

What Every

INSTRUCTIONAL LEADER



NEEDS TO KNOW

September 2018



MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

Ensuring a bright future for every child

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION 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 IS EFFECTIVELY USING A WORLD-CLASS DATA SYSTEM TO IMPROVE STUDENT OUTCOMES

6

EVERY SCHOOL AND DISTRICT IS RATED "C" OR HIGHER

Dr. Carey M. Wright, State Superintendent

Dr. Washington Cole, *Chief of Staff*

Dr. Felicia Gavin, *Chief Operations Officer*

John Kraman, *Chief Information Officer*

Dr. Nathan Oakley, *Chief Academic Officer*

Pete Smith, *Chief Communications and Government Relations Officer*

Dr. Paula Vanderford, *Chief Accountability Officer*

**For questions about this publication, please contact
Dr. Marla Davis, Bureau Director, at mdavis@mdek12.org**

Special Thanks

Melissa Banks, *Instructional Technology Specialist*
Jean Gordon Cook, APR, *Communications Specialist*
Patrice Guilfoyle, APR, *Communications Director*

The Mississippi State Board of Education, the Mississippi Department of Education, the Mississippi School for the Arts, the Mississippi School for the Blind, the Mississippi School for the Deaf, and the Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science do not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, religion, national origin, age, or disability in the provision of educational programs and services or employment opportunities and benefits. The following office has been designated to handle inquiries and complaints regarding the non-discrimination policies of the above-mentioned entities:

Director, Office of Human Resources
Mississippi Department of Education
359 North West Street
Jackson, Mississippi 39201
(601) 359-3511

Publication Overview

Chief Academic Officer

Dr. Nathan Oakley



In an effort to keep instructional leaders informed, the Mississippi Department of Education, through the Office of Academic Education, would like to provide this broad overview of various program offices within the agency, along with their contact information and key initiatives. It is our hope that you will find this semi-annual update useful as you continue to serve students in our great state.

Table of Contents

❖ Professional Development Priorities	
❖ <i>Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)</i>	
❖ Program Office Updates	
▲ Accreditation	7
▲ Advanced Programs, Counseling, and Support Services	8
▲ Career and Technical Education	11
▲ Child Nutrition	12
▲ Compulsory School Attendance Enforcement	13
▲ District and School Performance	15
▲ Early Childhood	16
▲ Educator Licensure	19
▲ Educator Preparation	21
▲ Educator Talent Acquisition and Effectiveness	22
▲ Elementary Education and Reading	24
▲ Federal Programs	26
▲ Healthy Schools	28
▲ Intervention Services	29
▲ JROTC	31
▲ Literacy	33
▲ Professional Development	35
▲ School Improvement	36
▲ Secondary Curriculum and Instruction	38
▲ Special Education	41
▲ Student Assessment	43
▲ Technology and Strategic Services	45
▲ Textbooks	47

Professional Development PRIORITIES

GRADUATION

(Diploma Options, Alternate Diploma, Chronic Absenteeism, Dropout Prevention)
Grade Span: K-5/6-12

SBE Goals: 1, 2, 4, 6

ENGLISH LEARNERS

Grade Span: PK-12

SBE Goals: 1, 3, 4, 6

LITERACY

(Coaching, Library)
Grade Span: Birth-5/6-12

SBE Goals: 1, 2, 3, 4, 6

LEADERSHIP

(Administrators, Teacher Leadership Initiative)
Grade Span: K-12

SBE Goals: 1, 2, 3, 4, 6

EARLY CHILDHOOD

Grade Span: Birth-3

SBE Goals: 1, 3, 4, 6

TOP TEN PRIORITIES

for Effective
Teachers & Leaders

2018-2019

SCIENCE

Grade Span: PK-5
SBE Goals: 1, 2, 3, 4, 6

Grade Span: 6-12
SBE Goals: 1, 2, 4, 6

SCHOOL SAFETY

(CRASE)
Grade Span: PK-12
SBE Goals: 1, 2, 4, 6

HIGH-QUALITY INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORTS

(Arts, ELA, Early Childhood, Gifted Education, Mathematics, Social Studies, Writing)
Grade Span: Birth-12

SBE Goals: 1, 2, 3, 4, 6

CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE PRACTICES

Grade Span: PK-12

SBE Goals: 1, 2, 3, 4, 6

MIDDLE SCHOOL INSTRUCTION

Grade Span: 5-8

SBE Goals: 1, 2, 4, 6

Additional PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Orton Gillingham

Data Analysis

Assessment

Chronic Absenteeism

Counseling

Co-Teaching

Innovation Lab Network

Dyslexia

Mainstreaming

Universal Design for Learning

LETRS

Discipline/PBIS

Multi-Tiered System of Support

Special Education

Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

Get in touch with us...

601-359-3077

Website: www.mdek12.org/essa
mssucceeds@mdek12.org

Dr. Nathan Oakley, *Chief Academic Officer & ESSA State Lead*
noakley@mdek12.org

What we do...

- Engage with stakeholders in the development of Mississippi's response to ESSA
- Coordinate efforts across offices within the Mississippi Department of Education

What you need to know...

- **What is ESSA?** In 2015, Congress passed the *Every Student Succeeds Act* (ESSA), a reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965. The federal education law is primarily focused on historically disadvantaged students. ESSA replaced No Child Left Behind (NCLB).
- **Long-term goals** – Each state is setting ambitious, long-term goals and interim benchmarks of student progress based on assessment proficiency, graduation rate, and progress toward English proficiency for English learners. More ambitious goals will be set for groups that are further behind so that significant progress can be made in closing gaps.
- **Accountability** – Mississippi does not plan to make major changes to the current accountability system at this time, other than through the addition of an indicator to measure progress to English proficiency for English Learners.
- **Reporting** – ESSA requires disaggregated data be reported on factors such as achievement, graduation rate, assessment participation, discipline rates, advanced coursework access, and similar indicators.
- **School improvement** – ESSA places the primary responsibility for improving low-performing schools on the school district, with the support of the state.
- **Teacher & Leader Quality** – States and districts must ensure that low-income students and students of color are not taught at disproportionate rates by ineffective, out-of-field, or inexperienced teachers.
- **Evidence-Based Programs** – ESSA requires that districts and schools, particularly those identified for Comprehensive or Targeted Support and Improvement, use evidence-based practices. Evidence-based practices must provide a track record of success. ESSA's definition of "evidence-based" includes 4 levels of evidence. The top 3 levels require findings of a statistically significant effect on improving student outcomes or other relevant outcomes based on an experimental study, a quasi-experimental study, or a correlational study. Websites such as the *What Works Clearinghouse* or the *PEW Results First Clearinghouse Database* offer listings of some evidence-based programs.

Accreditation

Get in touch with us...

601-359-3764

Dr. Jo Ann Malone, *Executive Director*
jmalone@mdek12.org

Teresa Jones, *Staff Officer III*
tjones@mdek12.org

Michael Martin, *Staff Officer III*
mcmartin@mdek12.org

Katrina McDowell, *Staff Officer III*
kmcdowell@mdek12.org

Ken Stamps, *Staff Officer III*
kstamps@mdek12.org

What we do...

- Administer the state's performance-based accreditation system for public schools and the accreditation system for non-public schools electing to seek accreditation from the State Board of Education
- Monitor school districts to verify compliance with applicable accreditation requirements through (1) investigative evaluations (complaints against school districts), (2) annual personnel data reports, and (3) reports from other state or federal programs
- Provide technical assistance and training on matters related to the *Mississippi Public Schools Accountability Standards*

What you need to know...

- To access the current edition of the *Mississippi Public Schools Accountability Standards*, visit the Office of Accreditation website at <http://www.mdek12.org/OA/Accred>.

Advanced Programs, Counseling, and Support Services

Get in touch with us...

601-359-3461

Dr. Dana Bullard, *Bureau Director*
dbullard@mdek12.org

Chandrea Walker, *Director of Counseling and Support Services*
cswalker@mdek12.org

Dr. Jennifer Trammell, *K-8 Counseling Coordinator*
jtrammell@mdek12.org

Angela Kitchens, *Student Services Program Coordinator*
akitchens@mdek12.org

Kathy Mangum, *Counseling Program Supervisor*
klmangum@mdek12.org

What we do...

