Mississippi raised academic standards for pre-K through the 12th grade in recent years and has implemented aggressive reform efforts to raise student achievement. As a result, the key indicators of academic success have been on a steady, upward trajectory.

### Three-Year Trend of Rising Student Achievement

**Early Learning Collaboratives**

Students in Mississippi’s Early Learning Collaboratives (ELC) achieve higher levels each year, with the majority completing pre-K scoring **at or above the target score for exiting pre-K**.

**Literacy**

The Literacy-Based Promotion Act is helping to **increase literacy skills** among students in kindergarten through the 3rd grade.

**Kindergarteners Meeting End-of-Year Target Score**

- 2015: 54%
- 2016: 63%
- 2017: 65%

**Third Graders**

- 2015: 17.6
- 2016: 18.3
- 2017: 18.0

**Eighty-five percent** passed reading test on first try in 2015.

**Eighty-seven percent** passed reading test on first try in 2016.

** Ninety-two percent** passed reading test on first try in 2017.

Mississippi administers the ACT to all 11th graders to provide equal access to the college readiness test. The results provide a measure of how well schools are preparing students for success in college and gives schools time to provide interventions to help students increase their ACT scores in the 12th grade.
Mississippi introduced new state assessments aligned to the state’s more rigorous college and career ready standards in 2014-15. Overall student achievement is increasing annually in both English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics and in 12 out of 14 tested subjects and grades.

Mississippi’s all-time high graduation rate of 82.3 percent in 2016 is closing in on the national average of 84 percent.

The Advanced Placement Initiative is having a significant impact on student achievement, with the number of students taking AP exams and the number of exams with a qualifying score nearly doubling since 2013.