



MISSISSIPPI SUCCEEDS

Rising to the Challenge

MISSISSIPPI STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Strategic Plan

Annual Progress Report

Carey M. Wright, Ed.D.

State Superintendent of Education

mdek12.org



MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

January 21, 2021



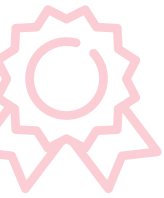
VISION

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



MISSION

To provide leadership through the development of policy and accountability systems so that all students are prepared to compete in the global community



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

EVERY School Has Effective Teachers and Leaders

4



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

5



EVERY School and District is Rated “C” or Higher

6





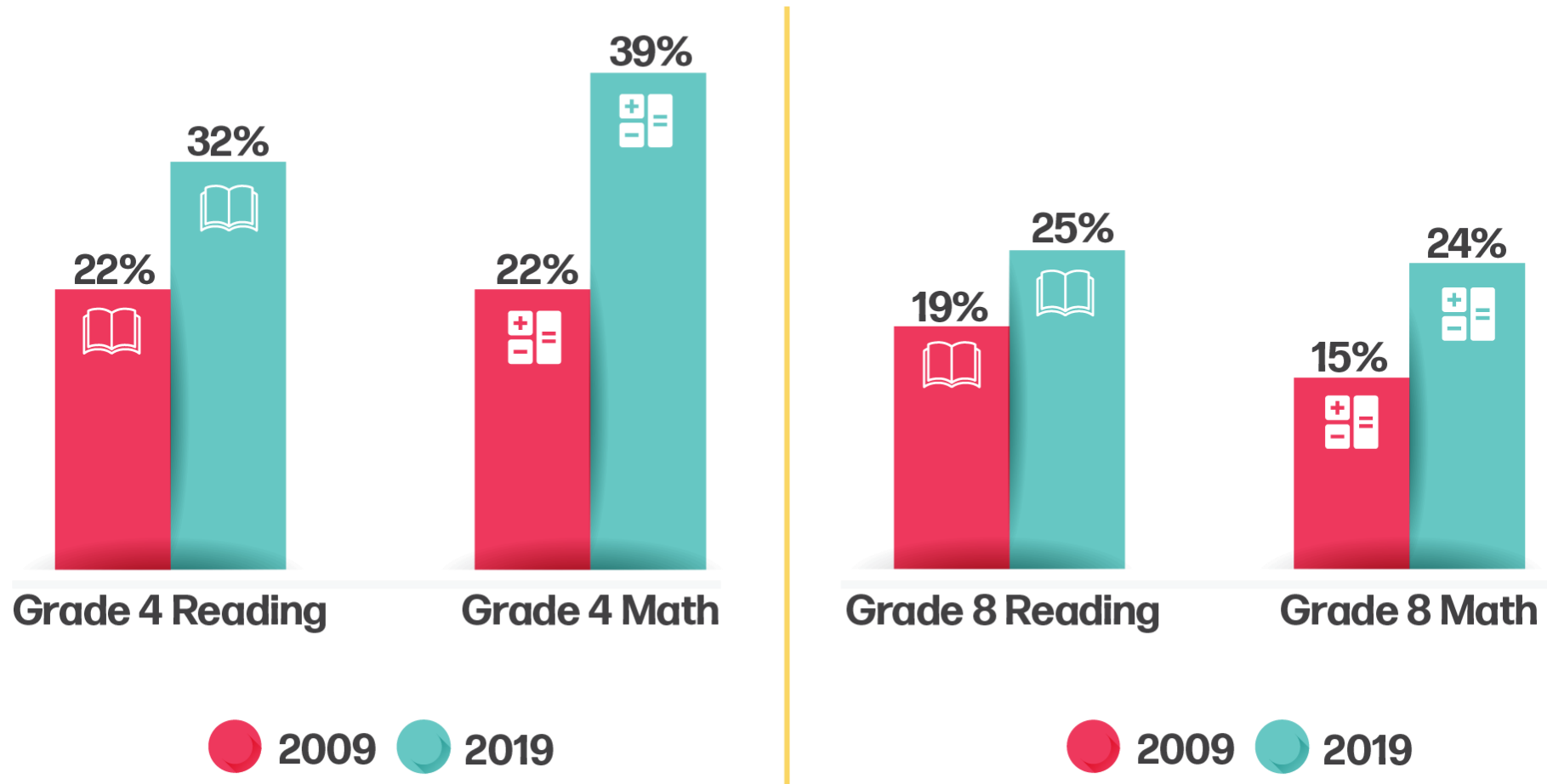
Where We Started Pre-Pandemic Achievements

Mississippi National Rankings NAEP Gains

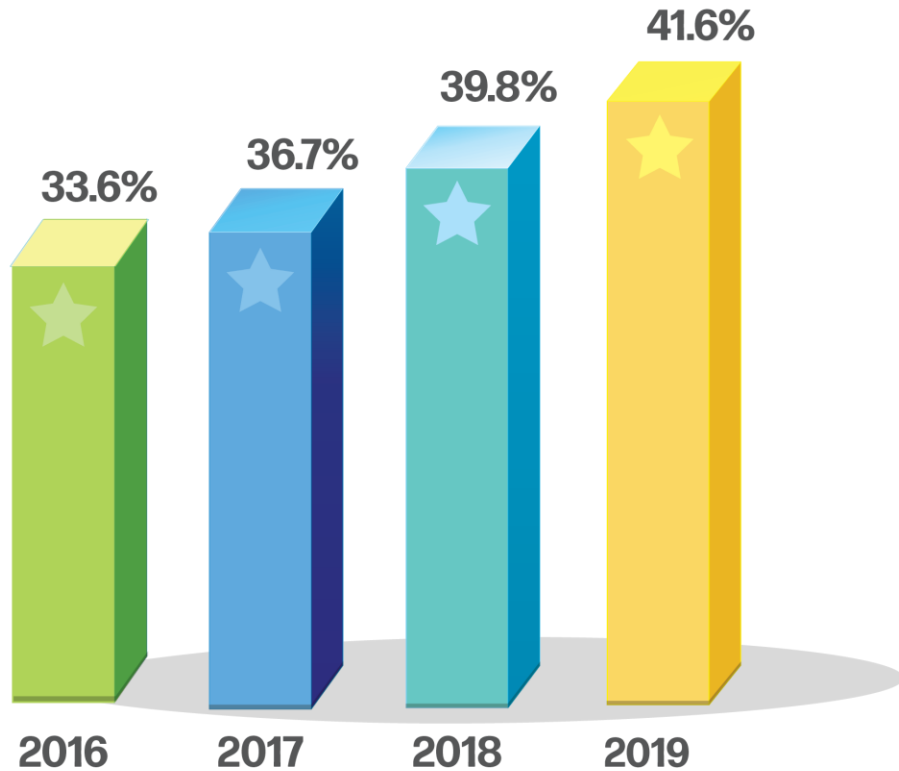


National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)

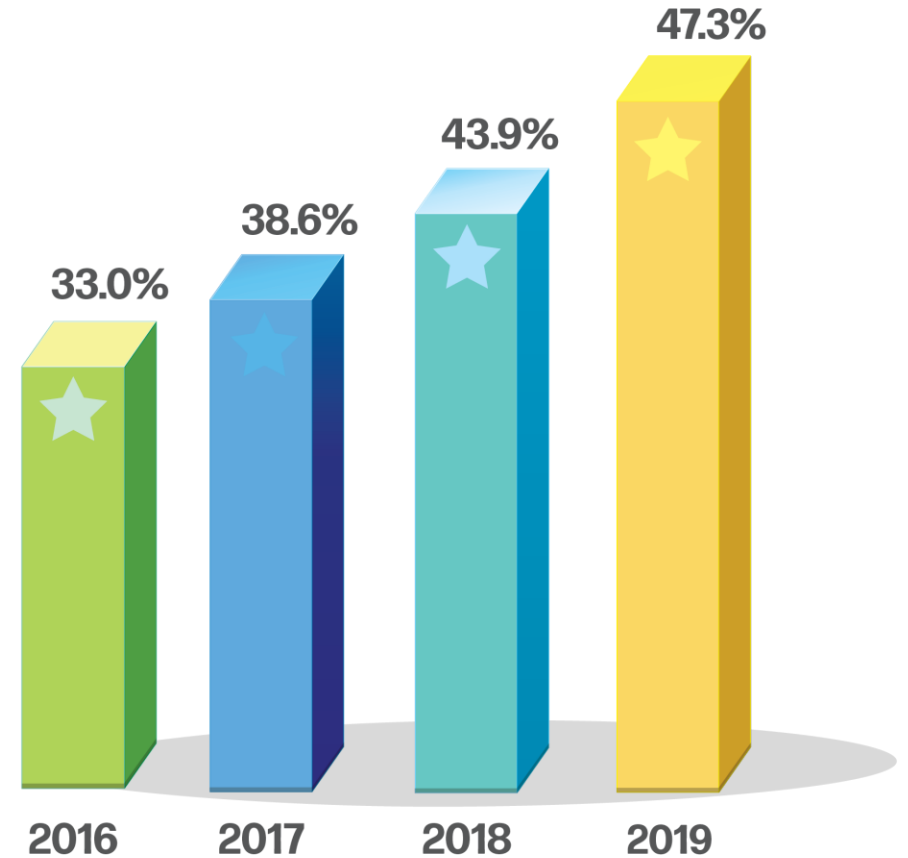
Mississippi Students Scoring Proficient or Above



Mississippi Academic Assessment Program (MAAP)