- Districts of Innovation
- Early College High Schools, Middle College Programs, and Career Academies
- Advanced Placement, Dual Credit, and ACT Initiatives
- Middle School Programs
- Innovation Lab Network
- Dropout Prevention and Restructuring
- MS Virtual Public Schools
- Student Service Coordinators, and CTE and Academic Counselors
- Get2College Initiative
- Behavioral Intervention
- Social/Emotional Development Programs

What you need to know...

- **MS Innovation Lab Network (MS ILN)** – The MS-ILN is a network of approved districts that pilot, scale, and improve student-centered approaches to learning, including personalized, competency-based, and anytime/anywhere learning. Districts will collaborate in learning communities to implement policies and improve practices to support underserved students. There are no associated costs with the ILN or for its membership, but it does require a commitment from district administrators, teachers, and local school boards to join and receive support for their work.
- **Job Scout** – The National Strategic Planning and Analysis Research Center (NSPARC) at Mississippi State University has created a new career exploration and interest inventory app that replaces *MS Choices*, called *Job Scout*. *Job Scout* is aligned to MS

resources that relate to MS jobs and postsecondary opportunities. The interest inventory can be used by students on their Smart phones and is free to all public school districts and students.

- **Individual Success Plan** – Process Standard 14.1.4: *The Individual Success Plan (ISP)* is a personalized plan for all students in grades 7-12. School districts may use the ISP as a resource to select activities that guide students in exploring their strengths and interests, connecting their strengths and interests to a career pathway, and setting career and academic goals based on a chosen pathway. This resource is available [here](#).
- **MS Career Resource Guidance Document** – Guidance documents for districts on how to create a “college-going culture” and prepare students to make postsecondary decisions. This document includes the ISP and other designated activities at grade levels 6-12, along with an appendix of materials related to academic success. This resource is available [here](#).
- **MS Career Guidance Standards: K-5 & 6-12** – Guidance documents available online that include objectives, lessons, and resources for all grades with an emphasis on career exploration and awareness for grades K-5, and educational and career planning for grades 6-12. This resource is available [here](#).
- **Early College High School (ECHS)** – An ECHS is a small, independent high school that is usually located on a partnering college campus or a location other than a traditional high school campus. The goal of an early college high school is for students to graduate with both a high school diploma and an associate degree from the partnering college.
- **Middle College Program** – A middle college program is a robust dual credit/dual enrollment program run by a school district and a partnering community college that offers high school students a large choice of dual credit and dual enrollment classes. The students may spend a portion of the academic day at the high school and the remaining portion of the day at the partnering community college, where the classes are taught. These programs are often set up in a cohort model.
- **Career Academy** – A career academy is a small learning community, consisting of a group of students within a larger high school that take classes together for at least two years and are taught by a team of teachers from different disciplines focused on a career pathway. The Academy delivers a college-preparatory curriculum with a career theme, enabling students to see relationships among academic subjects and their applications to a broad field of work. Partnerships with employers, the community, and local colleges, are key elements to a successful Career Academy because they bring resources from outside the high school to improve student motivation and achievement.
- **Early Warning System** – The Mississippi Department of Education developed the Early Warning System (EWS) as a guide to assist school districts and schools in their efforts to help students succeed academically and emerge from Mississippi high schools well prepared for college and careers. This guide provides information on how to effectively use early warning data to identify, support, and monitor at-risk students in grades K-12.

- **Grants for New AP Teachers** – Districts are eligible for reimbursement for initial AP training for teachers in underserved areas. Preference is given to districts that are building a more robust AP program.
 - **Project Lead the Way, CTE, and Robotics Grants** – The Office of Secondary Education periodically lists grants to enhance or implement science and engineering programs in middle and high schools. Check the website seasonally for opportunities to apply.
 - **Non-traditional Grant Allocation** – This mini-grant is awarded to Special Populations programs within school districts. The funds must be used to promote non-traditional careers. Many schools use the funding to provide college scholarships for non-traditional students who attend Career and Technical Education Centers.
-

Career and Technical Education

Get in touch with us...

601-359-3974

Jennifer Nance, *Office Director*
jennifer.nance@mdek12.org

Sandra Parker, *Director, Student Organizations*
sparker@mdek12.org

Rozelia Harris, *Grants Management*
rharris@mdek12.org

What we do...

- Create and maintain middle school programs that prepare students for high school work (ICT1, ICT2, STEM)
- Create and maintain high school workforce readiness programs that link to high skill, high wage jobs and post-secondary education
- Oversee 10 student organizations that provide opportunities for students to learn leadership and communication skills
- Oversee all financial and audit responsibilities for Career and Technical Education programs

What you need to know...

- **Work-Based Learning** – We are in the process of developing programs so that all Career and Technical Education students will have an opportunity to participate in internships, job shadowing, paid work, and entrepreneurship programs to gain real world experiences before they move into the workforce or post-secondary education.
- **National Program Certification in Automotive Technology, Construction and Manufacturing Programs** – In order to compete successfully with other states and be proficient in the global economy, all programs in the areas listed above are in the process of meeting national certification standards. This ensures that every program in the state is prepared to train students at the highest level possible for entry into the workforce and post-secondary education.

Child Nutrition

Get in touch with us...

601-576-5000

Scott Clements, *State Director*
sclements@mdek12.org

Ginger Gibson, *Assistant State Director*
ggibson@mdek12.org

Mary Burks, *Schools Support*
mburks@mdek12.org

April Catchings, *Training and Outreach*
acatchings@mdek12.org

Mary Clayborne, *Child and Adult Care & Summer Food Service Programs*
mclayborne@mdek12.org

Bill Urban, *Purchasing and Food Distribution*
burban@mdek12.org

What we do...

- Administer USDA special nutrition programs, including the National School Lunch & School Breakfast Programs, Child and Adult Care Food Program, Summer Food Service Program, and USDA Foods distribution
- Operate the MS Statewide Purchasing System, providing over 650 high quality, student approved items at a substantial cost savings to schools and other participating organizations
- Provide training and technical assistance for participating organizations' staff

What you need to know...

- **Mississippi Recipes for Success (MRS)** – This free resource provides hundreds of recipes for use in school food service that have been thoroughly tested for yield, flavor and quality, and compliance with all USDA nutrition standards. MRS is available in print or online format, with complete nutrient analysis for each recipe at <http://mrs.mdek12.org/>.
- **Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)** – More than half of the State's school districts participate in the Summer Food Service Program, reaching children who don't have access to healthy meals when school is out. The SFSP offers flexibility in meal types and service locations, with no minimum number of sites. Please contact our office to inquire about joining the SFSP or expanding your district's participation. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KkLGTofRr8w>.
- **Equipment Grants for Schools** – The Office of Child Nutrition administers Nutrition Integrity and USDA Equipment grant programs. Through a partnership with the Bower Foundation, Nutrition Integrity grants provide matching funds for schools to improve school health by replacing deep fat fryers with combination oven steamers that provide the taste and texture of foods preferred by students, but with less fat and calories. Additionally, equipment grants may be used to purchase critical kitchen equipment.

Compulsory School Attendance Enforcement

Get in touch with us...

601-359-5743

Toni Kersh, *Bureau Director*
tkersh@mdek12.org

Keshia M. Sanders, *Project Officer IV*
ksanders@mdek12.org

Jessica T. Michael, *Staff Officer*
jmichael@mdek12.org

Terissa Williams, *Staff Officer*
twilliams@mdek12.org

Damian D. Thomas, *Division Director*
dthomas@mdek12.org

Cheryl Mickens, *School Attendance Officer Supervisor (Central District)*
cmickens@mdek12.org

Korby Mann, *School Attendance Officer Supervisor (Southern District)*
klmann@mdek12.org

LeKreshia Crump, *School Attendance Officer Supervisor (Northern District)*
lcrump@mdek12.org

What we do...

