded MDE's offering of high-quality pre-K programs and have the capacity to serve 1,000 4-year-olds. Just like the ELCs, SIP programs meet all National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER) quality standards. Grants will fund classrooms in 20 districts through June 2025.



### ▼ 37 Early Learning Collaboratives (ELC)

Biloxi	Leland
Brookhaven	Long Beach
Clarke County	Lowndes County
Cleveland	Marion County
Coahoma County	McComb
Corinth-Alcorn-Prentiss	Monroe
George County	Noxubee County
Greenwood-Leflore	Pass Christian
Grenada	Petal
Hattiesburg	Picayune
Hollandale	Pontotoc
Holly Springs	Rankin County
Holmes County	Scott County
Jackson	Senatobia
Jefferson County	South Panola
Kosciusko	Starkville-Oktibbeha
Lamar County	Tallahatchie County
Lee County	Yazoo City
Lafayette-Oxford	

### ▼ 20 State-Invested Pre-K Programs (SIP)

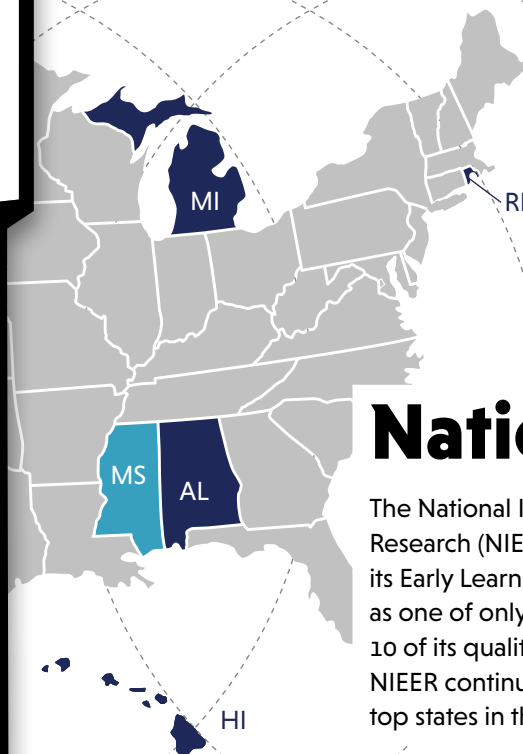
Bay St. Louis-Waveland	Philadelphia
Enterprise	Smith County
Humphreys County	South Tippah
Jefferson Davis County	SR 1 Charter School (Canton)*
Lauderdale County	Sunflower County
Midtown Public Charter School (Jackson)*	Tupelo
Natchez-Adams	Union City
Newton County	Union County
Newton Municipal	Vicksburg-Warren
North Bolivar	Wayne County

\*PENDING MEETING ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

# 1 OF ONLY 5 STATES

that meets all NIEER quality standards for pre-K

1. Use of early learning standards
2. Curriculum supports
3. Teacher degree
4. Teacher specialized training
5. Assistant teacher degree
6. Staff professional development
7. Maximum class size
8. Staff-child ratio
9. Screenings and referrals
10. Continuous quality improvement system



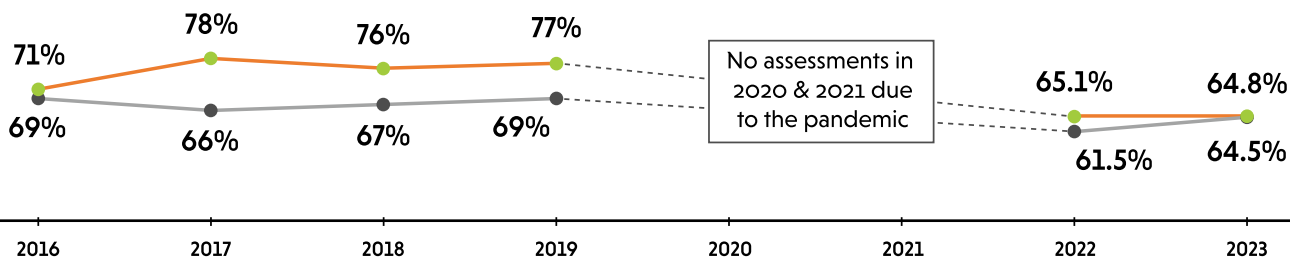
## National Model

The National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER) first recognized Mississippi for its Early Learning Collaborative program in 2015 as one of only a handful of states that meets all 10 of its quality standards. In subsequent years, NIEER continued to name Mississippi among the top states in the nation for quality pre-K.

