SUPERINTENDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT
Mississippi Succeeds

MARATHON
MISSISSIPPI MIRACLE
2022–23

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
MARATHON ACHIEVEMENT
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 3rd 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
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.

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Administrator Representative

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Teacher Representative

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

Raymond Morgigno, Ph.D. - Interim State Superintendent of Education
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ONLINE REPORTS
FACTS & FIGURES
2022-23

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

Student Enrollment

Student Daily Membership
439,787

Average Daily Attendance
392,408

Average Expenditure/Student
BASED ON ADA
$14,159

Teachers

Classroom Teachers
32,091

Average Teacher Salary
$53,354
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 4th graders were reading more than one full grade level behind the national average on NAEP. Quality Counts ranked education in the state 50th in the nation.

To change the trajectory of achievement, the Mississippi State Board of Education raised 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 35th, 4th graders scored higher than the nation’s average for reading on NAEP, ranking 21st 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.
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
| 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
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.
## Grade-Level Percentage
Students Scoring Proficient or Advanced Before & After the Pandemic

### Mathematics

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

### English Language Arts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GRADE</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2023</th>
<th>CHANGE FROM 2019 TO 2023</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grade 3</td>
<td>48.3%</td>
<td>51.7%</td>
<td>+3.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 4</td>
<td>48.5%</td>
<td>53.4%</td>
<td>+4.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 5</td>
<td>43.1%</td>
<td>51.9%</td>
<td>+8.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 6</td>
<td>33.6%</td>
<td>40.4%</td>
<td>+6.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 7</td>
<td>39.0%</td>
<td>40.1%</td>
<td>+1.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 8</td>
<td>35.5%</td>
<td>40.7%</td>
<td>+5.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English II</td>
<td>43.8%</td>
<td>50.1%</td>
<td>+6.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall</td>
<td>41.6%</td>
<td>46.7%</td>
<td>+5.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3rd Grade Reading Achievement

84.9% of 3rd graders passed the 3rd-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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Initial Pass Rate</th>
<th>Final Pass Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>74.5%</td>
<td>85.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COVID-19*</td>
<td>73.9%</td>
<td>85.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>76.3%</td>
<td>84.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*No tests administered in 2020; passing requirement waived in 2021.
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 9th 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.
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

That’s all it takes to be CHRONICALLY ABSENT

State Chronic Absenteeism Rates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Year</th>
<th>Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016–17</td>
<td>14.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017–18</td>
<td>16.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018–19</td>
<td>13.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019–20</td>
<td>20.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020–21</td>
<td>28.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021–22</td>
<td>23.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

Dual Credit Enrollment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>6.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>12.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>12.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>11.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>13.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2023</td>
<td>14.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.
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.

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.
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.
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-Oktibbee 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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SCHOOL/DISTRICT</th>
<th>2022–23 Enrollment</th>
<th>Graduates to Date</th>
<th>College Credits Earned to Date</th>
<th>Associate Degrees Earned to Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Golden Triangle</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>244</td>
<td>15,047</td>
<td>174</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natchez-Adams</td>
<td>196</td>
<td>196</td>
<td>12,262</td>
<td>157</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>River City</td>
<td>324</td>
<td>324</td>
<td>18,002</td>
<td>128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jackson Public</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>6,496</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greenville</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>450</td>
<td>N/A*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Enrollment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015–16</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2022–23</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

20 State-Invested Pre-K Programs (SIP)

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>ELC Pre-K</th>
<th>Other Public Pre-K</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>65.1%</td>
<td>61.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>64.8%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2023</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

No assessments in 2020 & 2021 due to the pandemic.
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SCHOOL YEAR</th>
<th>STATE FUNDING</th>
<th>STUDENTS</th>
<th>SITES</th>
<th>CALENDAR YEAR</th>
<th>1:1 TAX CREDIT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013-14</td>
<td>$3 million</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014-15</td>
<td>$3 million</td>
<td>1,700</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>2014</td>
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<td>37</td>
<td>2022</td>
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*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.
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.

**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

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**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

---

**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
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.

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

GO DEEPER

Hear stories about the impact of digital learning coaches

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.
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.

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

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
- Lee County School District
- Meridian Public School District
- Noxubee County School District
- Starkville-Oktibbeha 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

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

*These programs are funded through the Kellogg Foundation

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
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.

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.
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 Activity**

- **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
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.
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.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>ON-DEMAND TUTORING</th>
<th>SAFETY</th>
<th>EDUCATOR LICENSING SYSTEM</th>
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<td><strong>$10.7 million</strong></td>
<td><strong>$14 million</strong></td>
<td><strong>$5.1 million</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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.</td>
<td>The nSide web-based school safety platform enables districts to develop and implement stronger health and safety plans that protect students, teachers and staff.</td>
<td>The new Mississippi Educator Career Continuum Archive (MECCA) educator licensing system manages information about Mississippi educators from recruitment to retirement.</td>
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<tr>
<th>ONLINE LEARNING RESOURCES</th>
<th>MISSISSIPPI TEACHER RESIDENCY</th>
<th>MISSISSIPPI STUDENT INFORMATION SYSTEM</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>$23 million</strong></td>
<td><strong>$9.8 million</strong></td>
<td><strong>$12.7 million</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Digital subscriptions provide districts with supplemental digital subscriptions to online K-12 learning resources for English Language Arts, mathematics, science and social studies.</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>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.</td>
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<th>COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS PLATFORM</th>
<th>CAREER ACADEMIES</th>
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<td><strong>$2.4 million</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>The MajorClarity computer platform manages grade 7-12 students' college and career readiness goals and automates their Individual Success Plans.</td>
<td>MDE partnered with the National Career Academy Coalition to help districts build the Career Academy Model in high schools.</td>
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<tr>
<th>TELEHEALTH</th>
<th>LICENSURE CALL CENTER</th>
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<td><strong>$17.6 million</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1.8 million</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>The University of Mississippi Medical Center provides remote healthcare and healthcare provider access to students within K-12 schools.</td>
<td>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.</td>
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</table>
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.

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Graduation Rate

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<td>75.5%</td>
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