- Ensure that all students between the ages of 6-17 are enrolled and attending a public, private or home school
(Miss. Code Ann. § 37-13-91)
- Ensure that educational services are provided to youth in Juvenile Detention Centers
(Miss. Code Ann. § 43-21-321)
- Ensure that educational services are provided for students placed in Alternative Education
(Miss. Code Ann. § 37-13-92)
- Provide information regarding Mandated Reporting
(Miss. Code Ann. §43-21-353)
- Ensure that school districts comply with the Foster Care Enrollment Guidelines outlined in the *Every Student Succeeds Act* (ESSA)

What you need to know...

- **Chronic Absenteeism Summit** – Reducing Chronic Absenteeism in Mississippi Symposium was held August 21-23, 2018.
 - Chronic absenteeism is calculated based on excused absences, unexcused absences and suspensions
 - Districts need to ensure that required data are reported correctly to the MDE and federal government
- **Mandated Reporting** – State law mandates that suspected cases of abuse and neglect be reported to the Mississippi Department of Child Protection Services (MDCPS) at 1-800-222-8000. Individuals may also download the MDCPS Report Child Abuse app.

- **Educational Stability for Children in Foster Care** – Federal requirements are set for the educational stability of students placed in foster care ensuring minimal educational disruption occurs.
 - **Juvenile Detention Center (JDC) Education Programs** – Training and technical assistance meetings are held on a quarterly basis with JDC education program sponsoring school districts
 - Each district must have two (2) points of contact to retrieve and disseminate student records, if requested, by any of the detention facilities.
 - The sponsoring district, chosen by the youth court judge, is responsible for providing educational services to youth detainees. All districts, including the sponsoring district, share in the total cost of the educational program.
 - **Alternative Education and High School Equivalency** – Training and technical assistance regarding Miss. Code Ann. §37-13-92, State Board Policy Chapter 7, Rule 7.1 - Rule 7.2 (GED Guidelines), and Accreditation Standards 22 & 23 are available. The alternative school program provides students an opportunity to continue their education in a more restrictive environment for a specified period, until behavior requirements have been met.
-

District and School Performance

Get in touch with us...

C. Alan Burrow, *Bureau Director*
aburrow@mdek12.org

What we do...

- Produce and report district and school accountability ratings that reflect performance through given indicators
- Facilitate the inclusion of all stakeholders through established methods and nationally recognized best practices
- Ensure compliance with federally and state mandated accountability standards and reporting requirements
- Assist districts and schools with data quality issues to ensure accurate accountability results

What you need to know...

- **ESSA Compliance Changes** – In order to meet requirements under the *Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)*, there have been several minor changes to the accountability system for 2018. The most significant change was the addition of an English Learner component. For further information, please refer to www.mdek12.org/OA/ODSP.
- **Data Quality Improvement** – Quality data from the district is very important to many accountability measures. District and school administrators should work to ensure that the data entered into MSIS is timely and accurate. Also pay careful attention to deadlines for data entry.
- **Accountability Task Force** – The MDE has been working with the Accountability Task Force to discuss suggestions and proposed changes to the Mississippi Statewide Accountability System. The Task Force will continue to meet regularly to work through proposed changes to accountability rules and help to ensure that the Accountability System accurately reflects school and district performance.

Early Childhood

Get in touch with us...

601-359-2932

Dr. Jill Dent, *Bureau Director*

jdent@mdek12.org

Monica May, *Assistant Director*

mfmay@mdek12.org

Laura Dickson, *Early Learning Collaborative Coordinator*

ldickson@mdek12.org

Elizabeth Stone, *Early Learning Collaborative Coordinator*

estone@mdek12.org

Joyce Greer, *Early Childhood Instructional Specialist*

jgreer@mdek12.org

Candice Taylor, *Early Childhood Special Education 619 Coordinator*

cataylor@mdek12.org

Kristi Gary, *Office Coordinator*

kgary@mdek12.org

Kelly Carmody, *Early Childhood Regional Coordinator*

kcarmody@mdek12.org

Leigh-Anne Gant, *Early Childhood Regional Coordinator*

lgant@mdek12.org

Amanda Adams, *Family Engagement Transition Coach*

aadams@mdek12.org

Angela Towers, *Family Engagement Transition Coach*

atowers@mdek12.org

What we do...

- Provide guidance, standards, and supports for public school Pre-K and kindergarten settings
- Provide professional development and technical assistance to Pre-K and Kindergarten teachers and administrators
- Coordinate and facilitate the Early Learning Collaborative Grant Program
- Coordinate and facilitate the Blended Pre-K Grant Program
- Provide schools, districts, and other Early Childhood programs job-embedded coaching supports through the employment of a collaborative team of Early Childhood Coaches and Professional Development Specialists

Amye Hoskins, *Professional Development Specialist*
ahoskins@mdek12.org

Jayme Jones, *Professional Development Specialist*
jajones@mdek12.org

Adrienne Mercer, *Early Childhood Coach*
amercer@mdek12.org

Deeda Paul, *Early Childhood Coach*
dpaul@mdek12.org

Marisa Prewitt, *Early Childhood Coach*
mprewitt@mdek12.org

Merry Pennell, *Early Childhood Coach*
mpennell@mdek12.org

Oki Ragins, *Early Childhood Coach*
oragins@mdek12.org

Sandra Watkins, *Early Childhood Coach*
swatkins@mdek12.org

Lydia Boutwell, *Contract Worker*
lboutwell@mdek12.org

What you need to know...

- **Early Learning Guidelines and Early Learning Standards** – The recently revised guidelines included all the National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER) benchmarks with policy changes, except the coaching component which will take time to implement. The new Early Learning Standards (for infants through four-year-old children) have been revised to include infants and toddlers which create an alignment of standards from birth through 12th grade.
- **Brigance** – The Comprehensive Early Learning Observation Screener is a developmental screening tool to be used in Early Learning Collaborative classrooms – as well as all other publicly funded Pre-K classrooms – to support early detection of delays in the development of children.

- **Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS)** – CLASS is an observation instrument to assess classroom quality in preschool classrooms through three dimensions: Emotional Support, Classroom Organization, and Instructional Support. All public school and collaborative Pre-K classrooms will be monitored using this system. Public Pre-K classrooms will be monitored during the 2018-2019 school year based on the Accreditation cyclical monitoring schedule.
 - **Effectiveness Evaluation Plan** – Schools providing services to Pre-K children will receive an evaluation to ensure the quality and effectiveness of services on improving children’s learning and well-being. Evaluation occurs for the Early Learning Collaboratives and other Pre-K classrooms (e.g. Title I, local-funded, tuition-based) in Mississippi public schools. Evaluation consists of two parts: rate of readiness and monitoring. Please find the complete plan included in the *Early Learning Guidelines for Classrooms Serving Three- and Four-Year-Old Children* at www.mdek12.org/ec.
 - **Implementation of the Kellogg Pre-K Grant** – This infrastructure grant will support teachers statewide in the Early Learning Collaboratives and other publicly funded Pre-K settings to implement high quality, developmentally appropriate practices in their classrooms. Major grant activities include professional development and coaching support, Pre-K program evaluation to ensure program quality and student progress, implementation of developmental assessments for Pre-K students, and assistance with increasing family engagement in their child(ren)’s education. Staff onboarding will occur Fall 2018.
-

Educator Licensure

Get in touch with us...

601-359-3483

Dr. Cory M. Murphy, *Executive Director*
cmurphy@mdek12.org

What we do...

- Oversee the licensing and verification of all educators and administrators working in Mississippi public schools
- Provide resources to assist school districts in maintaining compliance with state law

What you need to know...

- **ELMS System Maintenance** – The MDE performed ELMS system maintenance on Friday, September 7, 2018 from 5:00 PM – Monday, September 10, 2018 8:00 AM. During this brief time, ELMS was not available.
- **Discontinuation of Educator Licensure Application Drop-off/Walk-in Service** – Beginning Monday, August 13, 2018, the Division of Educator Licensure discontinued educator licensure application drop-off/walk-in service as a document delivery option.