## Early Learning Collaborative Growth & Support

### PRE-K STUDENTS MEETING KINDERGARTEN-READINESS SCORE

Early Learning Collaborative students historically outperform students in all other public pre-K programs.





# Funding and Enrollment

Mississippi's investment in Early Learning Collaboratives increased from \$3 million in 2013 to \$24 million in 2023. Individuals or corporations who donate to ELCS are eligible to receive a 1:1 state tax credit for the donated amount up to \$1 million.


SCHOOL YEAR	STATE FUNDING	STUDENTS	SITES	CALENDAR YEAR	1:1 TAX CREDIT
2013-14	\$3 million	—	—	—	—
2014-15	\$3 million	1,700	11	2014	\$276,850
2015-16	\$3 million	1,000	11	2015	\$812,686
2016-17	\$4 million	2,000	14	2016	\$1.6 million
2017-18	\$4 million	3,000	18	2017	\$2.7 million
2018-19	\$6.5 million	3,000	18	2018	\$3.8 million
2019-20	\$6.7 million	3,000	18	2019	\$3.3 million
2020-21	\$7.8 million	3,000	18	2020	\$5.6 million
2021-22	\$16 million	6,000	30	2021	\$3.9 million
2022-23	\$24 million	9,120	37	2022	\$5.2 million*

\*As of September 2023



## Mississippi Beginnings: Pre-K

MDE is continuing to pilot an open-source curriculum for 4-year-old pre-K classrooms, including public, private, childcare, home care and Head Start. The Mississippi Beginnings: Pre-K curriculum is intended to support any pre-K teacher in providing rich, play-based, developmentally appropriate instructions: [mdek12.org/EC/Mississippi-Beginnings-Curriculum](https://mdek12.org/EC/Mississippi-Beginnings-Curriculum).

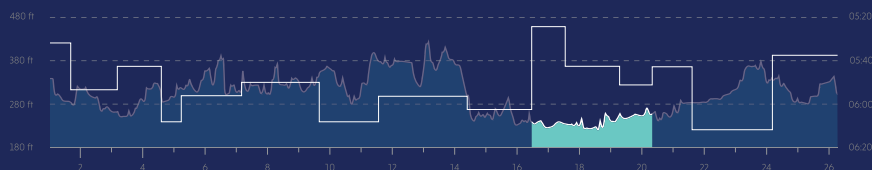
The background of the page is a vibrant collage of geometric shapes and water bottles. Large, colorful arrows in shades of blue, orange, green, and purple point upwards. Interspersed among these are numerous water bottles in various colors (blue, green, orange, purple) and orientations. The overall theme suggests growth, progress, and hydration.

# ↑ 320%

MDE's **coaching staff** has expanded from 29 literacy coaches in 2013–14 to a team of 122 coaches supporting teachers and school leaders in the areas of early childhood education, literacy, special education, mathematics, digital learning and school improvement.

## Goal 4

# Every School Has Effective Teachers and Leaders





# Coaching

MDE's coaching model has been an effective method of improving student achievement.

## MDE coaches:

- Build educators' instructional capacity across the curriculum
- Promote school-wide culture for learning that includes all stakeholders
- Enhance and refine instruction and interventions
- Target instructional coaching using the gradual release model

### EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

10 Coaches

322 Classrooms served

### DIGITAL LEARNING

25 Coaches

42 Districts served

69 Schools served

### LITERACY & SPECIAL EDUCATION

53 Coaches

60 Districts served

103 Schools served

### MATHEMATICS

28 Coaches & Coordinators

41 Districts served

81 Schools served

### SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

6 Coaches

18 Districts served

32 Schools served

### Early Childhood Education

- 1,129 coaching sessions for 313 teachers
- 72 professional learning sessions for 1,891 participants
- 445 participants completed Specialized Summer Training Boot Camps in 2022 and 2023

### Mathematics

- 1,887 coaching hours provided to 193 teachers
- 442 teacher observations
- 519 pre- and post-observational conferences
- 316 administrator debriefing sessions
- 256 model lessons
- 224 co-teaching lessons
- 279 co-planning sessions
- 186 hours of district learning walks
- 41 professional development sessions provided to schools without a math coach

### Literacy

- 3,489 model lessons to literacy support schools
- 2,081 co-teaching lessons
- 1,606 professional learning sessions
- 1,805 educators and school leaders participated in AIM Institute of Research and Learning – Pathways to Proficient or Pathways to Literacy Leadership training
- 1,627 parents and guardians attended school-based and state-hosted Families as Partners Literacy Nights
- 600 educators attended 45 sessions during Mississippi Literacy Association Conference

### School Improvement

Six school improvement coaches supported 32 principals and 16 school improvement facilitators in 18 districts. Each coaching engagement includes classroom observations and a support debrief with the principal. In addition, school improvement staff provided support to district teams in the state's five lowest-performing districts.