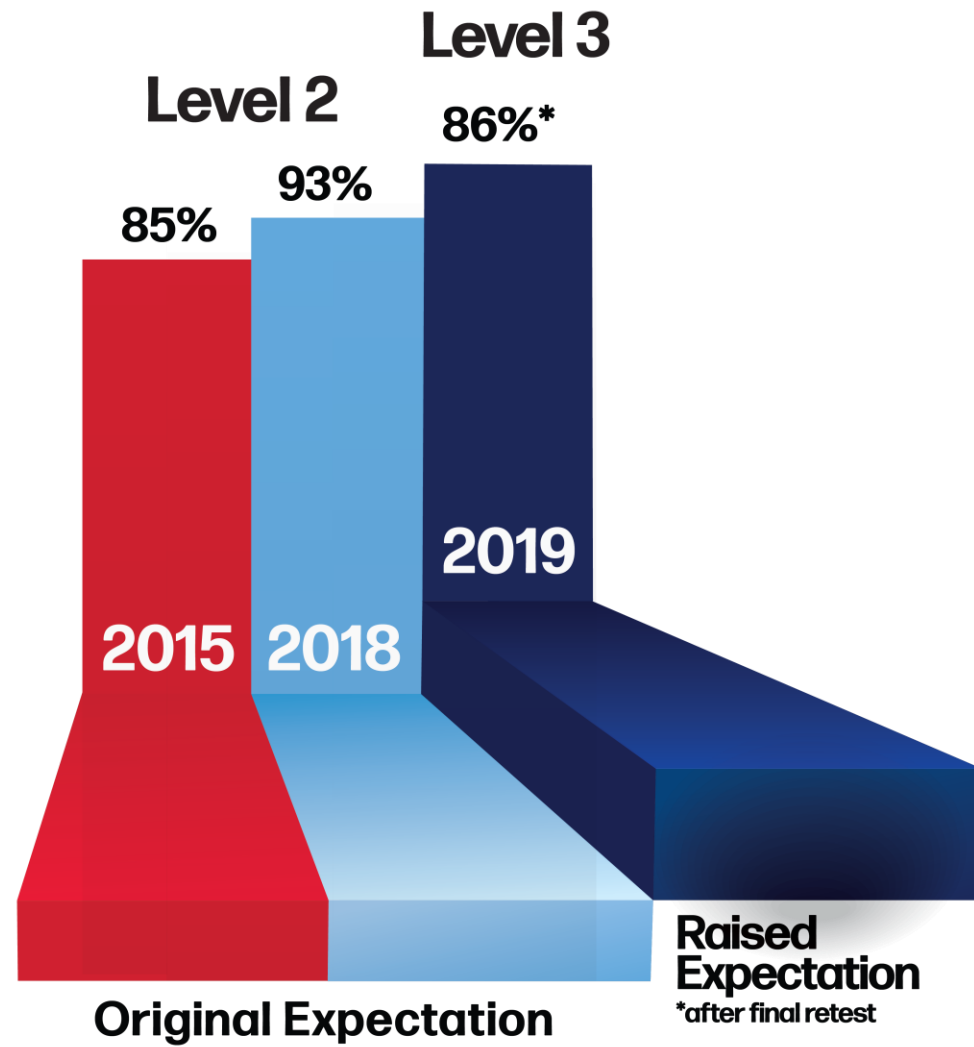


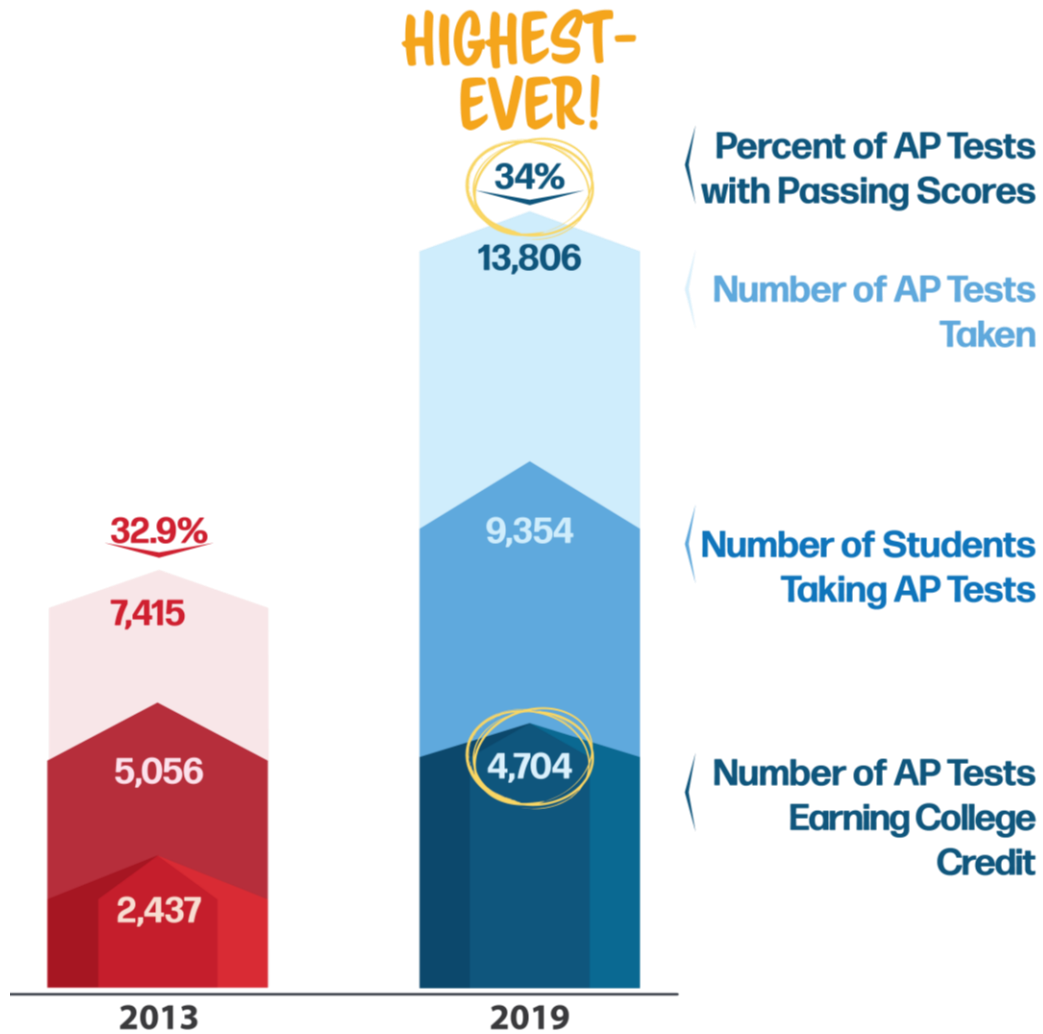
English Language Arts (ELA)
Levels 4 & 5



Mathematics
Levels 4 & 5

3rd Grade Reading Achievement





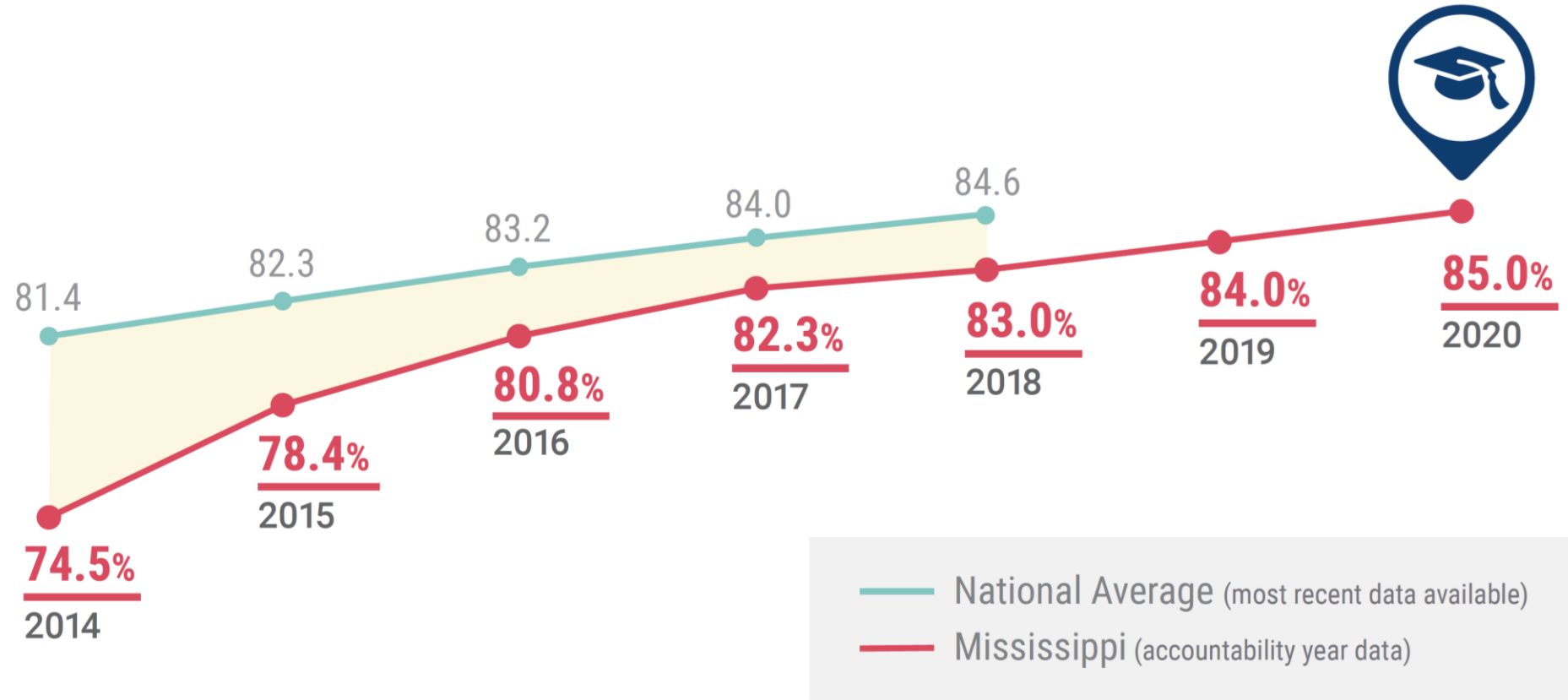
All Students

- Total Mississippi students taking AP courses and passing AP exams have both nearly doubled since 2013.
- AP exam pass rate for students in all grades in 2018-19 was 34%.

Class of 2019

- 23% of Mississippi’s public-school class of 2019 took 13,178 AP exams during high school, an increase (+0.4%) from the class of 2018.
- 32.5% earned qualifying scores, an increase from the previous year’s graduates.

MISSISSIPPI'S GRADUATION RATE



QUALITY COUNTS MOST IMPROVED

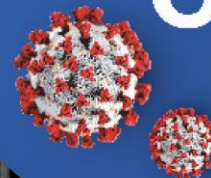
**No. 2 in the Nation
for Improvement
in Education**

STATE	SCORE / GRADE	CHANGE 2008-2020
District of Columbia	85.7 B	9.3 ↑
Mississippi	73.9 C	6.2 ↑
Tennessee	75.6 C	3.7 ↑
Louisiana	71.4 C-	3.5 ↑
Wyoming	81.9 B-	2.9 ↑

Source: EdWeek Research Center, 2020
Category: Chance for Success

Where We Acted

Key Actions to Manage Impact of Pandemic



COVID-19

SCHOOL CLOSURES



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9.5 million meals

served to children in the spring and summer

- Expedited process to convert federal school lunch programs to more flexible summer food program, enabling districts to serve more than 9.5 million meals to children in the spring and summer.
- Every school district continues to participate in the food program, which provides more than 7.5 million meals per month to Mississippi students.