All applications and other required documents shall be submitted to the Office via postal mail or as appropriate, please continue to take advantage of our online licensure application that is available through the Educator Licensure Management System (ELMS). If the online licensure application option is used, all supporting documents are still required to be delivered to the Office via postal mail.

- **Educator Licensure Renewal** – To expedite the renewal process, please encourage educators to complete all licensure renewal requirements prior to the fifth year of the standard Mississippi educator license. Educators who have completed all licensure renewal requirements prior to the fifth year during their respective license renewal cycle, may submit a complete application and all original supporting documentation to the Division of Educator Licensure at the time of completion of all renewal requirements.

Educators may complete and submit an application for licensure renewal through the Educator Licensure Management System (ELMS). All original Continuing Education Unit (CEU) certificates, official sealed transcript(s) documenting coursework, National Board, or School Executive Management Institute (SEMI) credits used for renewal must be mailed as a complete packet directly to the Division of Educator Licensure (SEMI credits are not required to be mailed).

This should be done to avoid a delay in processing time and receiving multiple requirement(s) letters which are sent to educators in the case that an incomplete

application packet is received. Please include your Mississippi educator identification/license number on all documents.

Only standard license endorsements are eligible for renewal. Provisional licenses of any kind are not renewable. Please note that an educator license may be renewed one five-year period beyond the current renewal cycle. For example, according to current guidelines, if all renewal requirements have been met for a license with a validity period of 7/1/2017 – 6/30/2022, that license can be extended to 6/30/2027 at any time during the current renewal cycle.

- **Notice of Adjusted Required Passing Score for Praxis Subject Assessment, Mathematics: Content Knowledge (Test Code 5161)** – On May 17, 2018, the Mississippi State Board of Education (SBE) granted approval to adjust the required passing score for Praxis Subject Assessment Mathematics: Content Knowledge (Test Code 5161). This is one criterion of the multistep licensure process that allows candidates with a score of 152 or higher to meet the licensure subject area assessment requirement for obtaining a Mathematics 7-12 (endorsement code 154) license.

Applicants who meet all requirements for obtaining a Mississippi license in the area of Mathematics 7-12 (endorsement code 154), which includes achieving a score of 152 or higher for test 5161, will need to submit a **new** application to the Educator Licensure Division. We began accepting new applications on **May 25, 2018**.

Candidates seeking entrance into one of State Board of Education (SBE) approved non-traditional pathways to licensure who have met all other preconditions for entrance and have achieved a score of 152 or higher on test 5161 will need to contact an approved Educator Preparation Providers directly to inquire about admission to the program.

- **Current Version of the School Leaders Licensure Assessment (SLLA) to be Replaced with New Version** – On May 17, 2018, the Mississippi State Board of Education (SBE) granted approval to adopt a qualifying passing score of 151 for the newly revised version of the *School Leaders Licensure Assessment* (SLLA) (Test Code 6990).

The new version of the *School Leaders Licensure Assessment* (SLLA) (Test Code 6990) will replace the current version of the *School Leaders Licensure Assessment* (SLLA) (Test Code 6011) with an effective date of September 1, 2018.

The current version of the *School Leaders Licensure Assessment* (SLLA) (Test Code 6011) was discontinued effective August 31, 2018. Adhering to the Mississippi State Board of Education's Discontinued Test Policy, Mississippi's qualifying passing score for the current version of the SLLA (Test Code 6011) will be accepted through August 31, 2020 if that qualifying passing score for the SLLA (Test Code 6011) was achieved on or prior to August 31, 2018.

Educator Preparation

Get in touch with us...

601-359-3631

Dr. Debra B. Burson, *Bureau Director*
dburson@mdek12.org

Dr. Albert Carter, *Office Director II*
acarter@mdek12.org

What we do...

- Collaborate with Educator Preparation Providers (EPPs) to ensure effective teachers and leaders for all Mississippi schools
- Coordinate national accreditation visits, conduct program reviews, and assess annual reports for EPPs
- Provide technical assistance to Mississippi EPPs to ensure compliance with MDE policies, state statutes, and state and national standards for educator preparation
- Collaborate with the Division of Educator Talent Acquisition and Effectiveness to provide support to EPPs and districts in attracting, supporting, and retaining effective educators

What you need to know...

- **State Partnership with the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP)** – The MDE partners with CAEP, national accreditor for educator preparation, to ensure high-quality preparation for teachers and leaders in the state of Mississippi.
- **Mississippi's Process and Performance Review** – The Division of Educator Preparation is revising the state's guidelines for performance review of EPPs to ensure state and national standards for educator preparation are being met.

Educator Talent Acquisition and Effectiveness

Get in touch with us...

601-359-3631

Phelton Cortez Moss, *Bureau Director*
pmoss@mdek12.org

Dr. Vernesia Wilson, *Division Director*
vwilson@mdek12.org

Sheila Shavers, *Training Director*
sshavers@mdek12.org

Tracey Miller, *Teacher Recruiter*
tmiller@mdek12.org

What we do...

- Manage the implementation and training for the Mississippi Educator and Administrator Professional Growth System
- Provide support to districts in attracting, supporting, and retaining effective educators
- Assist districts in the identification and implementation of strategies to eliminate barriers to equitable access to effective teachers

What you need to know...

- **Professional Growth System** – The Mississippi Educator and Administrator Professional Growth System (PGS) is designed to improve student achievement by providing teachers and administrators with feedback to inform continuous improvement. During the 2018-2019 school year, classroom/school site observations using the Teacher Growth Rubric and the Administrator Growth Rubric will be implemented. School districts are required to conduct the minimum number of observations and submit ratings and results for each teacher and administrator to the MDE by the end of the 2018-2019 school year. Currently, the MDE is piloting the student growth measure and climate survey with eight pilot districts. During the 2019-2020 school year, all districts will implement the remaining components. Resources and additional information can be found at <http://www.mdek12.org/OTL/OTC/professional-growth-system>.
- **Teacher Leadership Initiative** – The goal of the Teacher Leadership Initiative is to provide effective teachers with opportunities to teach students and collaboratively lead colleagues to improve their practice. The Office of Educator Talent Acquisition & Effectiveness assembled a task force of educators to develop a teacher leadership model for the state. Districts across the state are currently piloting the initiative. At the end of the pilot, a guidebook will be produced for all districts across the state to implement teacher leadership programs.
- **Teacher Pipeline** – In an effort to address teacher shortages, the Office of Educator Talent Acquisition & Effectiveness is designing the Mississippi's *Grow-Your-Own* initiative. The goals of this initiative are to 1) create a pipeline of highly effective teachers and 2) improve teacher retention in the districts with high teacher attrition. The MDE's goal is to provide guidance, strategies, and support for school districts to establish and maintain a local *Grow-Your-Own* initiative. The *Grow-Your-Own* initiative is an umbrella that includes three strategies, all aimed at developing a sustainable teacher workforce in communities with the greatest critical shortage challenges. These strategies include developing and/or strengthening the Teacher Academies and Educators Rising chapters in

critical shortage school districts, developing a structured partnership between critical shortage school districts and EPPs, and the development of community college partnerships with EPPs. Additionally, the office is currently working across the state conducting focus groups around launching a state teacher residency program and performance-based licensure. These programs will allow the MDE to work in partnership with local school districts to place teachers in these unique programs to provide effective teachers in all Mississippi classrooms.

- **Praxis Core and Praxis II Workshops** – In partnership with Mississippi Association of Educators, the Division of Educator Talent Acquisition & Effectiveness is conducting state-wide Praxis workshops. These sessions are geared towards candidates who are enrolled in both traditional and non-traditional educator preparation programs. What is more, specific districts highlighted in the state’s equitable access plan have been targeted to support those educators who have received a provisional license and have not passed the necessary exams leading to licensure.
- **Minority Male Educators** – The Division of Educator Talent Acquisition & Effectiveness, in partnership with the Mississippi Association of Educators and Tougaloo College Division of Education, held a Minority Male Educators Convening in August 2018. This partnership brought over 50 minority male educators together from across Mississippi in an effort to seek strategies for growing the “pipeline” of minority male educators, reduce the number of minority male educators exiting schools and classrooms, and strengthen Educator Preparation Programs that prepare minority male educators. Details from this convening will inform subsequent resources and supports from this Office.

