

OFFICE OF CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER
Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Items
October 15, 2015

OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY EDUCATION AND READING

03. Report on the State Literacy Plan [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 – MDE Strategic Plan]

Executive Summary

Mississippi's State Literacy Plan provides a clear vision that requires educators to implement effective, evidence-based literacy instruction throughout the state. As a result, Mississippi's literacy instruction for birth through grade 12 will be of uniformly high quality and of sufficient quantity to make a measureable difference in literacy achievement statewide. This focus on measureable results driven by a comprehensive, clear, and well-implemented plan will provide the impetus to propel literacy achievement in Mississippi so that all K-12 students can be globally competitive. The Mississippi Literacy Plan will serve as the cornerstone for all future Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) literacy reform initiatives.

The plan was developed by a group of Mississippi educators, including MDE staff, postsecondary faculty, Head Start representatives, school district personnel, and nationally recognized reading experts. The plan has been reviewed by regional teacher focus groups, MDE literacy coordinators, and the Mississippi Reading Panel.

This item references Goals 1, 2 3, 4 and 5 of the *Mississippi Board of Education 2016-2020 Strategic Plan*.

No Action: Discussion Only

Back-up material attached



Literacy Plan At-a-Glance

October 2015

October 1, 2015

Purpose

Mississippi's State Literacy Plan provides a clear vision that requires educators to implement effective, evidence-based literacy instruction throughout the state. As a result, Mississippi's literacy instruction for birth through grade 12 will be of uniformly high quality and of sufficient quantity to make a measureable difference in literacy achievement statewide. This focus on measureable results driven by a comprehensive, clear, and well-implemented plan will provide the impetus to propel literacy achievement in Mississippi so that all K-12 students can be globally competitive. The plan supports the Mississippi Board of Education's Strategic Plan Goals related to student proficiency, college- and career-readiness, high-quality early childhood programs, educator effectiveness, and use of data to improve student outcomes. The plan will serve as the cornerstone for all future Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) literacy reform initiatives. The plan at-a-glance on the following pages serves as a summary of the planned activities included in the comprehensive plan.

Process

Development of Mississippi's State Literacy Plan began in 2008. The Mississippi Literacy Collaborative was formed in December 2008, and continued until March 2010. The group included members from various literacy stakeholder groups within the state (i.e., Mississippi Department of Education, Barksdale Reading Institute, Mississippi Public Broadcasting, Institutions of Higher Education faculty, the Mississippi Library Commission). While this endeavor was somewhat successful, team membership wasn't necessarily consistent and the committee action planning was rather fragmented and disorganized. Knowing that this approach did not provide the results necessary to move Mississippi forward, the state began the process of establishing a more cohesive, smaller group. The first meeting of the State Literacy Team (SLT) was held in October 2010, and a draft version of the State Literacy Plan was submitted to the United States Department of Education on February 1, 2011. Since submission, additional updates have been made to the plan, including reorganization of the plan to separate the different areas (birth to 5, K-3, and grades 4-12) and the addition of columns to designate the action steps as "in place" or "next steps" with a timeline for completion and responsible office at the MDE. The plan was updated to address the requirements of the Early Learning Collaborative Act and the Literacy-based Promotion Act.

Stakeholders

Mississippi's State Literacy Plan was developed by a group of Mississippi educators, including MDE staff, postsecondary faculty, Head Start representatives, school district personnel, and nationally recognized reading experts. The plan has been reviewed by regional teacher focus groups, MDE literacy coordinators, and the Mississippi Reading Panel.

Literacy Plan At-a-Glance

October 1, 2015

Focus Area	Birth – 5	Timeline	Kindergarten – 3 rd Grade	4 th – 12 th Grade	Timeline
Educator Preparation	Collaborate with the Licensure Commission and the Office of Educator Quality to establish a teacher education task force to <u>redesign</u> teacher education (elementary and special).	2018	Collaborate with the Licensure Commission and the Office of Educator Quality to design teacher education programs to align with the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) (elementary and special).		Annual
	Partner with the Department of Human Services to revise the director’s credential modules to include additional evidence-based literacy practices.	In Process	Collaborate with the Licensure Commission and the Office of Educator Quality to remove current K-12 reading endorsement and replace with grade band specific literacy endorsements (K-6 and 7-12).		2018
	Utilize the existing early childhood stakeholder group to develop criteria for preparation programs to ensure knowledge of literacy to support the transition from birth to 5, to elementary school.	In Process	Identify or develop a paraprofessional preparation training that includes coaching to support effective literacy instruction.		2014 - Ongoing
					Ongoing

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Focus Area	Birth – 5	Timeline	Kindergarten – 3 rd Grade	4 th – 12 th Grade	Timeline
Professional Growth	Provide training for teachers to provide Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling (LETRS) for Early Childhood Educators.	2014 - 2016	Procure literacy professional learning modules to deliver statewide to all licensed K-3 teachers.	Provide statewide face-to-face professional learning to all grades 4-12 literacy/language arts teachers, as well as core content teachers and leaders.	2014 - 2016
	Provide a model of a “ collaborative ” in The Early Learning Collaborative Act of 2013 to offer professional learning and collaboration opportunities.	2013 - Ongoing (contingent upon funding)	Procure literacy professional learning modules to deliver statewide to all administrators in PK-3 schools.	Develop a statewide system of support that includes individual teacher and leader professional learning plans based upon multiple data sources such as student achievement data.	Complete
	Engage an Early Childhood Stakeholder Group to: a. develop a statewide kindergarten transition plan , and b. develop a coordinated services plan.	2014 - Ongoing	Require that schools develop a school literacy plan.		
			Encourage districts/schools to partner with birth to 5 facilities within their attendance zones to provide professional learning and/or other opportunities for collaboration.		Ongoing
			Procure a data-coaching program to assist schools in establishing a collaborative culture that values and uses data to make instructional decisions.		2014 - Ongoing