- Collaborated with state health officer to provide life-saving information to school and district leaders that protected the health of their students, staff and families.
- Partnered with Mississippi Department of Mental Health to develop resources for academic counselors to support the social-emotional and mental health of students.
- Worked with Mississippi Emergency Management Agency (MEMA), Mississippi National Guard and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to distribute 1.2 million cloth masks and 40,176 gallons of hand sanitizer to school districts.

- Created online information hub for districts and families to get up-to-date information about how the pandemic was affecting all aspects of public education.
- Developed guidance for school districts on a broad range of issues to help manage school building closures:
 - Implementing distance learning
 - Serving students with disabilities
 - Ensuring the health and safety of staff and students
 - Renewing educator licenses
 - Paying staff
 - Helping students complete dual credit and Advanced Placement courses and exams online

- Delivered numerous webinars for school and district leaders to understand policy actions including:
 - Waiver of 180-day school year requirement
 - Suspension of federal and state assessments
 - Promotion of 3rd graders without a reading test
 - Credit completion for graduating seniors
 - Admission to educator preparation programs without standardized testing requirement
 - Completion of student-teaching requirements during school closures

- Published learning-at-home resources for students in pre-K through grade 12, including resources for students with visual or hearing impairments, to support learning during extended school closures.
- Surveyed academic counselors to develop technical assistance related to school closures.
- Conducted additional Mississippi Online Course Approval (MOCA) process, resulting in approval of 71 additional courses.

SCHOOL REOPENING PLANS



Partnered with a task force of superintendents from a diverse range of districts to help all districts address key issues to reopen schools. MDE and partners published guidance and is supporting continued professional development in key areas.



- Established Mississippi State Board of Education (SBE) Policy Chapter 9, Rule 9.2: *Reporting Attendance for Virtual Learning*, to allow districts to take attendance in three modes for the 2020-21 school year: traditional, virtual or a hybrid of in-person and distance learning.
- Responded to enrollment drop of nearly 23,000 students by deploying School Attendance Officers (SAOs) to work with districts to ensure all compulsory school-age children whose families had not re-enrolled them in public schools in 2020-21 were registered in a learning environment. An analysis of public-school enrollment showed a drop in kindergarteners and spike in homeschoolers drove the statewide enrollment decline in the 2020-21 school year.

- Replaced 174 mobile computer devices with encrypted hard drives for MDE staff.
- Shifted to cloud-based device management.
- Migrated files to cloud storage to support telework needs.
- Established Windows virtual machine, which is a computer resource that uses software instead of a physical computer to run programs and deploy apps.
- Secured computer-based call center software, trained staff and implemented remote customer service call center to enable stakeholders to reach licensure office and other MDE staff during COVID-19 building closures.

NEW RESOURCES



Class Document

← → C

← Morning Announcements

To Do List:

1. Don't forget
2. Those of you
3. Complete yo
4. If you have

Remember:

1. Backpacks
2. Your lunch
3. Do not shar

Please know that:

1. When work
2. We keep ou
3. If we have
4. Stay in you



MPB Education Channel

Certified teachers and Mississippi Department of Education content staff teach 25-minute lessons aligned to Mississippi College and Career Readiness Standards. Lessons support students, teachers and parents during the pandemic and include math, science, English Language Arts, early childhood, art and physical education.





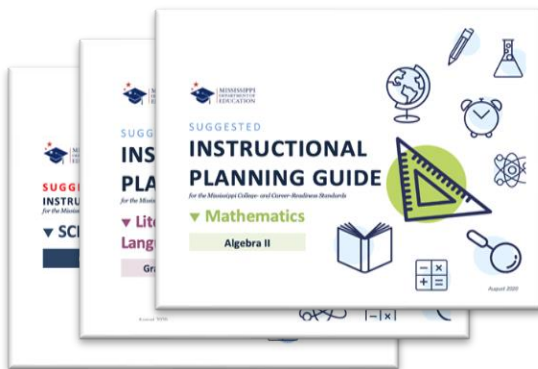
Pre-K through Grade 12 Arts Education Guidance

Practical guidance supports pre-K-12 administrators and arts educators as they provide arts instruction for students during the pandemic.



Digital Learning District Guidance

Guidance helps districts adapt to digital and distance learning challenges and prepare for the 2020-21 school year.



Instructional Planning Guides for Grades K-12 in Mathematics, ELA, and Science

Guides support teachers with sequencing of content standards across the grade and with locating aligned resources.

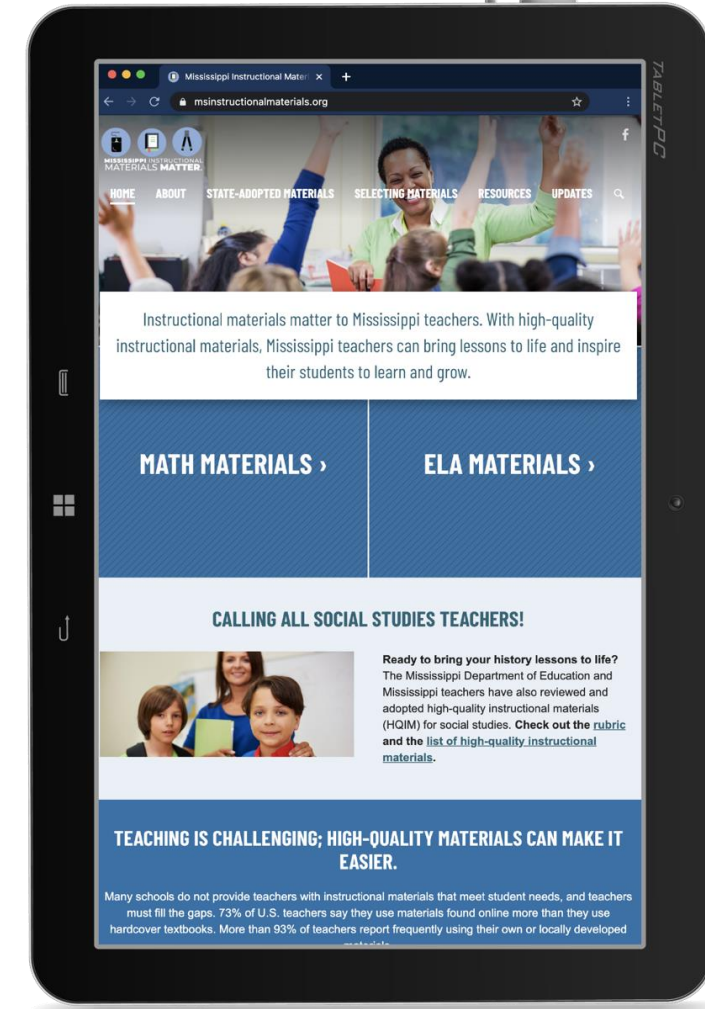
Mississippi Connects Professional Development and Resources Hub

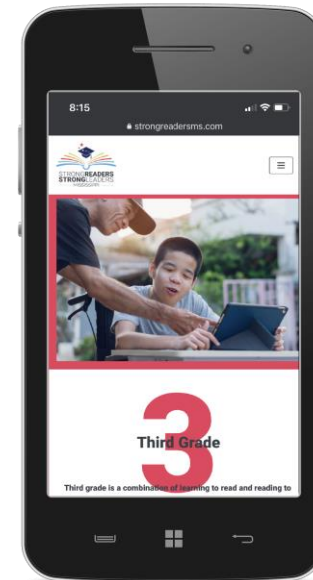
Research-based resources and learning opportunities are available for educators that support online, blended and hybrid models of instruction and learning.



High-Quality Instructional Materials Website

MDE partnered with Mississippi First to launch a new website for Mississippi teachers to increase their access to high-quality instructional materials. The site, msinstructionalmaterials.org, provides a central location for math and social studies teachers to review high-quality, standards-aligned materials that have been evaluated and adopted by other Mississippi teachers and school districts. English Language Arts (ELA) materials will be added to the site in 2021.





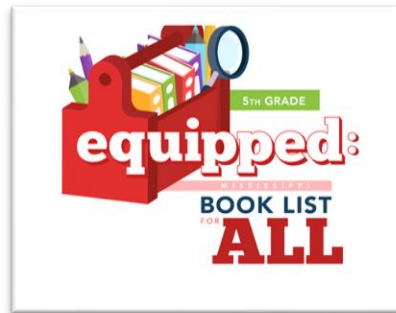
Strong Readers Strong Leaders Mississippi

The revamped strongreadersms.com website helps families assist children with building their reading skills. The site provides activities, resources and information for children from birth through grade 5 to help become strong readers.



Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) Standards

New social and emotional learning standards were created in collaboration with the Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL). Professional learning is available to help implement standards.



Equipped Booklist

Supports educators in making instructional decisions around the Mississippi College and Career Readiness Standards while promoting literacy that acknowledges a variety of text types.



MISSISSIPPI CONNECTS



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- Advocated to the Mississippi Legislature for funds to equip every public-school student in Mississippi with the technology to learn at school and at home.
- Secured \$200 million from the Legislature through two laws, the [Equity in Distance Learning Act \(SB 3044\)](#) and the [Mississippi Pandemic Response Broadband Availability Act \(HB 1788\)](#).
- Collaborated with Governor, Lt. Governor, House Speaker and State Auditor to ensure compliance with state and federal funding requirements and successful implementation of the laws.
- Established Mississippi Connects initiative, making Mississippi the **only state in the nation** with a comprehensive digital learning program providing computers and teaching and learning support to every public-school student in the state.



Devices and Services

Laptops or tablets delivered to districts with all software, security and support features pre-loaded and configured for immediate use



Digital Curriculum and Learning Management Systems

High-quality instructional materials and online platforms for teaching and learning



Connectivity

Enhanced internet connectivity in areas of the state where students do not have broadband service



Professional Development

Training and technology support for educators, students and parents to be successful with digital learning



Telehealth and Teletherapy

Student access to telehealth and teletherapy services for their physical, social and emotional health



Devices and Services

- Led competitive process to contract with vendors for devices and learning software.
- Worked with districts to review and approve their detailed digital learning plans to establish SB 3044 funding eligibility and guide their implementation of digital learning programs.