- 262 coaching sessions and administrator debriefs
- 648 coaching hours



# Digital Learning

## Digital Learning Support Schools

25 Digital Learning Coaches provided weekly coaching supports to 387 cohort teachers at 69 support schools:

- 9,871 coaching hours
- 5,709 teacher conferences
- 2,042 teacher observations
- 1,744 model lessons for technology integration
- 1,570 co-planning sessions
- 300 co-teaching lessons

## Digital Learning Professional Development

The Digital Learning Coach team provided 540 professional development and professional learning community sessions to 4,520 teachers on the following digital learning components:

- Digital Citizenship
- Standards-Aligned Content and Tools
- Active Learning and Engagement
- Formative Assessment and Feedback
- Accessibility

## Digital Teacher Academy

- 197 teachers participated in a year-long training academy earning 369 digital learning platform certifications in digital tools including Google, Apple, Microsoft Adobe, Book Creator, Nearpod, Peardeck, Screencastify, Seesaw, Kami, Flip and Newsela, among others.



### GO DEEPER

Hear stories about the impact of digital learning coaches

# Professional Development

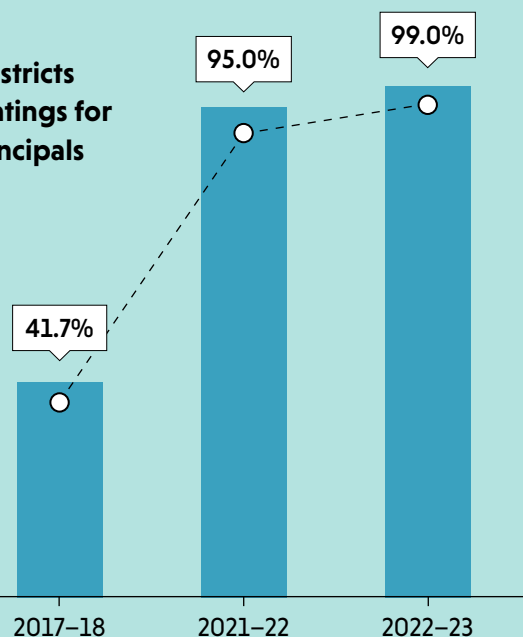
Building the capacity of educators is a major part of MDE's strategy to improve student achievement. MDE's professional development team offers in-person and virtual training, online Canvas courses and self-directed professional development in the areas of mathematics, English Language Arts, science and special education topics.

**11,888 EDUCATORS** took part in 586 trainings  
**85 DISTRICTS** requested & received professional development services  
**686 EDUCATORS** completed 31 Canvas courses  
**18,367 VIEWS** of on-demand training videos

# Mississippi Educator and Administrator Professional Growth System

The Professional Growth System (PGS) measures educator and administrator effectiveness statewide. Through the PGS, coaching and professional learning opportunities are offered to administrators and educators based on evidence-based observations of their practice. School districts submit PGS data annually to assess employee performance. Submissions for 2022-23 reached an all-time high of 99% as a result of expanded training opportunities in partnership with Mississippi Regional Education Service Agencies.

Percentage of districts reporting PGS ratings for teachers and principals



## Mississippi Educator Career Continuum Archive (MECCA)

MECCA is the new educator workforce information system that manages licensure and other information about the careers of Mississippi educators from recruitment to retirement. It includes an Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system that provides callers with faster access to the status of their licensure application. Along with the IVR system, MDE's expanded 15-member **Licensure Call Center** staff decreased phone call hold times from an average of 30-minutes to 60 seconds.

Since its launch in January 2023, MECCA has served more than 44,000 registered users, with **staff reviewing 26,481 licensure applications**, and the system **automatically processing 6,314 licenses**.

MECCA will be fully implemented in 2024 with four functions:

1. Educator Preparation, Licensure, and Misconduct Evaluations (currently live)
2. Professional Growth System Observation and Development
3. Educator Talent
4. Accreditation



# Mississippi Teacher Residency and Performance-Based Licensure Programs

MDE launched the Mississippi Teacher Residency (MTR) and Performance-Based Licensure (PBL) programs with support from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation in 2019. MTR is a fully funded preparation program for candidates seeking a graduate degree in elementary and special education. PBL is a nationally unprecedented effort to study performance-based alternatives to current licensure testing requirements. MDE expanded MTR in 2021 by awarding more than \$9.8 million in federal pandemic relief funds to five Mississippi universities.