Elementary Education and Reading

Get in touch with us...

601-359-2586

Dr. Tenette Smith, *Bureau Director*
tenette.smith@mdek12.org

Melissa Banks, *Instructional Technology Specialist*
mebanks@mdek12.org

Elizabeth Simmons, *School Library Specialist*
esimmons@mdek12.org

Chauncey Spears, *Textbook Office Director*
crspears@mdek12.org

Verna Covington, CPM
Accounting Specialist Senior
vcovington@mdek12.org

What we do...

- Develop elementary curriculum and instructional material aligned to the Mississippi College- and Career-Readiness Standards
- Manage Early Childhood, Intervention Services, Library, and Literacy services provided to schools and districts
- Provide technical assistance and professional development on the effective implementation of technology tools in classroom instruction and assessment
- Develop and publish resources to support districts, schools, administrators, teachers and parents
- Design and deliver professional development and technical assistance to grades Pre-K through 12 school librarians and administrators
- Coordinate textbook adoption, distribution, care and use in Mississippi's schools, both public and non-public, and the Textbook Inventory Management System (TIMS)

What you need to know...

- **Professional Development** – Professional Development is offered on the effective implementation of technology tools in classroom instruction and assessment. Technology tools provided are free and easy to use. Trainings are provided for all content areas and grade levels.
- **Substitution, Augmentation, Modification, and Redefinition (SAMR)** – SAMR is a model designed to help educators evaluate how they are incorporating technology into instruction and assessment. The goal is to transform learning experiences, so they result in higher levels of achievement for students.

- **2018 School Library Guide** – Effective school libraries are dynamic learning environments that bridge the information literacy gap for all PreK-12 learners. The *2018 School Library Guide* was updated to align with and supports the new library monitoring rubric. It provides librarians, administrators, and teachers with the tools necessary to create and promote an effective school library program.
-

Federal Programs

Get in touch with us...

601-359-3499

Quentin Ransburg, *Executive Director*
qransburg@mdek12.org

Arthur Goss, *Assistant to Executive Director*
agoss@mdek12.org

Judy Nelson, *Director District and School Support*
jnelson@mdek12.org

Vince Evans, *Assistant to Bureau Director*
vevans@mdek12.org

Bryan Lieb, Esq., *Ombudsman*
blieb@mdek12.org

Tonya McDonald, *Coordinator Financial Planning*
tmcdonald@mdek12.org

Mariea B. Jackson, *Director Data Collection and Reporting; MCAPS Administrator*
mbanks@mdek12.org

Shelia Miller, *Coordinator Data Collection and Reporting*
smmiller@mdek12.org

Farrah R. Nicholson, *Director Professional Development & Student Learning Opportunities*
fnicholson@mdek12.org

Gwendolyn King, *Coordinator EL/Immigrants/Migrant*
gking@mdek12.org

Christopher Norwood, *Coordinator 21st Century Community Learning Centers*
crnorwood@mdek12.org

What we do...

- Provide leadership and guidance in the effective use of federal funds to improve student achievement
- Support state and local reform efforts to improve teaching and learning, student achievement, and family engagement strategies
- Facilitate on-site professional development and technical assistance to local educational agencies (LEAs), community-based organizations (CBOs), faith-based organizations (FBOs), charter schools, private schools, and other state agencies
- Monitor the implementation of program requirements and expenditures of federal funds at the local level to assure program quality

Dr. Diona Thomas, *Specialist*
21st Century Community Learning Centers
dithomas@mdek12.org

Betina White, *Coordinator*
Monitoring and Compliance
bswhite@mdek12.org

Brendsha A. Roby, *Director*
Schoolwide Development
brroby@mdek12.org

Dr. Rajeeni Clay-Scott, *Coordinator*
Teacher Quality & Private and Charter
Schools Coordinator
rcly-scott@mdek12.org

Barbara Greene, *Coordinator*
Parent Engagement
bgreene@mdek12.org

Tiffany Jones, *Coordinator*
Homeless Education/Neglected & Delinquent
ttjones@mdek12.org

What you need to know...

- **Mississippi Comprehensive Automated Performance-Based System (MCAPS)** – (MCAPS) is an online application system for the Mississippi Department of Education. It houses the consolidated federal programs application for Titles I, II, III, IV and V, Neglected and Delinquent. It also houses the IDEA application and the 1003(a) application. The system contains resource information for districts and schools in the MDE Document Library. You can explore MCAPS here: <https://mcaps.mdek12.org>
- **Schoolwide Plans** – For Title I schools operating schoolwide programs, federal law and guidance requires a district-approved schoolwide plan for each school annually. Please ensure your Title I school has an approved schoolwide plan in MCAPS.
- **Title Programs On-site Monitoring** – Monitoring federal programs of the LEA ensures compliance with federal regulations as well as assures quality programming and instructional delivery of at-risk populations. Required documentation is to be maintained, accessible, and readily available for our staff during the monitoring visit. Documentation should be organized in folders in the LEA Document Library, labeled, and correspond to the indicators of the consolidated monitoring instrument. District and school administrators should be available for interview by our staff during the monitoring visit. If technical assistance is needed, please contact the Office of Federal Programs.

Healthy Schools

Get in touch with us...

601-359-1737

Scott Clements, *State Director*
sclements@mdek12.org

Louis King, *Office Director*
lking@mdek12.org

J. Dale Dieckman, *Physical Education*
jdieckman@mdek12.org

Larry Calhoun, *Move to Learn*
lcalhoun@mdek12.org

Connie Board, *School Nurse Consultant*
cboard@mdek12.org

Kegila Lyles, *SBAC Specialist*
kslyles@mdek12.org

What we do...

- Promote student achievement and increase academic performance by improving student health - *Health is Academic!*
- Provide training, technical assistance, and resources to promote school health and compliance with the Healthy Students Act
- Collect and report critical data to improve school health
- Provide guidance to School Nurses on evidence-based practice measures to meet school health needs

What you need to know...

- **Move to Learn (MTL)** – Better grades. Better health. Studies have shown that physical activity increases children's ability to learn, and as fitness improves, test scores improve. That's why Move to Learn incorporates movement in the classroom through short exercise videos and healthy lesson plans. Visit <http://www.movetolearnms.org/> for free resources or to schedule a MTL Live! event at your school.
- **School Based Administrative Claiming (SBAC)** – The SBAC program offers school districts an excellent opportunity to obtain additional funding as reimbursement for staff time spent assisting students and their families learn about Medicaid, Medicaid benefits, and other health care needs of students.
- **Menu of Services** – Professional development is available in the areas of Physical Education Curriculum and Instruction, School Nurse training and resources, Framework revisions for Contemporary School Health and Physical Education, HIV/AIDS/STD/Teen Pregnancy Prevention, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, and School Health Professional Development, Technical Assistance, and Resources.

Intervention Services

Get in touch with us...

601-359-2586

Robin Lemonis, *Bureau Director*
rlemonis@mdek12.org

Jayda Brantley, *Specialist*
Secondary Intervention
jbrantley@mdek12.org

Jen Cornett, *Specialist*
Gifted Education
jcornett@mdek12.org

Sandra Elliott, *Specialist*
English Learner Intervention
selliott@mdek12.org

Ginger Koestler, *MSIS &*
Behavior Intervention
gkoestler@mdek12.org

Laurie Weathersby, *Specialist*
Elementary Intervention
lweathersby@mdek12.org

Jackie Mockbee, *Specialist*
Dyslexia Support Service
jmockbee@mdek12.org

What we do...

- Provide technical assistance on the implementation of the Multi-Tiered System of Supports, Early Warning System, Dyslexia Initiatives, Early Childhood, English Learner Supports, and Gifted Education programming
- Coordinate and manage the process for reviewing and awarding the 2018-2019 (Grades 1-12) dyslexia scholarships, the 2018-2021 dyslexia grant to districts, and the selection process of State Board of Education approved list of dyslexia screeners
- Develop and publish academic and behavioral resource documents to support districts, schools, administrators, teachers and parents with improving student outcomes

What you need to know...