Digital Curriculum and Learning Management Systems

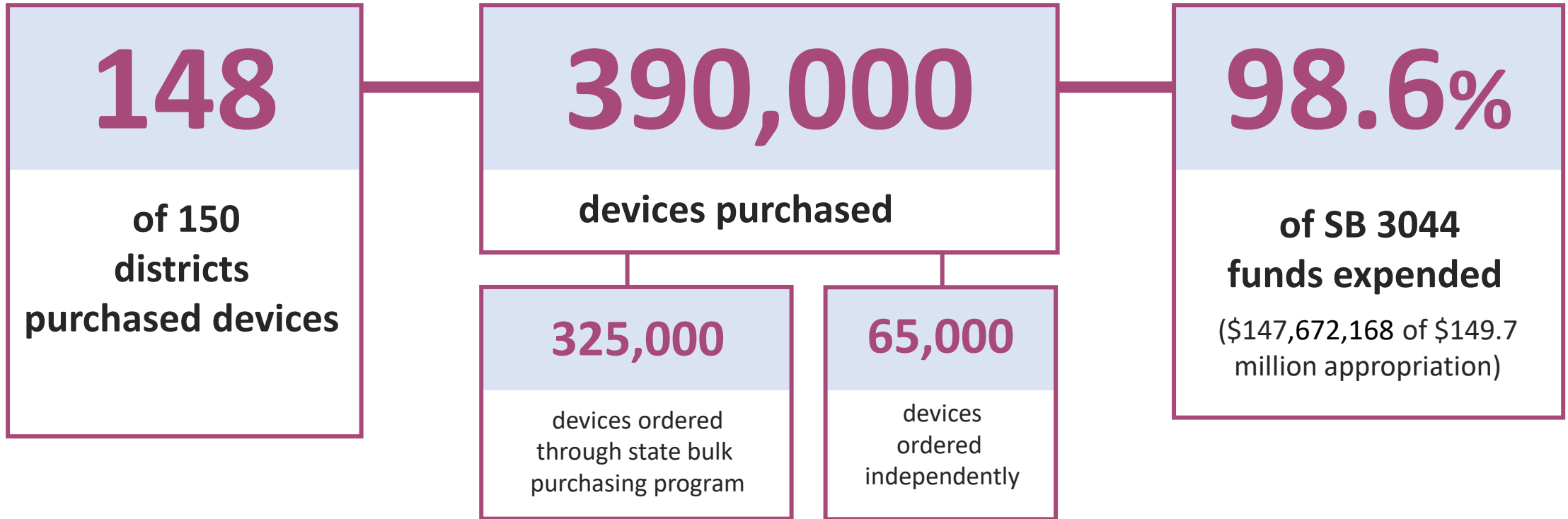
- Negotiated contracts for learning management system (LMS) software including Canvas, Schoology and Google's G-Suite for Education for districts to purchase 214,656 LMS licenses for a total cost of \$1,594,000.

Professional Development

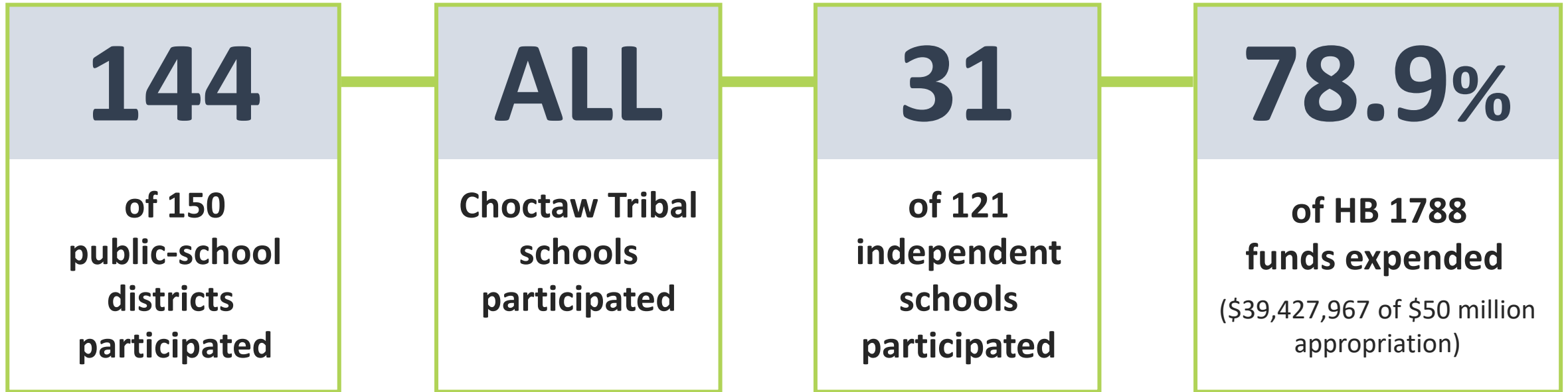
- Delivered customized training to more than 2,000 educators through Mississippi Connects, including meeting with a consultant to understand the district's specific goals and challenges, curating resources personalized for the district and providing individualized support.

Telehealth and Teletherapy

- Collaborated with Mississippi State Medical Association and other medical professionals to develop school-based pilot program set to launch in 2021.



All devices delivered before December 1.
All reimbursement requests fulfilled by the December 15 deadline.



Main purchases included hot spots and equipment including access points, switches and fiber optic cable to strengthen and expand the footprint of a school campus' network infrastructure. A few districts used funds to build new cell towers.



- Testified before the Mississippi Legislature during 2020 session to make the case for Mississippi Connects.
- Created Mississippi Connects branding and webpages.
- Developed and distributed Mississippi Connects communication toolkit for educators to support families and students with digital learning.

Credit: AP Photo/Rogelio V. Solis

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News Releases and Editorials and Numerous Media Interviews

69

Social Media Posts Promoting Mississippi Connects and Announcing Milestones

28

Newsletter Announcements to Educators About Mississippi Connects Progress and Opportunities

32

Webinars for Districts and Independent and Tribal Schools Regarding Implementation of Mississippi Connects Legislation

9

State and National Mississippi Connects Presentations

- Secured **56 news stories** in every local and statewide Mississippi media market and numerous major national news outlets (**The New York Times, Education Week, Politico, MSN and Associated Press**).
- **Broad and sustained media coverage raised awareness** about Mississippi being a national leader in digital learning and bringing equity to education.

The New York Times



POLITICO



U.S. INTERNATIONAL CANADA ESPAÑOL 中文

The New York Times

As Schools Go Remote, Finding 'Lost' Students Gets Harder



In Los Angeles, the Boys & Girls Club of Hollywood was open for children whose parents must leave home to work. — AP Photo/Justin Finney

By Abby Goodnough

Sept. 22, 2020



Even six months into the pandemic, the technology needs among lower-income students cannot be overestimated. In Washington, about 60 percent of the 32,000 families who responded to a survey over the summer said they needed a digital device, and 27 percent said they needed internet access. **In Mississippi — which has the highest child poverty rate in the nation, at about 28 percent — Carey M. Wright, the superintendent of education, said the State Legislature had allotted \$200 million to ensure every student has a device this school year. But because of high national demand, some will not receive it until November.**

U.S. INTERNATIONAL CANADA ESPAÑOL 中文

The New York Times

The Digital Divide Starts With a Laptop Shortage

By Kellen Browning

Oct. 12, 2020



Until recently, Raymond Heiler, 13, shared one iPad with his three siblings. — Jeremy M. Lange for The New York Times

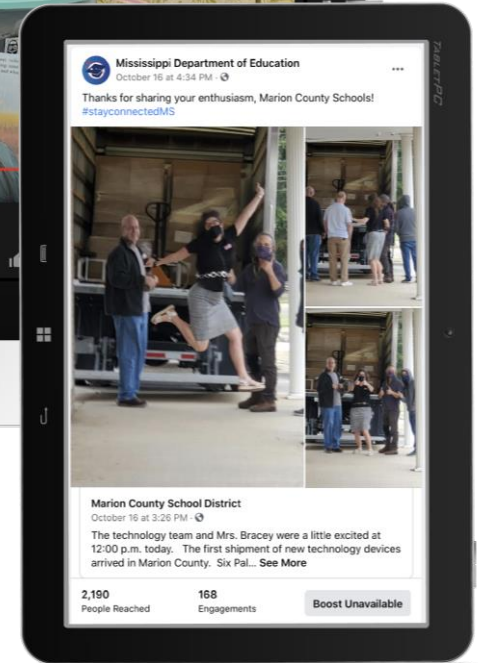
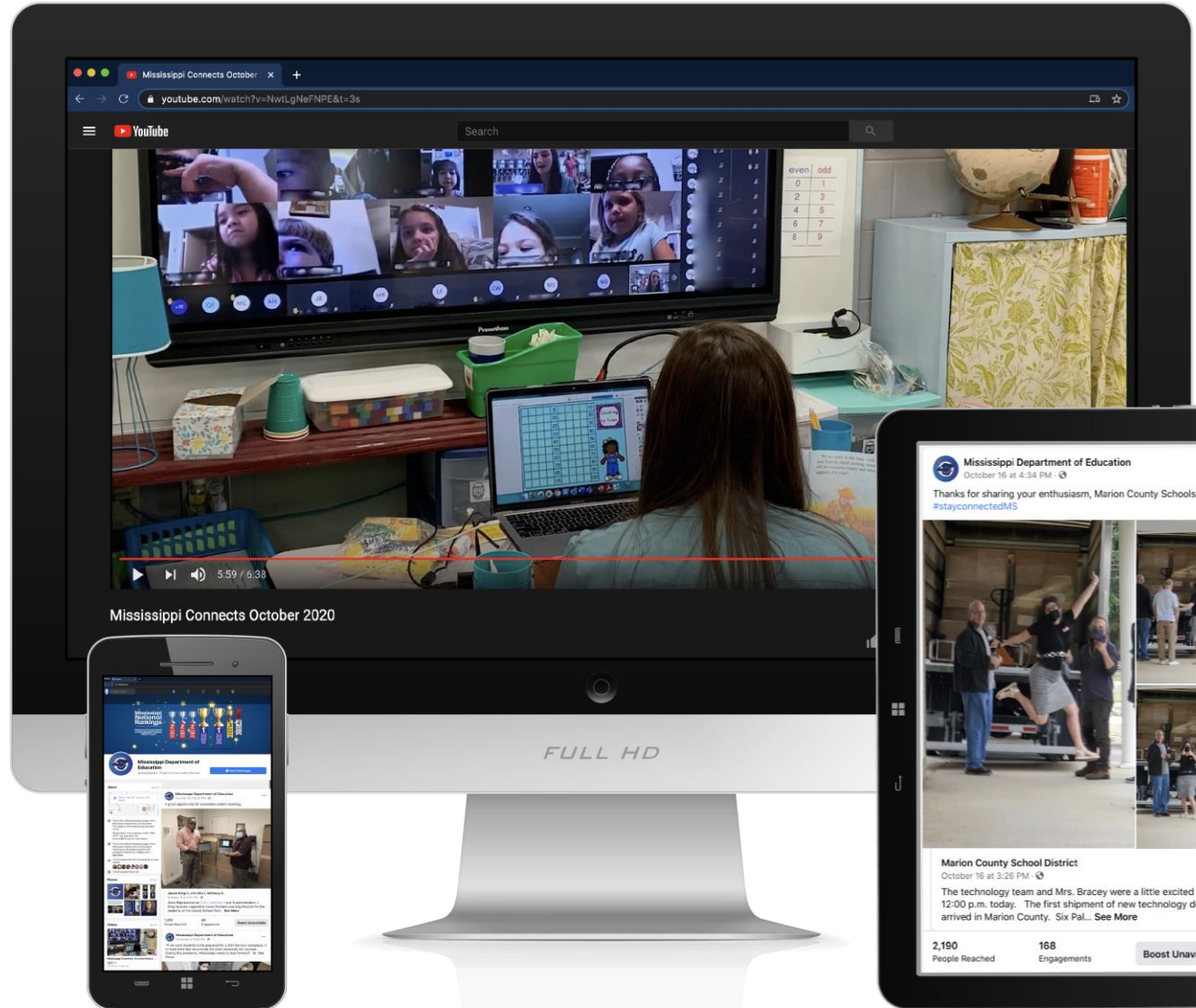
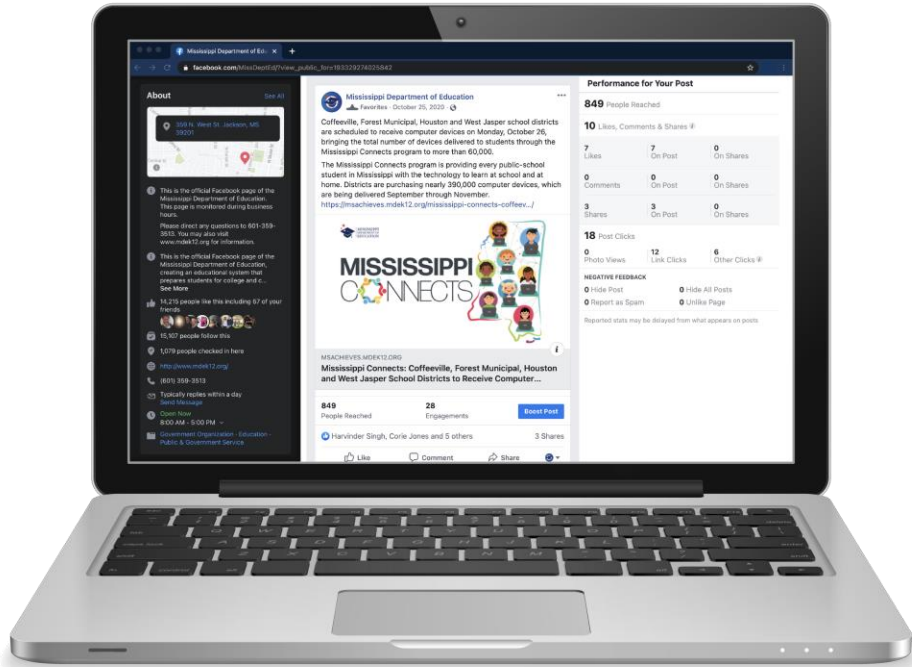
Alabama schools are waiting for more than 160,000 devices, and **Mississippi did not receive the first of the 320,000 computers the state had ordered** until early October. **Staples said** it would receive 140,000 Chromebooks for schools in November and December, 40,000 of which are earmarked for California districts.