## Delta State University

- Clarksdale Municipal School District
- Cleveland School District
- Coffeeville School District
- Copiah County School District
- DeSoto County School District
- Forest Municipal School District
- Mississippi Achievement School District -Humphreys County Region
- Natchez-Adams School District
- North Panola School District
- Quitman County School District
- Quitman School District
- South Panola School District
- Sunflower County Consolidated School District\*
- Tate County School District
- Water Valley School District
- West Bolivar School District
- Winona-Montgomery Consolidated School District

## Jackson State University

- Canton Public School District
- Holmes County School District
- Jackson Public Schools
- Mississippi Achievement School District - Yazoo City Region
- Sunflower County Consolidated School District

## Mississippi State University

- Benton County School District
- Biloxi Public School District\*
- Choctaw County School District
- Jackson Public School District\*
- Kemper County School District
- Lauderdale County School District
- Louisville Municipal School District
- Meridian Public School District
- Noxubee County School District
- Starkville-Oktibbeha School District

## The University of Southern Mississippi

- Columbia School District
- Forrest County School District
- Hattiesburg Public School District
- Jackson County School District
- Jefferson Davis County School District
- Moss Point School District
- Pass Christian School District
- Perry County School District
- South Pike School District

## William Carey University

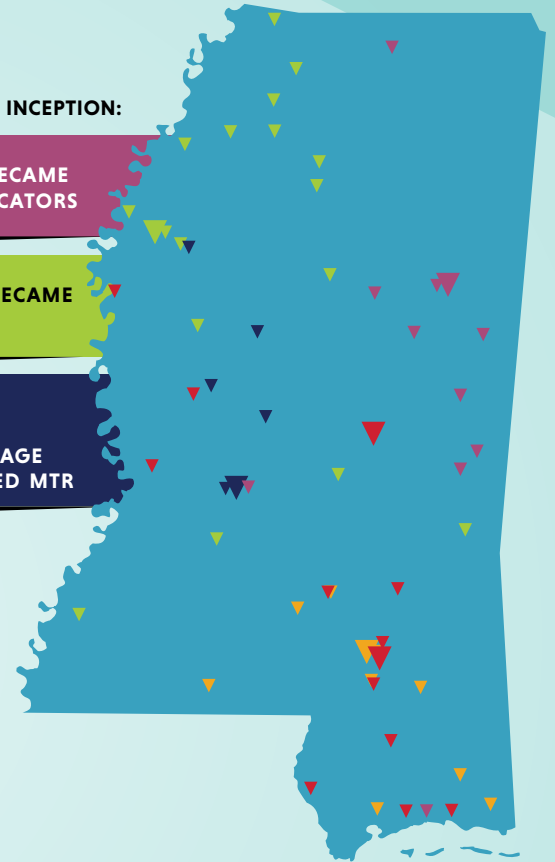
- Covington County School District
- Forrest County School District
- Greenville Public School District
- Gulfport School District\*
- Hattiesburg Public School District
- Laurel Public School District
- Ocean Springs School District\*
- Picayune School District
- Stone County School District
- Vicksburg-Warren School District
- Yazoo County School District

### SINCE EACH PROGRAM'S INCEPTION:

**164** CANDIDATES BECAME FULLY LICENSED EDUCATORS

**341** CANDIDATES BECAME RESIDENT TEACHERS

**43%** OF ALL GEOGRAPHICAL CRITICAL SHORTAGE DISTRICTS JOINED MTR



\*THESE PROGRAMS ARE FUNDED THROUGH THE KELLOGG FOUNDATION

# Teacher Retention Survey

MDE surveyed Mississippi teachers at the end of the 2022–23 school year about recruitment, onboarding, support, community involvement, school leadership and compensation. The results offer information for strengthening the educator workforce statewide.

## Key survey findings

- The quality of resources, instructional practices, learning environments, professional development and community support were consistent for teachers since the 2021–22 school year.
- School leaders are increasingly providing objective observations and feedback that improves teaching.
- Compensation is a consideration for teachers due to current economic demands.
- Educators primarily continue teaching because of their students.

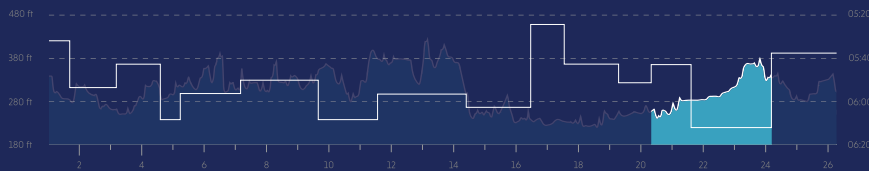
## MDE's strategies to address teacher retention and attrition include

- Increasing Mississippi Regional Education Service Agency administrator training partnerships.
- Creating a dedicated Office of Educator Continuum to support educators from recruitment to retirement.
- Hosting the Elevate Teachers Conference to celebrate, inspire, and empower Mississippi's teachers.