- **Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS)** – The Office of Intervention Services provides guidance to districts on the implementation of the essential components of MTSS for effective team-based problem solving that is data-informed, evidence-based, and flexible enough to meet the academic and the behavioral needs of all students. Professional development opportunities are offered to support MTSS implementation. Additional resources can be found by visiting the Intervention Services webpage at <http://www.mdek12.org/OAE/OEER/InterventionServices>. The new editable MTSS Documentation Packet was revised in the summer of 2018 and is now available online under the “Resources” tab by clicking on the link provided above.

- **MTSS Advisory Panel** – Intervention Services convenes a diverse group of educators, administrators, interventionists, and counselors to provide feedback on the establishment and implementation of MTSS policies as well as the development of resources and the new MTSS Guidance Document that will be published in January 2019.
- **English Learner Guidance Document** – Intervention Services developed an *Instructional Strategies and Supports for English Learners (EL) Guidance Document* to provide teachers information that will assist them with the planning and delivery of effective instruction specifically designed to meet the needs of English Learners. This document provides teachers and administrators specific evidence-based strategies to ensure EL students can achieve the same standards of performance we ask of other students. Professional development opportunities are offered for support of English Learners. Visit <http://www.mdek12.org/EL> for additional EL resources and webinars that support effective implementation of EL supports.
- **Student Dyslexia Scholarships** – Students in grades 1 – 12 with a dyslexia diagnosis are eligible to apply for a scholarship to attend an MDE approved non-public school. These students must have been in attendance in a public school the previous year prior to requesting the scholarship, have a dyslexia diagnosis, and be accepted into a non-public school that meets legislative criteria. Professional development trainings are available for school districts to receive more information on dyslexia. Visit <http://www.mdek12.org/OAE/OEER/Dyslexia> for dyslexia resources.
- **Dyslexia Grants** – The purpose of these dyslexia grants is to assist school districts in piloting programs needed to meet the needs of regular education students identified as having dyslexia and other related disorders that are also in need of a multisensory, systematic language-based instruction and programs, in accordance with Mississippi Code Ann. §37-23-15. It is the intent of the MDE that these dyslexia projects support the needs of identified students in accordance with the Mississippi College- and Career-Readiness Standards, the State Board of Education (SBE) Goals, and State Board Policy 41.1 on the Intervention Process. The 2018 – 2021 dyslexia grant proposals are tentatively scheduled to go to the State Board of Education for approval in October 2018.
- **SBE Approved List of Dyslexia Screeners** – Effective July 1, 2017, Section 37-173-15 of House Bill 1046 mandates that each local school district screen students for dyslexia in the spring of Kindergarten and the fall of Grade 1 using a State Board of Education approved screener. Visit <http://www.mdek12.org/OAE/OEER/Dyslexia> to access the list of approved screeners. Additional qualified screeners are tentatively scheduled to go to the State Board of Education for approval September 2018 and may be added to the list of approved screeners for school districts to select from.
- **Outcomes for Gifted Education Programs 2017** – *Outcomes for Gifted Education Programs* were updated in the spring of 2017, and monthly webinars are hosted on the last Monday of the month to support the implementation of the Outcomes. Webinar recordings are available at <http://www.mdek12.org/OAE/OEER/ALGP>. In addition, a work group was established to begin the revisions of the *Standards for Gifted Education Programs and Regulations for Gifted Education Programs* that will go into effect July 2019.

Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC)

Get in touch with us...

601-359-1816

Ed Butler, Major, USAF (Ret)

Bureau Director

ebutler@mdek12.org

What we do...

- Represent MDE's interests to the 84 Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) programs in Mississippi
- Coordinate statewide JROTC competitions and events
- Serve as an information conduit on JROTC matters
- Assist school districts, JROTC units, and service JROTC headquarters on issues related to the JROTC program

What you need to know...

- **Purpose of JROTC** – The purpose of JROTC is “to instill in students of the United States secondary educational institutions the values of citizenship, service to the United States, personal responsibility and a sense of accomplishment.” It is the nation’s largest youth training and development program with over 3,400 units and 560,000 students participating. In Mississippi, we have 84 units, nearly 190 instructors, and over 11,000 students (cadets). JROTC’s focus is on character education and career preparation. It is **not** a military recruiting program.
- **JROTC Academic Curriculum** – JROTC has an accredited academic curriculum designed to give students the skills they will need to be productive and responsible young adults. JROTC can provide a niche for students of varying interests with regional, state, and national competition in academics, drill, air rifle, orienteering, and athletics. Depending on the military service, JROTC classroom instruction supplements core curriculum in world history, physical science, civics, finance, political science, aviation, physiology, engineering, and international law. All JROTC programs emphasize character development and leadership/life skills.
- **JROTC STEM Connection** – JROTC is aligned with statewide educational initiatives which are designed to increase the exposure of our cadets to STEM-related career opportunities. Exposure occurs through classroom instruction, field trips to our state’s high technology industries, orientation flights with the Hurricane Hunters at Keesler Air Force Base, and participation in STEM summer programs at Mississippi State, Jackson State University, and William Carey University.

- Many organizations provided scholarship funding to enable competitively selected JROTC cadets to attend the outstanding 6-day STEM program at the National Flight Academy (NFA) at Naval Air Station Pensacola, FL. In June 2018, nearly 120 cadets were honored to attend the NFA.
 - For the past four years, the MDE JROTC Bureau has hosted all-services JROTC state championships in drill, athletics, and air rifle. All 84 units are eligible to participate.
-

Literacy

Get in touch with us...

601-359-2586

Dr. Kymyona Burk, *State Literacy Director*
kymyona.burk@mdek12.org

Jill Hoda, *Asst. State Literacy Coordinator*
jhoda@mdek12.org

Casey Sullivan, *Asst. State Literacy Coordinator*
csullivan@mdek12.org

Kristen Wells, *Asst. State Literacy Coordinator*
kwells@mdek12.org

LeighAnne Cheeseman, *Asst. State Literacy Coordinator*
lcheeseman@mdek12.org

What we do...

- Facilitate the statewide implementation of the Literacy-Based Promotion Act
- Provide on-site literacy coaching support (i.e., coaching, modeling, training, etc.) to Pre-K-3rd grade teachers in Literacy Support Schools
- Provide regional literacy professional development to Pre-K through 3rd grade teachers, district support staff, and administrators
- Provide regional literacy professional development to secondary content area teachers

What you need to know...

- **English Learner Literacy Tips** – The purpose of this resource is to provide administrators and teachers information and resources for supporting English Learners based on best practices and research-based strategies in literacy. Visit <http://www.mdek12.org/EL> for English Learner resources. Videos can also be found on YouTube through the MDE Literacy page: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbqYlpyZtR63vOYpX9-ephg>
- **Kindergarten Integrated Centers Resource** – The purpose of this MDE Literacy Coach-developed resource is to support Kindergarten teachers with identifying integrated centers for Literacy, aligned to the MS-CCRS and the new MDE Kindergarten Guidelines. Literacy standards, needed materials, and explicit directions for implementation are included for multiple center activities for each integrated center type named in the MDE Kindergarten Guidelines. Visit the MDE Literacy homepage located at <http://www.mdek12.org/Literacy> and select the “Kindergarten Integrated Centers for Literacy” link to view this resource.
- **Literacy Focus of the Month in Action (Elementary & Secondary)** – The purpose of this resource is to provide guidance to administrators and teachers for supporting a monthly, school-wide instructional focus based on best practices and research-based strategies in literacy. Visit <http://www.mdek12.org/Literacy> for this and other resources for teachers, administrators, and parents.
- **Rubric for Evaluating Reading/Language Arts Instructional Materials for Grades K-5** – The tool is available at: <https://ies.ed.gov/ncee/edlabs/projects/project.asp?projectID=4506>.

