OFFICE OF DROPOUT PREVENTION

10. Approval to pilot Dashboards to Diplomas: Using Data for Student Success

Executive Summary

This new initiative will help districts to identify and support students in middle and high school who are at risk of disengaging from school. School districts will be able to identify students that have attendance, behavior, course performance and mobility problems that impede a student's ability to matriculate through the K-12 environment. Educators will have student-based indicators derived from the key factors proven by research necessary for school success.

Recommendation: Approval

Back-up material attached

Mississippi Department of Education

Lynn J. House, Ph.D., Interim State Superintendent of Education

Office of School Improvement, Oversight and Recovery

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Office of Dropout Prevention

Toni Y. Kersh • Education Bureau Director • Compulsory School Attendance Enforcement, Alternative Education & GED • 601-359-3178 • FAX: 601-576-3504

Dear Mississippi Education Leaders:

We are excited to announce the Dashboards to Diplomas: Using Data for Student Success pilot project. Sponsored by the Mississippi Department of Education, this new initiative will help districts to identify and support students in middle and high school who are at risk of disengaging from school. The Department has developed Early Warning Dashboards that will provide educators with student-based indicators derived from the key factors proven by research to be necessary for school success. We are looking for interested districts to take part in this exciting endeavor.

If you are interested in participating, we ask that you submit a letter of interest to the Mississippi Department of Education, Office of Dropout Prevention and Compulsory School Attendance Enforcement by August 26, 2013. The letter of interest must include:
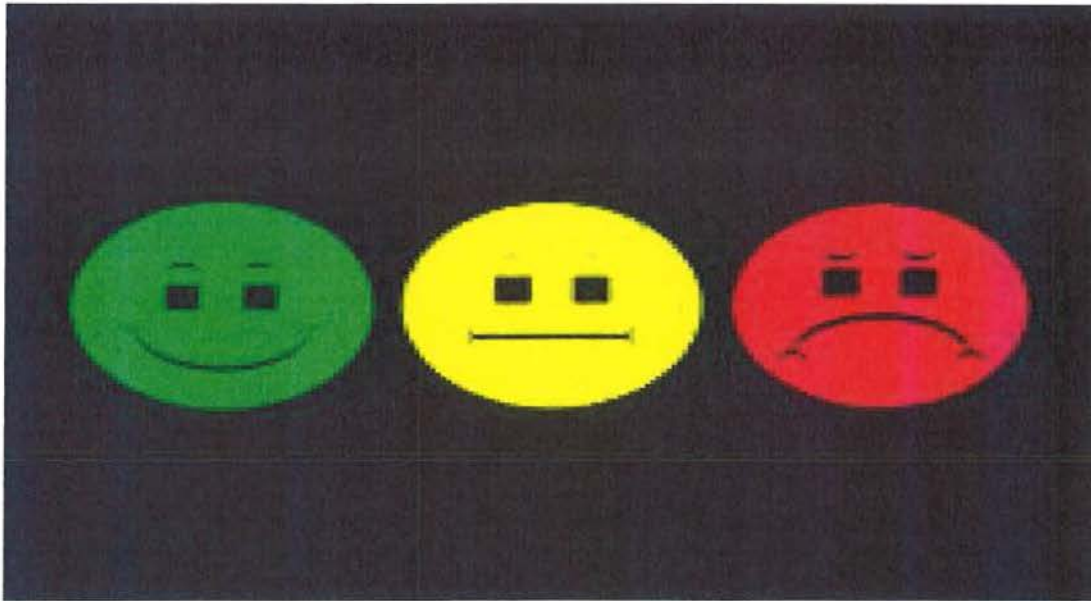
- Why are you interested in participating in this project?

- Who will be assigned as the primary person leading this project for your district? Primary contact? Secondary contact?

- What kinds of interventions are in place in your district concerning identifying and supporting students that are at risk of disengaging from schools?

- What data do you currently submit to MSIS?

- How often do you submit course grades to MDE (6 weeks, 9 weeks, etc.)?

- What type of student support system is in place in your district? Please list personnel positions that are involved that support this system.

- Please include school board and superintendent assurances and written support for participation in all mandated data collection, training sessions, weekly stakeholder meetings, and other relevant project activities.

As you know, raising student achievement is a critical mission for our schools and educators, and we are dedicated to supporting you as you work toward this goal for all of Mississippi's children. Selected participants should be notified by September 4, 2013.

I thank you in advance for your leadership and application to the Dashboards to Diplomas pilot project. If you have any questions, please contact Toni Kersh at TKersh@mde.k12.ms.us.

The Early Warning System (EWS) will provide school districts a tool to monitor and intervene with students who are identified as "at risk" of dropping out of school based on attendance, behavior, course performance and mobility.

The attached memorandum was disseminated to every school district in Mississippi. The Mississippi Department of Education received a letter of interest from eight (8) school districts: Booneville School District, Holly Springs School District, Indianola School District, Jackson Public School District, Jefferson County School District, Jefferson Davis County Schools, Louisville Municipal School District and Yazoo City Municipal School District. All of the districts were chosen with the exception of Yazoo City Municipal School District.

District	4 Year Graduation Rate	Dropout Rate	Number of Participating Schools	District Grade
Mississippi	75.5	13.9	44	
Booneville School District	89.5	5.9	4	A
Holly Springs School District	80.0	7.2	5	C
Indianola School District	68.0	26.6	5	F
Jackson Public School District	64.1	23	15	D
Jefferson County School District	71.9	10.8	5	F
Jefferson Davis County Schools	70.5	20.1	4	C
Louisville Municipal School District	72.0	19.8	6	C