## Goal 5

# Every Community Effectively Uses a World-Class Data System to Improve Student Outcomes





# Mississippi Student Information System Modernization

MDE used \$12.7 million of its pandemic relief funds to modernize the Mississippi Student Information System (MSIS). Replacing the original MSIS created in 2000, the new system is set to launch in July 2024.

MSIS provides for the electronic collection, management and reporting of data about students, teachers, administrators, staff, school board members and finances. The modernized MSIS will simplify the submission process for a broad array of data from many different sources and increase the level of validation to ensure the data reflects what schools and districts use to make day-to-day decisions.

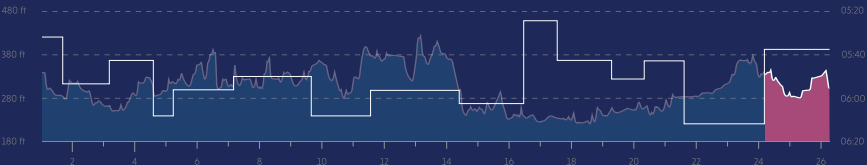
## Technology Support for School Districts

MDE launched Amplified for Education for school districts to help them create a more secure and engaging learning experience for students and to maximize their return on education technology investments. The comprehensive program supports district technical staff operating Google infrastructure by offering a detailed audit of a district's Google infrastructure and recommendations to enhance educational opportunities for teachers and students. The program includes formal Google training for district technical staff that leads to four levels of certification.

- 133 district personnel earned EDU Google Workspace administrator certifications via CDW Amplified for Education
- 87 districts completed Amplified for Education Audit; 26 more in progress

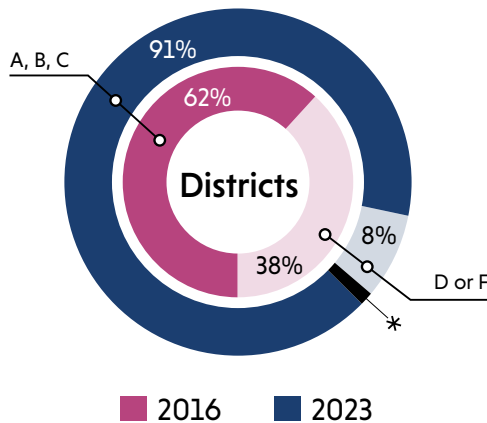
# Goal 6

Every School  
and District is  
Rated C or Higher

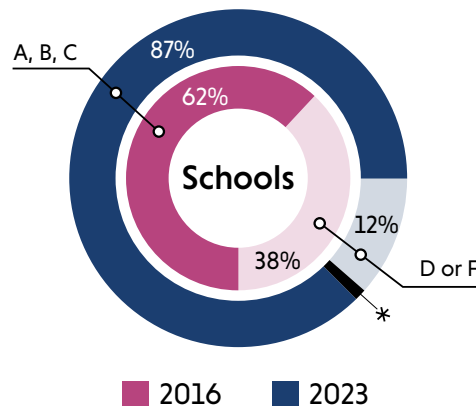


# 2022–23 School and District Grades

Mississippi school and district accountability A-F grades for 2022–23 showed **91% of districts** and **87% of schools** earned a grade of C or higher.



\*One district too new to be graded; 8 schools not graded due to invalidated assessments.



The grades are an improvement over 2021–22, when approximately 81% of schools and 87% of districts were rated C or higher. In 2016, when the Mississippi State Board of Education set a goal that all schools and districts be rated C or higher, the percentage of schools and districts meeting this goal were both 62%.

Accountability grades help teachers, school leaders, parents and communities know how well their local schools and districts are serving their students. The calculation of district and school grades relies heavily on the amount of progress students make in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics from one year to the next, particularly the lowest performing 25% of students.