- Legislature credited for funding Mississippi Connects.
- Every child in the state being provided with a device.
- Mississippi is receiving devices, despite national shortages.
- New York Times subscribers: 6 million



122,000

Earned Social Media Views





Communication Impact

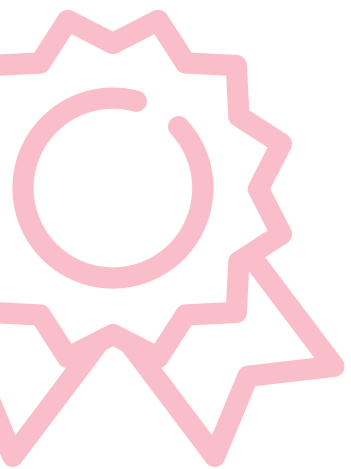
41

- Ensured **all school districts were informed** about the opportunity and how to participate.
- Showed districts, teachers, students and families Mississippi is addressing their current needs to be successful in digital learning.
- Built state and national partnerships to support and sustain Mississippi Connects, including:
 - **\$200,000 investment from philanthropic partners** and a commitment to a long-term partnership with public schools
 - **\$500,000 in training contributed** from Google, Apple and Microsoft for Mississippi educators through 2022
 - Invitations to future state and national conferences



How We Rose to the Challenge Advancing the Strategic Plan





GOAL 1



ALL Students Proficient and Showing Growth in All Assessed Areas



Continued and extended K-3 professional development

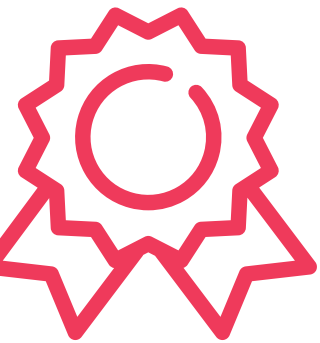
system opportunities for Language Essentials for Teaching Reading and Spelling (LETRS) trainings to K-8 teachers, special education teachers, preservice teachers and Institutions of Higher Learning staff. **(Goals 1, 4)**

Developed a virtual coaching model

to provide coaching supports and professional learning opportunities to K-4 teachers. **(Goals 1, 3, 4)**

Conducted statewide virtual Family Literacy Nights

to provide families of K-3 grade students tips and activities to use at home to improve students' reading skills, and provided strategies to help manage stress, build positive relationships, and work with others. **(Goal 1)**



Developed online courses

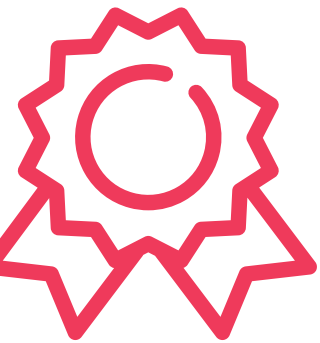
in the areas of mathematics, English Language Arts (ELA) and science. **(Goals 2, 4)**

Conducted virtual training

for all district and school test coordinators to provide updated guidance for administering assessments for fall 2020. **(Goals 1, 2)**

Updated statewide assessment policies and guidelines

for test security, accommodations and handbooks. **(Goals 1, 2, 4)**





GOAL 2



EVERY Student Graduates from High School and is Ready for College and Career



Implemented Perkins V State Plan

which includes providing quality work-based learning opportunities and industry certification opportunities for Career and Technical Education (CTE) students. **(Goal 2)**

Strengthened work-based learning framework

to include opportunities for pre-apprenticeships and apprenticeships as defined in the Mississippi Learn to Earn Act. **(Goal 2)**

Helped 20 districts develop career academies

for the 2020-21 school year, with a goal of 40 districts in the 2021-22 school year. **(Goal 2)**



9,176 students completed CTE programs in 2020, an increase of 33% since 2015

Implemented legislatively funded Mastery Prep ACT

support platform for 21,965 in-person and virtual students in 48 districts to improve English and mathematics performance. **(Goals 2, 4)**

Supported legislatively funded JumpStart program

serving approximately 4,700 juniors from 31 schools to improve ACT English sub-scores (year three of program). **(Goals 2, 4)**

Sent personalized Advanced Placement (AP) potential letters

to the guardians of 3,200 students, based on students' PSAT scores. **(Goal 2)**



Created High-Quality Instructional Materials (HQIM) rubrics

for ELA and mathematics for the state's textbook adoption process and to help districts with local-level selection. **(Goals 1, 2, 4, 6)**

Helped superintendents and principals create updated Dropout

Prevention Plans
using new template and worked with Research and Curriculum Unit (RCU) staff to review district plans and develop professional development for the upcoming year. **(Goals 1, 2)**

Provided dyslexia characteristics and classroom accommodations

professional development to teachers and administrators.
(Goals 1, 2, 3, 4)





GOAL 3

EVERY Child Has Access to a High-Quality Early Childhood Program



SERVED

3,016

4-year-old children

18

Early Learning Collaboratives

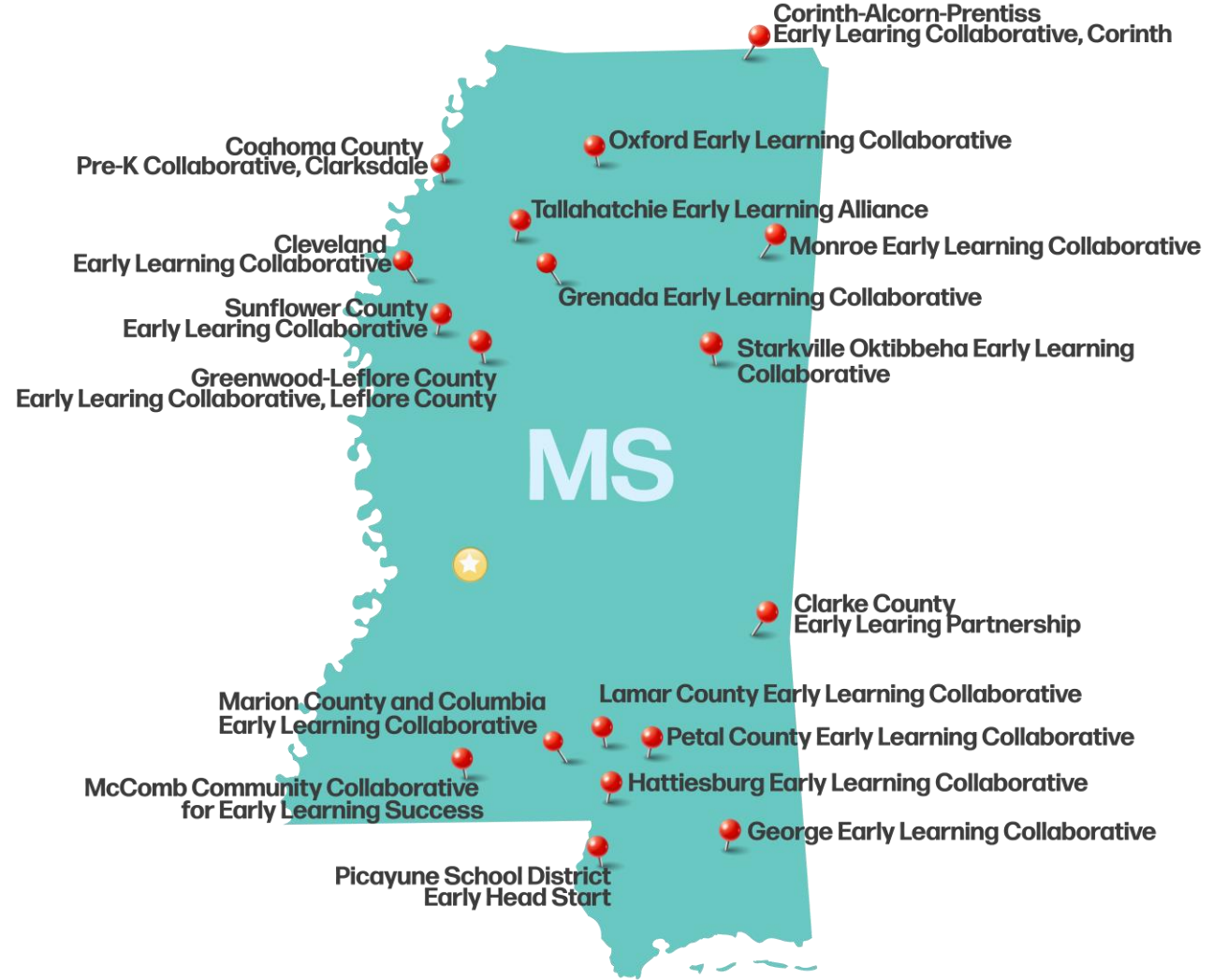
175

Classrooms

97

Sites Across the State

GOAL 3: Key Actions



Awarded five new districts funding to establish blended pre-K classrooms

bringing program total to 11 districts with 16 blended pre-K classrooms serving 296 children. Blended programs provide inclusive opportunities to students with disabilities. **(Goals 1, 3)**