- **Implementing Evidence-Based Literacy Practices Roadmap** – This tool was developed to help state and local education agencies implement evidence-based literacy practices in their classrooms by providing a set of resources organized into a framework for implementation. Resources include videos, infographics, and documents which can all be accessed through this link:
<http://fcrr.fsu.edu/literacyroadmap/>.
-

Professional Development

Get in touch with us...

601-359-2869

Dr. Sebrina Palmer, *Bureau Director & Oversight of State Schools*

spalmer@mdek12.org

Dr. Kristi Livingston, *Lead Professional Development Coordinator*

klivingston@mdek2.org

Devin Boone, *Program Manager*

devin.boone@mdek12.org

Tina Sellers, *Special Projects Officer*

tsellers@mdek12.org

What we do...

- Facilitate Professional Development Priorities for the Academic Education
- Implement the Regional Service Model & Professional Development Coordinator model facilitating on-demand and online professional development to districts and schools
- Support the production of Exemplar Units and provide training for implementation
- Provide training on the Family Guides for Student Success

What you need to know...

- **Fall 2018 Menu of Services** – Educators may request face-to-face professional development from MDE’s Menu of Services. Visit <http://www.mdek12.org/OPD>
- **Online Courses** – Online courses are offered free of charge to help support educators as they strive to improve student achievement. Visit <http://www.mdek12.org/OPD>
- **MDE Professional Development Calendar** – Visit <https://www.trumba.com/calendars/MDE> for upcoming professional development and trainings offered by program offices at the MDE.
- **2nd Edition of Exemplar Units** – Updated versions of the teacher-developed Exemplar Units will continue during the 2018-2019 school year. Current versions are available online at <https://www.mdek12.org/MEUL> .

School Improvement

Get in touch with us...

601.359.1003

Dr. Sonja J. Robertson, *Executive Director*
srobertson@mdek12.org

Vanessa Smith, *Office Manager*
vsmith@mdek12.org

Re’Nona Jackson, *Office Manager*
rjackson@mdek12.org

Shakinna Patterson, *Director of School Improvement Programs*
spatterson@mdek12.org

Dr. Bonita Harris, *Director of Program Monitoring and Support*
bharris@mdek12.org

Deowarski McDonald, *Coordinator of School Improvement Programs*
dmcdonald@mdek12.org

Dr. Ledora Harris, *Coordinator of School Improvement Programs*
lharris@mdek12.org

Dr. Lea Johnson, *Lead School Improvement Coach*
lea.johnson@mdek12.org

Jerry Moore, *Lead School Improvement Coach*
jerry.moore@mdek12.org

Jeanne Park, *Lead School Improvement Coach*
jeanne.park@mdek12.org

What we do...

- Provide oversight and ensure the implementation of state legislation for low performing schools
- Provide support for the systemic improvement of the lowest performing schools and districts in the state of Mississippi
- Provide support and oversight to School Improvement Grant (SIG) Schools, Comprehensive Support and Targeted Support and Improvement Schools, and Schools At-Risk
- Provide support through federal funds for schools to support school interventions

What you need to know...

- **Comprehensive and Targeted Support and Improvement** – Designations for schools that will be identified for school improvement support under ESSA will be made soon. Leaders of identified schools will be officially notified of their school’s designation following the State Board of Education’s release of the Final 2018 Performance Accountability Results. For more information on CSI and TSI identifications, please review pages 33-41 of the MS Succeeds Plan at [Mississippi Consolidated State Plan](#). Any school that meets the criteria for CSI or TSI as outlined in the MS Succeeds Plan will be identified. Additional details addressing the requirements for identified schools will be released at a later date.

**Note* Effective with the release of the Final 2018 Performance Accountability Results, and the identification of CSI and TSI schools, the use of the designations “Focus” and “Priority” schools will be discontinued.*

- **School Improvement Grant (SIG)** – SIG schools have begun Year 2 implementation of their grant. Year 2 implementation follows members of the school leadership team’s participation in a two-day Leadership Institute focused on creating and fostering conditions that promote improved and sustained outcomes for students. Teams will continue this focus through quarterly meetings facilitated by the Office of School Improvement.
- **Title I, School Improvement 1003(a) Funds** – The timeline for schools and districts to obligate and liquidate FY17 funds is fast approaching. Funds must be obligated on or before September 30, 2018 and liquidated on or before December 8, 2018. Please check with the Federal Programs Director or Business Manager of your district regarding any remaining balances.

Schools and districts that have not revised FY18 School Improvement applications to allocate the additional awarded funds must have this process should have been completed on or before **August 31, 2018**.

- **Professional Development Opportunities** – Professional development (PD) opportunities will be provided for schools and districts throughout the 2018-2019 school year. Topics will include: identifying and selecting evidence-based resources, implementing indicators of effective practice, leveraging federal dollars, building parental engagement opportunities and other relevant sessions. Schools supported by the Office of School Improvement will receive priority for professional development opportunities that are facilitated through the “[Menu of Services](#)” for PD. CSI and TSI schools will participate in the Office of School Improvement Convening November 7-9, 2018 in Vicksburg, MS. The name of the convening is “I³ – Inspire, Innovate, Ignite – School Transformation: The Measure of a Leader “Sharing What Works”.

Secondary Curriculum and Instruction

Get in touch with us...

601-359-3461

Dr. Marla Davis, *Bureau Director*
mdavis@mdek12.org

Chonette Bouldin, *Special Projects Officer*
cbouldin@mdek12.org

Limeul Eubanks, *Arts: Dance, Media Arts,
Music, Theatre, Visual Arts & World
Languages Specialist*
leubanks@mdek12.org

Shauna Hedgepeth, *Algebra Nation, Assistant
Director for Mississippi*
shauna@algebranation.com

Ashley Kazery, *English Language Arts
Specialist*
ashley.kazery@mdek12.org

What we do...

- Develop and implement curriculum and instructional material aligned to the Mississippi College- and Career-Readiness Standards
- Provide on-site professional development and technical assistance to Grades K-12 teachers in core content areas
- Design and assist in the national promotion, mentorship, and selection of state-level finalists for the PAEMST Award
- Evaluate existing programs to improve classroom instruction and student achievement
- Manage \$2 million Math & Science Partnerships grant to support rigorous year-round training for math and science teachers through the six Institutions of Higher Learning (sunset: December 2018)

What you need to know...

- **JumpStart ACT** – In August 2018, 15 pilot schools were selected through an application process to participate in the inaugural implementation of the Jumpstart Test Prep's ACT Complete Math Review program. Through a \$100,000 appropriation from the Mississippi legislature, this pilot program aims at helping selected high schools improve their ACT composite math sub-score averages; and, will impact approximately 1,700 juniors during the 2018-2019 pilot year. All juniors in each pilot site will have access to the following resources:
 1. Expert content review and practice, along with test taking tips and strategies delivered in the classroom via streaming video