## Districts under state leadership

School and district improvements in 2022–23 extend to school districts under state leadership because of poor academic performance or a state of emergency. These districts have made steady improvements since their state takeover:

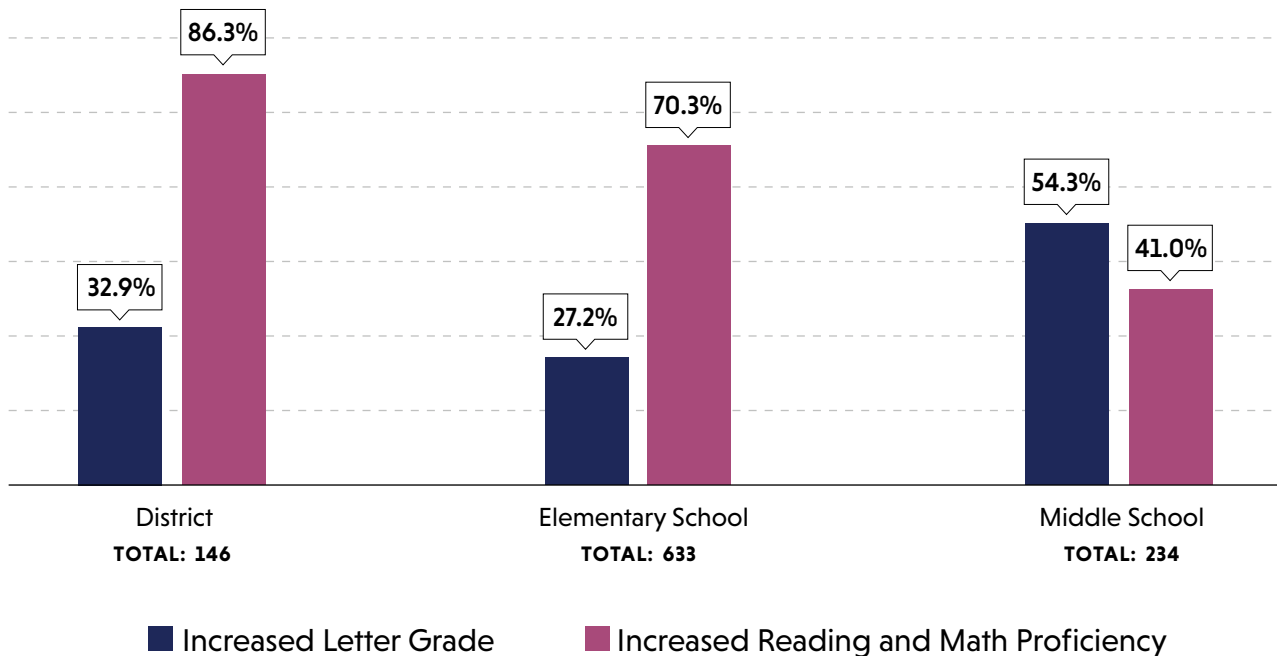
**Tunica County School District:** Maintained a B for the second consecutive year. The district first achieved a C in 2016, improving upon a four-year track record of D and F grades. The district will return to local control in January 2024.

**Noxubee County School District:** Achieved a C, improving upon its D rating in 2022 and emerging from its pattern of earning an F every year since 2016.

**Holmes County School District:** Maintained a C for the second consecutive year, improving from an F in 2019.

**Achievement School District (ASD):** The Humphreys County portion of the ASD improved its grade from an F to a D; the Yazoo City portion improved achievement but remained an F.

# 2022–23 Accountability Grade Highlights



## School Improvement Activity

The federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires each state to identify schools for support and improvement. Those schools are classified as Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI), Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI), and Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (ATSI).

### School improvement support included:

- 14 resource allocation review sessions with D- and F-rated districts with CSI schools to examine how funds are allocated to support schools
- Leadership coaching support for 32 CSI schools
- Annual school improvement conference for identified schools
- 38 professional learning engagements for identified schools addressing data, stakeholder engagement, fiscal and program monitoring, instructional leadership practices and school improvement requirements
- \$15,598,093 in federal Title I school improvement funds awarded to support interventions



# 2022–23 Statewide Highlights

1. 61 Schools Earn Military Star School Designation
2. Mississippi Receives 2023 Frank Newman Award for State Innovation
3. School Districts Participate in the Mississippi Seal of Biliteracy Program
4. Three Mississippi Schools Named 2023 National Blue Ribbon Schools
5. National Report Recognizes Mississippi as One of Top Two States for Teacher Preparation in the Science of Reading
6. Investments to Accelerate Learning
7. Mississippi's Marathon of Achievement - Report Card





# 61 Schools Earn Military Star School Designation

MDE named 61 schools the state's first Military Star Schools in 2022–23. This designation recognizes schools that have made a significant commitment to supporting military families and children of service members. Gov. Tate Reeves established the Military Star School program in February 2022 through Executive Order 1561, making Mississippi one of 31 states with a formal program to recognize schools that support military families.