Provided professional development to more than 1,100 early childhood

staff, administrators and teachers from state agencies, public pre-K, Head Start, childcare centers and other community groups, including sessions on early language development, learning centers and at-home mathematics activities. **(Goals 3, 4)**

Delivered family engagement sessions

and developed new family engagement programs to be delivered in 2021:

- *My Pleasure: Creating a Remarkable School Culture for Serving Families and Children*
- *Mississippi Leading Innovative Teaching and Learning Environments in Early Childhood Leadership Institute (Goals 3, 4)*





GOAL 4



EVERY School Has Effective Teachers
and Leaders



PROVIDED

468 MDE professional development sessions

through fall 2020

14,419
teachers



GOAL 4: Key Actions

54

- Provided professional development sessions in the areas of English Language Arts, mathematics, special education and science.
- Offered districts, schools and teachers professional learning through scheduled sessions, direct support, online courses and on-demand sessions.
- Shifted to virtual sessions and coaching in response to the pandemic.



Supported more than 50 aspiring, diverse educators in Mississippi Teacher Residency

(MTR) pilot with high-quality clinical practice and mentor teacher support. Teacher residents far exceed national average for educator diversity, with 76% of Cohort 1 and 83% of Cohort 2 identifying as people of color. **(Goal 4)**

Retained more than 100 experienced, diverse educators in Performance-Based Licensure

(PBL) pilot, which explores alternative pathways to licensure for educators who are making a positive impact on student learning despite not having passed licensure tests. Pilot participants far exceed national average for educator diversity, with 100% identifying as people of color. **(Goal 4)**

Launched Mississippi Governor's Education Human Capital Taskforce

in partnership with the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) to ensure key agencies collaborate and take action to increase the effectiveness, quantity and diversity of teachers in Mississippi classrooms. Focus areas include attracting, preparing, licensing, hiring, supporting and retaining teachers. **(Goal 4)**

Expanded options for entrance into teacher education

through increased grade point average (GPA) with the passage of a technical amendment to Miss. Code Ann. § 37-3-2. **(Goal 4)**

Developed plans for implementing High-Quality Instructional Materials

(HQIM) training in educator preparation programs. **(Goal 4)**





GOAL 5



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



Hired Mississippi Student Information System (MSIS) modernization

vendor and launched phase 1 of MSIS 2.0 project. **(Goal 5)**

Re-engineered Mississippi Succeeds Report Card

and added new search and comparison tools. **(Goals 4, 5, 6)**

Established Mississippi's first K-12 privacy regulations

and strengthened MDE's data governance and student privacy protections by revising and adopting SBE Policy Chapter 55, Rule 55.1: *Office of Technology and Strategic Services (OTSS)*. **(Goal 5)**





GOAL 6

EVERY School and District is
Rated “C” or Higher



Provided regional professional development on evidence-based

interventions, community engagement councils and the importance of grade-level instructional content to help build capacity within districts. **(Goals 1, 2, 4, 6)**

Hosted annual two-day convening with schools

identified for improvement with 438 participants. **(Goals 1, 2, 4, 6)**

Implemented tiered coaching support

in 58 schools through principal feedback, instructional learning walks, professional learning communities and leadership meetings. **(Goals 1, 2, 4, 6)**



Provided professional development to support new principals

and assistant principals of identified schools to build coherence of improvement efforts. **(Goals 1, 2, 4, 6)**

Conducted interviews with the 19 districts

with Comprehensive Support and Improvement schools focusing on a review of student performance, instructional resources and human and fiscal resources. **(Goals 1, 2, 4, 6)**

Launched quarterly check-in meetings

between MDE academic education staff and executive leadership to ensure alignment and implementation of MDE supports in the Mississippi Achievement School District and in districts of transformation. **(Goals 1, 2, 4, 6)**



View complete list of Key Actions to Advance Strategic Plan: mdek12.org/MBE/StrategicPlan



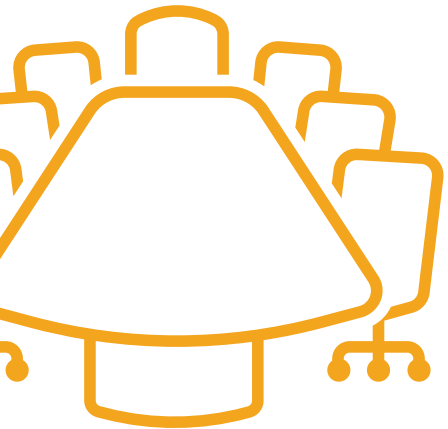
How We Led National and State Activities



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National and State Leadership Roles

- Member, National Assessment Governing Board Executive Committee
- Vice-Chair, Regional Educational Laboratory Southeast Governing Board
- Member, Education Commission of the States
- Member, Chiefs for Change Executive Board
- Member, Science of Learning Development Alliance National Advisory Committee
- Member, Strategic Education Research Partnership Board of Directors
- Member, State Longitudinal Data System Governing Board
- Member, State and School Employees Health Insurance Management Board
- Member, Education Achievement Council
- Member, Mississippi Child Health Council



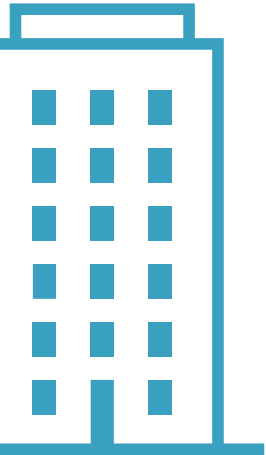
Legislative Activities

- Worked with Governor, Lt. Governor and House Speaker to mitigate impact of COVID-19 on school districts.
- Maintained regular communication with House and Senate Education Chairs and other key elected leaders.
- Testified in legislative hearings on dual credit/dual enrollment, year-round school and pandemic response.
- Advocated, secured funding and completed legislatively required reporting for Mississippi Connects initiative.



State Leadership Activities

- Met regularly with Mississippi State Health Department leaders Dr. Thomas Dobbs and Dr. Paul Byers to stay updated about the COVID-19 pandemic and make decisions to ensure the health and safety of students, teachers and school and district leaders and staff.
- Met with all district superintendents during Regional Superintendents' Meetings and pandemic-related virtual meetings.
- Met regularly with Mississippi Teacher Advisory Council and Superintendents' Advisory Council.
- Recruited applicants for new Principals' Advisory Council.
- Met in person and virtually with Mississippi Student Advisory Council, which doubled in size to 163 student representatives.



Presentations

Raised profile of K-12 education and achievement in Mississippi through 35 state and national presentations on a range of topics:

- Literacy
- Early childhood education
- Assessment and accountability
- Chronic absenteeism
- Mississippi Connects digital learning initiative
- Managing impact of COVID-19
- Mississippi K-12 initiatives and achievements





- Delivered concluding lecture for Chautauqua Institution's week on *Rebuilding Public Education*, which included presentations from education historian and activist Diane Ravitch and former Florida governor Jeb Bush.
- Highlighted reforms that delivered unprecedented academic success and rising student achievement for Mississippi students.
- The historic Chautauqua lecture platform is dedicated to civil dialogue on matters that shape our world.
- Lecture is available on the Chautauqua website, assembly.chq.org.



123 news releases and editorials

- Frequent media interviews
- Mississippi Achieves news blog
- Bi-weekly email digest to teachers and school and district leaders
- School Focus and Connections magazines
- Mississippi School Spotlight and social media videos
- Superintendent's Annual Report
- Legislative Update



Facebook followers **nearly tripled**
in one year from **5,985** to **15,505**

Twitter followers **grew** from **6,912** to **8,332**





Major News Feature: Chiefs for Change

70

- Featured with District of Columbia and Denver superintendents in Chiefs for Change multimedia report, [*Teacher to Chief: Pathways to Education Leadership*](#).
- Report shared stories of bold, innovative chiefs to encourage teachers to consider the highest level of education leadership and explain how systems can create meaningful pathways to help teachers get there.