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Focus Area	Birth – 5	Timeline	Kindergarten – 3 rd Grade	4 th – 12 th Grade	Timeline
Leadership	Create an Office of Early Childhood within the Mississippi Department of Education in Fall 2014.	Complete	Provide professional learning and technical assistance to assist districts in establishing a district literacy leadership team and/or use existing leadership team to target literacy.		2014 - Ongoing
	Publish kindergarten readiness data.	Spring 2015 - Ongoing	Partner with external entities to work towards a more unified and cohesive system for offering literacy services.		2013 - Ongoing
	Create a media campaign, promoting parent education modules.	In Process	Develop an education/media campaign to increase stakeholders' knowledge about effective literacy instruction.		Spring 2015 - Ongoing

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Focus Area	Birth – 5	Timeline	Kindergarten – 3 rd Grade	4 th – 12 th Grade	Timeline
Instruction	Collaborate with the Head Start Collaboration Office to revise Early Learning Guidelines for Infants & Toddlers.	2015 - 2016	Advocate to policymakers the importance of mandating that 100% of students attend full-day kindergarten.		Ongoing
	Align the Early Learning Standards with the Mississippi College and Career-Readiness Standards.	Complete	Determine a K-Readiness cut score based on the MDE Kindergarten Readiness Assessment.	Define academic literacy and the literacy-related skills needed to negotiate texts in each discipline area.	Complete
	Identify resources for developing oral language skills and for implementing differentiated instruction.	2014 - Ongoing	Select, train, and license a literacy coach for every K-3 school to ensure effective instructional delivery via job-embedded professional learning and implementation of effective literacy instruction.		Contingent upon funding
	Target high-poverty communities where low-performing districts are located.	Ongoing	Identify and ensure cohesiveness of observation tool(s), including walk-throughs, to support and improve literacy instruction (for literacy coaches and principals).		2015

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Focus Area	Birth – 5	Timeline	Kindergarten – 3 rd Grade	4 th – 12 th Grade	Timeline
Interventions	Create an interagency agreement between the MDE and other State agencies.	Complete	Develop a supplement to the <i>Mississippi Response to Intervention (RtI) Best Practices Handbook</i> that is specific to literacy interventions.		Revised Document Spring 2016
	Publish the <i>Mississippi Response to Intervention Best Practice Handbook</i> The Mississippi Reading Panel began reviewing this supplemental document in spring 2015.	Revised Document Spring 2016	Develop and implement professional learning modules for training on the supplemental document.		Ongoing
	Develop grade-by-grade statewide identification criteria for English Learners, based on English language standards linked to the Mississippi College and Career-Readiness Standards.	2016	Provide follow-up training to leaders on the RtI Essential Elements Matrices for Tier 2 and Tier 3 with a focus on literacy interventions.		2015 - Ongoing
			Develop statewide identification criteria for English Language Learners and grade-by-grade English language proficiency standards that are linked to the Mississippi College and Career-Readiness Standards.		2016

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Focus Area	Birth – 5	Timeline	Kindergarten – 3 rd Grade	4 th – 12 th Grade	Timeline
Assessment Data Collection and Use	Select statewide Kindergarten Readiness instrument.	Complete	Select a statewide Kindergarten Readiness Assessment.		Complete
	Establish a policy to require Title I Pre-K schools to track student progress.	Complete	Identify a statewide assessment instrument for children in K-3 to determine the progress children are making in acquisition of early literacy skills.		Complete
	Assess the impact of assessment data collection and use of assessment data.	Ongoing	Identify or develop high-quality professional learning for school personnel related to assessment and data use.		2014 - Ongoing
			Analyze historical trends in student performance data to identify trends to make state-level policy decisions.		2015 - Ongoing
			Evaluate statewide student achievement assessment results to determine supports and resources to strengthen schools and districts.		Ongoing

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Focus Area	Birth – 5	Timeline	Kindergarten – 3 rd Grade	4 th – 12 th Grade	Timeline
Resources	Create a list of evidence-based literacy instructional materials.	Complete	Develop and disseminate guidance to districts on how to differentiate staffing.		2015 - 2016
	Promote hiring effective and licensed teachers in Pre-K settings.	Ongoing	Provide guidance to schools in developing master schedules to incorporate required literacy blocks and time periods for interventions.	Develop minimum standards for literacy instructional blocks regarding time requirements for grades 4-5, and grades 6-12.	2013 - 2016
	Provide guidance on minimum allocations of literacy instructional time in the school day.	Complete	Revise state textbook rating process to incorporate research criteria for core literacy instructional programs.	Revise state textbook rating process to incorporate research criteria for content area literacy.	Ongoing
			Provide technical assistance to districts/schools in how to coordinate federal, state, and local funding to maximize literacy funding streams.		Ongoing