Military Star Schools must meet requirements that address the unique needs of military students and families. These include appointing a dedicated school liaison for military families, providing student-led transition services and peer support, ensuring professional development for staff to respond to the needs of military students and families, and publicly recognizing service members and their families.

## Military Star Schools:

### ABERDEEN SCHOOL DISTRICT

- Aberdeen High School
- Belle-Shivers Middle School

### BILOXI PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

- Back Bay Elementary School
- Biloxi High School
- Biloxi Junior High School
- Biloxi Upper Elementary School
- Gorenflo Elementary School
- Nichols Elementary School
- North Bay Elementary School
- Popp's Ferry Elementary School

### GULFPORT SCHOOL DISTRICT

- Anniston Avenue Elementary School
- Bayou View Elementary School
- Gulfport High School
- Pass Road Elementary School

### HARRISON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

- Harrison County Career and Technical Center

### HERITAGE ACADEMY (PRIVATE)

### JACKSON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

- Saint Martin East Elementary School
- Saint Martin Middle School
- Saint Martin North Elementary School
- Vancleave Lower Elementary School
- Vancleave Middle School
- Vancleave Upper Elementary School

### LAUDERDALE SCHOOL DISTRICT

- Northeast Elementary School
- Northeast High School
- West Lauderdale Elementary School
- West Lauderdale High School
- West Lauderdale Middle School

### LONG BEACH SCHOOL DISTRICT

- Harper McCaughan Elementary School
- Long Beach High School
- Long Beach Middle School
- Thomas L. Reeves Elementary School
- W.J. Quarles Elementary School

### LOWNDES COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

- Caledonia Elementary School
- Caledonia High School
- Caledonia Middle School

### NEWTON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

- Newton County High School

### RANKIN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

- Brandon Elementary School
- Brandon High School
- Brandon Middle School
- Florence Elementary School
- Florence High School
- Florence Middle School
- Flowood Elementary School
- Highland Bluff Elementary School
- McLaurin Elementary School
- McLaurin High School
- Northshore Elementary School
- Northwest Rankin Elementary School
- Northwest Rankin High School
- Northwest Rankin Middle School
- Oakdale Elementary School
- Pelahatchie Elementary School
- Pelahatchie High School
- Pisgah Elementary School
- Pisgah High School
- Richland Elementary School
- Richland High School
- Rouse Elementary School
- Steen's Creek Elementary School
- Stonebridge Elementary School

### UNION PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

- Union High School



# Mississippi Receives **2023 Frank Newman Award for State Innovation**

The Education Commission of the States awarded Mississippi the 2023 Frank Newman Award for State Innovation in recognition of the state's laudable improvements in academic achievement among K-12 students. The Frank Newman Award recognizes a state or territory that is enacting innovative education reforms or implementing programs that go beyond marginal or incremental changes to improve student outcomes on a large scale. Mississippi received the award in 2016 for having a transformational education reform package that prioritized early learning reading skills, expanded charter school opportunities and created a clear A through F rating system for schools, among other accomplishments.

NATIONAL REPORT RECOGNIZES MISSISSIPPI AS

## One of Top Two States for Teacher Preparation in the Science of Reading



The National Council on Teacher Quality (NCTQ) recognized Mississippi and Colorado as the top two states in 2023 for ensuring scientifically based reading instruction in their teacher preparation programs in the report, *Teacher Prep Review: Strengthening Elementary Reading Instruction*. The report provides the current information on how teacher preparation programs prepare aspiring teachers to teach children to read.

The NCTQ report credits Mississippi for enacting strong, comprehensive policies

to promote the science of reading, with focused implementation. This includes developing robust and specific teacher preparation standards and accountability, requiring a strong reading licensure test and offering supports for teacher preparation programs to make the transition to scientifically based reading preparation.

NCTQ examined nearly 700 teacher preparation programs across the country, looking for evidence that coursework for future elementary teachers includes all the core components of scientifically based reading instruction: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension. The analysis breaks down how future elementary teachers are prepared in each aspect of the science of reading through instructional hours, assigned readings, assignments and assessments, and opportunities to practice.



## **17** School Districts Participate in the **Mississippi Seal of Biliteracy Program**

The Mississippi Seal of Biliteracy program acknowledges students who achieve proficiency in one or more world languages and English by high school graduation, signifying their readiness for college, career, and global engagement. The Seal of Biliteracy encourages students to pursue biliteracy, honors the skills our students attain, and can be evidence of skills that are attractive to future employers and college admissions offices.