1. *Starting at Zero* Panel Discussion, Mississippi Campaign for Grade-Level Reading and the Center for Excellence in Literacy Instruction Panel, December 10, 2020
2. *Presently UnAccounted For: Why Attention to Attendance Matters More Than Ever*, Aspen Institute and Attendance Works, December 8, 2020
3. *Policy to Practice: What Happens After a Literacy Bill Becomes a Law*, EdPalooza, December 2, 2020
4. *Climate Change Can Be A Good Thing: State Policy Actions to Address School Climate*, EdPalooza Aspen Institute Education & Society Program, December 2, 2020
5. *Effective Instructional Models in the Era of COVID-19*, EdPalooza Chiefs for Change Panel, December 1, 2020
6. *Mississippi Connects*, Stennis Capitol Press Forum, November 30, 2020
7. Mississippi Senate Hearing on Dual Credit/Dual Enrollment, November 10, 2020
8. Mississippi Senate Hearing on Year-Round Schools, November 9, 2020
9. National Blue-Ribbon Award Celebration, Center Hill School, Desoto County Schools, November 2, 2020
10. *Why Children can't read – and what we can do about it*, American Enterprise Institute Panel, October 29, 2020

11. *Advancing Early Literacy in Mississippi*, Presentation to Kentucky Task Force on Teacher Preparation and Professional Learning: Literacy and Numeracy for Primary Grades, October 8, 2020
12. *Assessment and Accountability in the Year Ahead*, Accountability and Reporting Webinar, Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) State of the States, October 6, 2020
13. *Building a High-Quality Early Childhood Education Infrastructure*, Presentation to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation, Mississippi Economic Council and Children's Foundation of Mississippi, September 29, 2020
14. *Conversations with Chiefs*, Reagan Institute Summit on Education (RISE) 2020, September 17, 2020
15. 2020-21 Mississippi Teaching Policy Fellows Kickoff, TeachPlus, August 19, 2020
16. *Back-to-School Chats About Children*, Children's Foundation, August 12, 2020
17. *Grade Transition in COVID-19 Era*, Hunt Institute: Homeroom with Mississippi and Alabama Education Leaders, August 11, 2020
18. *What Has Worked in Reforming Mississippi's Education System*, Chautauqua Institution, August 7, 2020
19. *Aligning Policy and Practice to Improve 3rd Grade Outcomes in the Era of COVID-19*, National Governors Association Symposium: Critical Aspects to Support PreK to Grade 3, August 4, 2020
20. *Mississippi Attendance Policy in COVID-19 Era*, CCSSO Webinar, July 16, 2020

21. *Maintaining Momentum in Mississippi*, Campaign for Grade-Level Reading, July 14, 2020
22. *Mississippi Digital Learning Plan*, Mississippi Alliance of Nonprofits and Philanthropy, July 9, 2020
23. *Mississippi Succeeds: Maintaining Momentum After COVID-19*, Tupelo Rotary Club, June 22, 2020
24. *Safely Reopening Mississippi Schools Amid COVID-19*, Mississippi Legislative Black Caucus, June 18, 2020
25. *Advancing Education in Mississippi*, University of Mississippi Medical Center, Jackson, MS, February 25, 2020
26. *Advancing Education in Mississippi*, Education Achievement Council, Jackson, MS, February 25, 2020
27. Keynote Address, REL-Southeast Governing Board, Ponte Vedra, FL, February 2, 2020
28. *Advancing Literacy in Mississippi*, South Carolina House Education and Public Works Committee Address, Columbia, SC, January 29, 2020
29. *Mississippi's Strategy to Advance Literacy and Improve Student Achievement*, CCSSO Chief Academic Officer/Chief Talent Officer Collaborative Convening, Albuquerque, NM, January 28, 2020

30. *Early Literacy Policy and Implementation*, CCSSO Literacy Summit, Washington, D.C., January 23, 2020
31. *Leading is a Team Sport: The Mississippi Story*, National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) Annual Conference, Omaha, NE, October 18, 2019
32. *Mississippi Literacy Summit, Welcome Remarks*, Jackson Convention Center, Jackson, MS, September 13, 2019
33. *Annie E. Casey Foundation and Casey Family Programs, Panel Discussion with Fellows*, Children's Foundation of Mississippi, Jackson, MS, September 9, 2019
34. *Mississippi's Strategy to Support Early Literacy*, presentation to North Carolina, Mississippi Momentum Partnership, Barksdale Reading Institute, Jackson, MS, August 13, 2019
35. *2019 Elevate Teachers Conference, Welcome Remarks*, Jackson Convention Center, Jackson, MS, July 8, 2019

Note: MDE leaders also support public education through presentations and their work on local, state and national boards and commissions and their service as experts on policy and practice in their respective fields.

View complete list of Key Actions to Advance Strategic Plan: mdek12.org/MBE/StrategicPlan



Where We Stand

2019-20 Achievements



2020 QUALITY COUNTS

Mississippi 2nd Most Improved State

- Earned national recognition for progress in education for the **3rd consecutive year**
- **No. 2 state** or jurisdiction with the **greatest improvement**
- C grade in chance-for-success index
- C- overall grade, just shy of the nation's grade of C
- Key advances in 4th grade reading and 8th grade math drove Mississippi's improvement

STATE	SCORE / GRADE	CHANGE 2018-2019
District of Columbia	77.8 C+	2.8 ↑
Mississippi	70.5 C-	2.1 ↑
Louisiana	69.9 C-	2.0 ↑
Nevada	68.6 D+	1.7 ↑
South Dakota	74.2 C	1.6 ↑

Source: EdWeek Research Center, 2020
Category: Overall Most Improved States

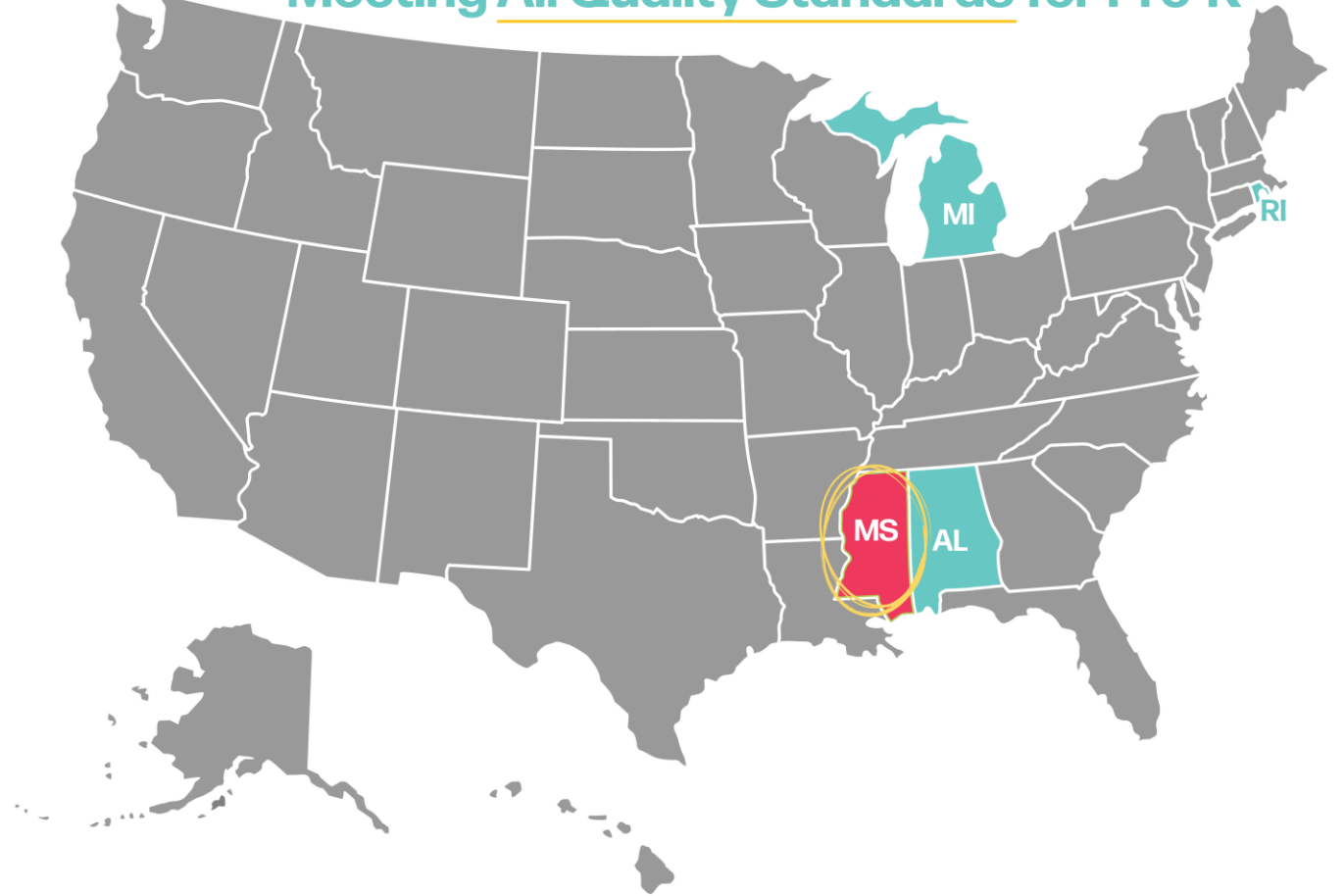
Mississippi Education Continues to Climb in Annie E. Casey Foundation Annual KIDS COUNT® 2020 Data Book

- Mississippi experienced the greatest improvement in education from 2019 to 2020.
- National ranking climbed from 44th to 39th.
- Gains in high school graduation and 4th grade literacy contributed to the rise in achievement.

National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER) Named Mississippi One of Only Four States Meeting All Quality Standards for Pre-K

- Mississippi's Early Learning Collaboratives meet all 10 of NIEER's new quality standards.
- NIEER tracks state-funded preschool access, resources and quality.
- Early Learning Collaborative students start kindergarten more prepared than students in Mississippi's other public pre-K programs.

ONE of Only **FOUR** States Meeting All Quality Standards for Pre-K



Mississippi Wins Southern Regional Education Board's (SREB) 2020 State Leadership Award

- Mississippi Department of Education wins SREB 2020 State Leadership Award for increasing literacy and mathematics achievement and building networked communities focused on school improvement in the middle grades.
- Award recognizes states with established processes that help schools transform classroom practices, sustain change and increase student achievement.

2020 SREB Report: Mississippi Leads in K-12 Progress and College Persistence Among Southern States

- SREB report, *Mississippi: A Turning Point*, praised Mississippi for achievements from early childhood through college.
- Report details how the effective implementation of education policy improved student achievement statewide and made Mississippi the leader in the South for college persistence.
- Mississippi is the only state in region in which the first-year persistence rate of first-time, full-time students at public, four-year colleges and universities increased from 2012 to 2017.
- Rate increase indicates more first-time, full-time Mississippi college students returned to college for a second year.



MISSISSIPPI SUCCEEDS

Rising to the Challenge

Carey M. Wright, Ed.D.