# Three Mississippi Schools Named 2023 National Blue Ribbon Schools

The U.S. Department of Education recognized three Mississippi schools among 353 schools across the nation as National Blue Ribbon Schools for 2023. The recognition is based on a school's overall academic performance or progress in closing achievement gaps among student subgroups.

National Blue Ribbon Schools serve as models of effective and innovative school practices for state and district educators and other schools throughout the nation. They are categorized into two groups. Exemplary Achievement Gap-Closing Schools are among their state's highest performing schools in closing achievement gaps between a school's student groups and all students. Exemplary High-Performing Schools are among their state's highest performing schools as measured by state assessments or nationally normed tests.

## Exemplary High-Performing Schools

**Lewisburg Elementary School**  
DeSoto County School District

**Laurel Magnet School of the Arts**  
Laurel School District

## Exemplary Achievement Gap-Closing School

**Caledonia High School**  
Lowndes County School District



**Pictured are (from left)** Molly Gates, teacher; Cynthia Dixon, principal; both of Lewisburg Elementary School; Sam Allison, superintendent Lowndes County School District; Murray Woody, assistant principal; Gregory Elliott, principal; both of Caledonia High School; Alan Burrow, MDE Executive Director of District and School Performance; Toy Watts, superintendent of Laurel School District; Kiana Pendleton, principal; and Heather Jones, principal; both of Laurel Magnet School of the Arts.



# Investments to Accelerate Learning

MDE has used millions of federal pandemic relief funds to provide districts with products and services to support student health and safety and to accelerate learning. Additional funds have been invested to support teacher preparation and licensure and develop a new statewide student information system. The American Rescue Plan and Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds will end in September 2024.

## ON-DEMAND TUTORING \$10.7 million

Tutorial services through PAPER provide students in grades 3-12 with online access to English Language Arts and mathematics tutors 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

## ONLINE LEARNING RESOURCES \$23 million

Digital subscriptions provide districts with supplemental digital subscriptions to online K-12 learning resources for English Language Arts, mathematics, science and social studies.

## COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS PLATFORM \$1.4 million

The MajorClarity computer platform manages grade 7-12 students' college and career readiness goals and automates their Individual Success Plans.

## TELEHEALTH \$17.6 million

The University of Mississippi Medical Center provides remote healthcare and healthcare provider access to students within K-12 schools.

## SAFETY \$14 million

The nSide web-based school safety platform enables districts to develop and implement stronger health and safety plans that protect students, teachers and staff.

## MISSISSIPPI TEACHER RESIDENCY \$9.8 million

The Mississippi Teacher Residency program provides funds to Delta State University, Jackson State University, Mississippi State University, University of Southern Mississippi and William Carey University for tuition and expenses for up to 200 individuals seeking a graduate degree in elementary and secondary education.

## LICENSURE CALL CENTER \$1.8 million

MDE contracted with a staffing agency to expand the Licensure Call Center staff from four to 15 to provide longer hours and additional customer service to assist prospective and current educators.

## EDUCATOR LICENSING SYSTEM \$5.1 million

The new Mississippi Educator Career Continuum Archive (MECCA) educator licensing system manages information about Mississippi educators from recruitment to retirement.

## MISSISSIPPI STUDENT INFORMATION SYSTEM \$12.7 million

The modernized Mississippi Student Information System (MSIS) will launch in July 2024 to provide the electronic collection, management and reporting of data about students, teachers, administrators, staff, school board members and finances.

## CAREER ACADEMIES \$2.4 million

MDE partnered with the National Career Academy Coalition to help districts build the Career Academy Model in high schools.

# Mississippi's Marathon of Achievement

The successes of Mississippi's academic achievement did not happen suddenly. For the past decade, MDE has committed to strategic and effective implementation of education policy, investments in quality professional development and support for educators, and cultivating the belief that our students can exceed expectations. Thanks to teachers, administrators, school staff, and parents for joining this marathon endeavor that has led to notable accomplishments with more to come.

QUALITY COUNTS GRADE  
OVERALL EDUCATION

**F C-**

2013 2023

QUALITY COUNTS K-12  
ACHIEVEMENT NATIONAL RANKING

**50<sup>th</sup> 35<sup>th</sup>**

2013 2023

QUALITY COUNTS SCHOOL  
FUNDING NATIONAL RANKING

**45<sup>th</sup> 37<sup>th</sup>**

2013 2023

NAEP 4TH GRADE  
READING NATIONAL RANKING

**50<sup>th</sup> 21<sup>st</sup>**

2013 2023

GRADUATION RATE

**75.5% 88.9%**

2013 2023





MISSISSIPPI  
DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION

Office of Communication and  
Government Relations

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