State Superintendent of Education

January 21, 2021



MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

ADDENDUM

Mississippi State Board of Education Strategic Plan Annual Status Report

Additional Key Actions to Advance Goals 2019-20

January 21, 2021

Goal 1: All Students Proficient and Showing Growth in All Assessed Areas

- Developed *Ask a Literacy Coach-Coaching on Demand* web link to aid all K-5 teachers and administrators. (Goal 1)
- Developed digital literacy instruction series for K-5 teachers, which included: A suggested Beginning of the Year (BOY) Checklist and instructional descriptions that define each portion of the section; virtual student engagement (how to keep your students involved during screen time); a sample virtual weekly schedule that gives sample for minutes and both types of virtual instruction; an example virtual weekly lesson plan from Core Knowledge (CKLA) that was adapted from a traditional setting to a virtual setting; suggestions on how to measure and assess virtual learning; and suggested teacher priorities during virtual instruction. (Goals 1, 3, 4)
- Revised the Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) guidance documents to ensure alignment with Literacy-Based Promotion Act (LBPA) and alleviate redundancy. (Goals 1, 2, 3, 4)
- Updated Individual Reading Plan to align with MTSS Documentation Packet (Goals 1, 2, 4)
- Conducted weekly MTSS virtual office hours to answer questions from schools and districts. (Goal 4)
- Provided specific MTSS trainings for local schools and districts to ensure they understand the three-tiered intervention process (Goals 1, 2, 3, 4)
- Partnered with Algebra Nation to create professional development resources on the DESMOS calculator (dedicated webpage, pre-recorded training, and activities) for classroom teachers on how to implement the DESMOS calculator in Algebra I classes and on the MAAP Algebra I assessment. (Goals 1, 2, 4)
- Developed teacher supports including science practice tests and annotated writing samples with additional writing guidance for state assessments. (Goals 1, 2, 4)
- Conducted English Language Proficiency training for districts that provided hands-on approach to registering students and understanding the LAS Links system. (Goals 1, 2, 4)
- Solicited assessment guidance and assistance from the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), which includes psychometricians and large-scale assessment experts from across the nation. (Goals 1, 2, 5, 6)

Goal 2: Every Student Graduates from High School and is Ready for College and Career

- Began development of a 10-year state plan for computer science education, to inform topics such as access, teacher preparation, funding, and infrastructure, in an ongoing effort to expand the computer science initiative launched in 2016. (Goal 2)
- Provided Family Guides for Student Success to schools and districts for students in grades pre-K through 8. (Goals 1, 2)
- Implemented year four of statewide Algebra Nation program to continue improving student achievement in Algebra I. (Goals 2, 4)
- Continued implementation of the Seal of Biliteracy program across the state for high school and developed a Seal of Biliteracy supplemental resource for MSIS reporting seniors. (Goals 2, 4)
- Hosted Mississippi Association for Career and Technical Education (MSACTE) statewide virtual conference for 1,062 CTE teachers, counselors and administrators. (Goals 2, 4)
- Hosted Innovative Leadership Summit for 92 Mississippi education leaders. (Goals 2, 4)
- Hosted the Innovative Summer Institute virtually for 293 teachers, counselors and administrators. (Goals 2, 4)
- Hosted nine virtual College and Career Readiness (CCR) trainings for CCR teachers and conducted monthly webinars for teachers to provide support for Canvas and the CCR course. (Goals 2, 4)
- Hosted twice-weekly virtual office hours for all special education directors. (Goals 2, 4)
- Developed Individualized Education Program (IEP) guidance document for special education and general education teachers and administrators. (Goals 2, 4)
- Provided on-demand training and support to teachers and administrators regarding supporting students with disabilities. (Goals 2, 4, 6)
- Provided support to all special education directors with 0-3 years' experience through the Office of Special Education New Director Mentoring Program. (Goal 4)
- Developed pre-recorded trainings for K-12 classroom teachers on the integration of the Arts Learning Standards using innovative technology, artistic processes and creative practices. (Goals 2, 4)
- Created instructional resources for the arts (dance, media arts, music, theatre, and visual arts). (Goals 2, 4)
- Began revision of the Mississippi School Counselor Handbook as a resource aligned with the American School Counselor Association (ASCA) Model 4th edition. (Goals 2, 4)
- Hosted ongoing professional development and technical assistance with 18 science educators within the Mississippi Achievement School District (MASD). (Goals 2, 4)
- Hosted ongoing professional development and technical assistance with science teachers in targeted school districts. (Goals 2, 4)
- Provided statewide training on the educational shifts that support HQIM in ELA Mississippi Instructional Materials Matter website for teachers and districts to recognize and select HQIM. (Goals 1, 2, 3, 4)

- Developed the Restart and Recovery document to support and provide guidance to school administrators regarding the education of students with disabilities during the pandemic and recovery period. (Goals 2, 4, 6)
- Issued guidance and frequently asked questions regarding educating students with disabilities during school closures due to COVID-19 through individual meetings with districts and the special education director listserv. (Goals 2, 4, 6)
- Revised and implemented new SBE policy for the Educational Scholarship Account (ESA). (Goals 1, 2)
- Revised SBE policy for Advanced Placement teachers to expand opportunities for all students to participate in Advanced Placement classes. (Goals 1, 2)

Collaborations and Partnerships:

- Southern Regional Education Board (SREB): To implement year three of middle school pilot to improve student achievement, student discipline and leadership practices across 19 middle schools. (Goals 1, 2, 4)
- Mississippi State University Research and Curriculum Unit (RCU): To develop and implement Mississippi Alternate Academic Achievement Standards (MSAAAS) for students with significant cognitive disabilities. (Goals 2, 4)
- RCU: To develop and release Teacher Resources Guides (TRG) aligned to the MSAAAS for students with significant cognitive disabilities. (Goals 2, 4)
- RCU: To continue providing resources and training to school counselors in promoting equitable school counselor programs that offer CTE courses, dual enrollment and AP courses for all students. (Goals 2, 4)
- Get2College: To develop resources and training for school counselors, students, and parents to meet the needs of in-person and virtual students. (Goals 2, 4)
- NASA: To begin aligning NASA resources with the Mississippi College and Career Readiness Standards for Science. (Goals 2, 4)
- Teaching Lab group: To work with approximately 30 math educators (teachers, lead teachers, and coaches) to improve instructional strategies, coaching supports at the local level, evaluation of student work, and resource-standard alignment. (Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 6)

Goal 3: Every Child Has Access to a High-Quality Early Childhood Program

- Delivered virtual Early Childhood Specialized Training to 172 educators in a six-hour onboarding session; 103 educators are currently participating in the full nine-month online program. (Goals 3, 4)
- Continued data system development with Web-based Early Learning Systems (WELS) to house coaches' notes and collaborative program aggregate data. (Goals 3, 5)
- Developed and recorded 12 episodes of the early childhood segment, Welcome Friends, for new MPB channel. (Goal 3)
- Developed family engagement documents to support teachers and families, including Family Engagement Calendar and Family Back-to-School Guide. (Goal 3)
- Participated with Ed Counsel to align birth through grade 12 efforts by aligning pre-K social and emotional learning (SEL) standards to K-12 SEL standards. (Goal 3)
- Awarded 18 teachers a certificate of completion who have completed the requirements from 2019-20 Early Childhood Specialized Training and are eligible to submit application to receive the Pre-K endorsement; 41 assistant teachers completed the requirements from 2019-20 and received their certificate of completion. (Goals 3, 4)

Goal 4: Every School Has Effective Teachers and Leaders

- Developed process to accept electronic transcripts directly from the registrar's office of any college or university. (Goal 4)
- Enabled the online Educator License Management System (ELMS) to accept a broader range of supporting documents, eliminating need for applicants to mail the documents. (Goal 4)
- Reviewed and processed licensure applications seven days a week, during and outside of normal business hours. (Goal 4)
- Extended licensure application expiration date period from 30 to 120 days. (Goal 4)
- Implemented automatic issuance of district-requested year-one emergency certificate, one year reinstatement of standard educator license; provided one year extension to all licenses scheduled to expire June 30, 2020; suspended educator preparation program entry testing requirement through December 31, 2021; and suspended educator licensure testing requirement through December 31, 2021. (Goal 4)
- Implemented computer-based licensure call center software that enabled stakeholders to reach licensure call center staff during COVID-19-related building closures. (Goal 4)
- Implemented system to collect and manage data and reports for recruitment contacts. (Goal 4)
- Increased math educator pipelines by adopting Praxis subject assessments and SBE-approved passing scores for Algebra I and Geometry to add an Algebra or Geometry licensure endorsement to an appropriate Mississippi teaching license. (Goal 4)
- Trained more than 1,000 school and district leaders on the Mississippi Professional Growth System (PGS). (Goal 4)
- Developed a practice-based, virtual professional growth training system that uses a combination of pre-, during, and post-training to increase effective observation and feedback through PGS resource familiarization, an educator case study, and score calibration. (Goal 4)
- Created the Mississippi Tech Help Facebook group for teachers to share resources and problems around implementing technology. (Goal 4)
- Provided training and professional development to 102 new and first-year academic guidance counselors at new counselor workshops in fall 2020. (Goal 4)
- Provided Google training to literacy coaches and school improvement coaches to enhance their support of classroom teachers in the delivery of instructional content through Google Classroom. (Goal 4)
- Piloted a strengthened program review process with educator preparation programs. (Goal 4)
- Conducted four virtual national site visits with the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP). (Goal 4)

Partnerships:

- Collaboration for Effective Educator Development, Accountability, and Reform (CEEDAR), the University of Mississippi, Delta State University and William Carey University: To strengthen education preparation programs in the areas of policy, communication, data, preparation, practice, recruitment and retention. (Goal 4)
- CCSSO: Participated in collaboratives for Systems to Elevate Excellence in Teaching and School Leader Development and Support. (Goal 4)

- CCSSO, CEEDAR and the Oak Foundation: To continue implementation of inclusive practice in leader preparation through a multi-state initiative. (Goals 1, 2, 4)
- nSPARC and the Educator Preparation Provider Collaborative Committee (EPPCC). To create an educator preparation program impact report. (Goal 4)
- Mississippi Education Leadership Faculty Association (MELFA): To pilot common assessments for principal preparation that include PGS training, school improvement efforts, safe and orderly schools, and family and community relations. (Goal 4)
- Region 7 Comprehensive Center (R7CC): To strengthen the PGS. (Goal 4)
- R7CC: To increase literacy statewide. (Goal 4)
- Educator preparation providers: To conduct virtual teacher recruitment fairs. (Goal 4)

Goal 5: Every Community Effectively Using a World-Class Data System to Improve Student Outcomes

- Analyzed and documented current key MSIS processes that OTSS will need to re-engineer to support the development and operation of new MSIS 2.0 system. (Goal 5)
- Established process standards and goals for key MSIS processes that OTSS will need to re-engineer to support the development and operation of new MSIS 2.0 system. (Goal 5)
- Conducted focus groups with districts to document challenges with the current MSIS collection and reporting processes and to prioritize needs the new MSIS 2.0 system will need to address. (Goal 5)
- Redeveloped two key reports – the federally required District CTE Summary Report and the State Assessment File for federal EdFacts reporting – as part of an ongoing effort to improve efficiency, transparency, consistency and interoperability through automation. (Goal 5)
- Documented data elements, business rules, and reporting requirements for all current MSIS data collections. (Goal 5)
- Completed second annual security audit and addressed identified concerns. (Goal 5)
- Required security awareness training and tested all MDE employees. (Goal 5)

Goal 6: Every School and District is Rated C or Higher

- Shifted school improvement supports for coaches, schools and districts to virtual delivery to develop coaches' capacity in using virtual platforms (Teams, Zoom, Google) and provide professional learning in a virtual platform for schools and districts. (Goals 1, 2, 4, 6)
- Continued partnership with John Hopkins University (Everyone Graduates Center) high schools with a low graduation rate. (Goals 1, 2, 4, 6)