2. Online, on-demand, 13-hour review (20 modules, approximately 35 minutes each) of math content tested by the ACT® that can be led from the classroom or used individually by students through May 2019
 3. Consumable student workbooks (337 pages) to be completed as lecture content is watched and later used as a student study guide
 4. Administrator dashboard reflecting the video module completion progress of teachers assigned to proctor the review and/or individual student progress
 5. On-demand support
- **MS CCRS for Science** – Mississippi districts will fully implement the *2018 MS CCRS for Science* beginning this school year, 2018-2019. Links to the new standards and support documents can be found on the MDE Science Educators homepage: <http://www.mdek12.org/secondaryeducation/science>. Click the appropriate link under the Mississippi College- and Career-Readiness Standards (2018) heading. New resources and videos will be added throughout the 2018-2019 school year. Information on professional development can be found on the MDE Professional Development homepage: <http://www.mdek12.org/OPD>.
 - **MS CCRS for the Social Studies** – On July 19, 2018, the State Board of Education voted to approve final changes to the new Mississippi College and Career Readiness Standard for the Social Studies. The final 2018 standards may be accessed at <http://www.mdek12.org/secondaryeducation/socialstudies>. All grades K-12 Social Studies educators are encouraged to download and print a copy of the new standards. The new Social Studies standards should be **piloted** in all grades K-12 classrooms during the 2018-2019 school year with **full implementation** beginning next school year, 2019-2020. Please watch for upcoming information about professional development opportunities.
 - **Algebra Nation** – Through a \$500,000 allocation from the MS legislature, all MS public school districts will have access to the [Algebra Nation](http://www.AlgebraNation.com) platform and resources for the 2018-2019 school year. This is the 3rd year of implementation and with the aforementioned allocation, all first time Algebra I test takers will receive a hard copy of the Algebra Nation workbook that accompanies the tutorial videos and online resources. Students enrolled in Compensatory Math concurrently with Algebra I and students enrolled in Foundations to Algebra will have access to the workbook in digital format online at www.AlgebraNation.com. Regional trainings for classroom teachers will take place throughout the months of August and September. For additional details regarding district integration or on-site training on innovative strategies for classroom use, please contact Shauna Hedgepeth, Assistant Director for MS, at shauna@AlgebraNation.com
 - **MS CCR Arts Learning Standards** – The Arts Learning Standards for Dance, Media Arts, Music, Theatre, and Visual Arts are now available online at www.mdek12.org/ESE/Arts. Arts Learning Standards Teaching guides are being developed for Music, Theatre, and Visual Arts and will be available in the Spring of 2019.
 - **MS World Languages Framework and Teaching Guide** – The purpose of this guide is to help teachers and administrators understand and effectively implement the 2016 Mississippi World Languages Framework. This document is also meant to be a reference for World Language teachers as a comprehensive document which links to multiple resources, programs, websites, and research which are important and of interest to World Language teachers. This document contains research on best practices, the latest trends in

presentation of material, assessment, use of technology, etc. It will be beneficial for the first-year teacher as well as the veteran World Language teacher and is now available online at www.mdek12.org/ese/worldlanguages.

- **Writing Trainings** – The Office of Secondary Education will seek to host writing trainings during the 2018-2019 school year for Grades 5-English I teachers. Registration information will be sent out to districts in the coming months.
 - **US Presidential Scholars Program** – The United States Presidential Scholars Program was established in 1964, by Executive Order of the President, to recognize and honor some of our Nation’s most distinguished graduating high school seniors. Each year, up to 161 students are named as *U.S. Presidential Scholars* and they represent excellence in education and the promise of greatness in young people. High school seniors who are U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents graduating between January 2019 and August 2019 who attend public, parochial, independent, or home-school programs with the aforementioned qualities are eligible for this honor. All *U.S. Presidential Scholars* are awarded the Presidential Honors Medallion and honored for their accomplishments during the National Recognition Program in June 2019 in Washington, D.C. To learn more about the *U.S. Presidential Scholars Program* and the nomination process, please visit <http://www.ed.gov/psp>. Additionally, each state Superintendent of Education also makes student recommendations for this honor each year. Applications will be sent out to guidance counselors and district administrators in the month of September regarding the process for being possibly nominated through the “Superintendent process”.
 - **SREB Ready for High School Courses** – In its second year of implementation in several school districts across the state, the SREB Ready for High School Literacy and Ready for High School Math courses are available to students in grades 8 or 9 who need additional interventions and supports prior to entering English I and Algebra I. Students transitioning from the MS Occupational Diploma are also eligible for enrollment. Teachers who attended training in July 2017 or July 2018 and hold a valid 119 (English) or 154 (Math) MS educator license are eligible to teach the Ready for High School courses.
 - **Content Area Listservs** – Administrators are encouraged to have all content area teachers sign up for their respective listservs. Teachers may register online at www.mdek12.org/ESE.
 - **Menu of Services** – Content area specialists provide on-demand supports to districts and schools in ELA, Math, Literacy, Science, Social Studies, and Special Education. New topics related to content area learning walks, lesson planning, “Escape Classrooms”, domain and strand focus, and learning centers in the secondary classroom. Additional online trainings are available through CANVAS. Visit the MDE homepage www.mdek12.org and click on the “Request Professional Development” icon in the center of the page.
-

Special Education

Get in touch with us...

601-359-3498

Dr. Margaret Ellmer, *Interim State Director*
Margaret.ellmer@mdek12.org

Dr. Armerita Tell, *Bureau Director - Parent Engagement and Support*
atell@mdek12.org

What we do...

- Support local schools and districts in their provision of effective and compliant educational programs to students with disabilities, ages 3-20, who need special education and related services
- Provide professional development and technical assistance to support schools and districts as they implement State policies and Federal regulations to ensure positive outcomes for children with disabilities and their families
- Provide guidance to parents of children with disabilities and local school and district personnel in the resolution of disputes through formal dispute resolution processes (formal state complaints, mediation, and due process hearings)
- Support local schools and districts with effective fiscal management practices

What you need to know...

- **New Special Education Teacher Monthly Webinars** – The Office of Special Education will continue to provide monthly webinars for New Special Education Teachers with 0-3 years' experience. These webinars are designed to provide guidance and support to new special education teachers by reviewing important special education timelines, hot topics, and frequently asked questions on a monthly basis. New Special Education Teacher webinars will be held the second Tuesday of each month. Links to register for these webinars will be sent to teachers via the Special Education Teachers listserv and posted to the MDE Professional Development Calendar. Contact Sharon Coon at scoon@mdek12.org for additional information.

- **Determination Reports** – The Office of Special Education has issued *Special Education Performance Determination Reports* to inform all stakeholders on how well districts are supporting students in special education. The data for this report is based on results and compliance data compiled annually in the Annual Performance Report of the State Performance Plan under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (*IDEA*). Reports for each district for 2018 can be found at <http://www.mdek12.org/OSE/SPP-APR>.
-

Student Assessment

Get in touch with us...

601-359-3052

Dr. Jackie Sampsell, *State Assessment Director*

jsampsell@mdek12.org

Jennifer Robinson, *ACT/ NAEP State Coordinator*

jennifer.robinson@mdek12.org

Elizabeth Cook, *MAAP Program Coordinator & Mathematics Content Specialist*

ecook@mdek12.org

Sharon Prestridge,
EL Program Coordinator
sprestridge@mdek12.org

Melissa Beck, *K-3 Screener/Data Coordinator*
mbeck@mdek12.org

M. Pleshette Smith,
MAAP-A Coordinator
mcsmith@mdek12.org

What we do...

- Collaborate with Mississippi educators to develop items aligned to the Mississippi College- and Career-Readiness Standards (MS CCRS)
- Evaluate student performance using the Mississippi Academic Assessment Program (MAAP) in grades 3 through 8 in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics, grades 5 and 8 Science, Algebra I, Biology I, English II, and U.S. History
- Ensure all MS public school students are assessed according to the *Every Student Succeeds Act* (ESSA) including English learners and students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities (SCD)
- Provide districts with valid and reliable assessment results to guide instruction through data driven decisions

What you need to know...

- **3rd Grade MAAP-ELA Assessment** – Beginning with the 2018-2019 school year, a student must score above the lowest two (2) achievement levels, or a level 3 or higher, in reading on the 3rd Grade MAAP-ELA Assessment to be promoted to 4th grade.
- **MAAP Science, Biology, and U.S. History Assessment**
 - **Data Recognition Corporation (DRC)** is now the assessment vendor for grades 5 and 8 science, Biology, and U.S. History.
 - **Science and Biology**—The Mississippi Academic Assessment Program for Science (MAAP-SCI, grades 5 and 8), and the MAAP End-of-Course Assessment (MAAP - EOC, Biology I) will be correlated to 2018 the *Mississippi College- and Career-Readiness Standards for Science* in the 2018-2019 school year. Revised blueprints, for the Science assessments, may be found at <http://www.mdek12.org/OSA/MAAP> under

the Additional Resources box. Sample assessment items will be added throughout the 2018-2019 school year.

- **U.S. History** – MAAP - EOC for U.S. History will correlate to the *2011 Mississippi Social Studies Framework* for the 2018-2019 school year. The assessment will correlate to the *2018 Mississippi College- and Career-Readiness Standards for the Social Studies* in the 2019-2020 school year.
-

Technology and Strategic Services

Get in touch with us...

601-359-3487

John Kraman, *Chief Information Officer*
jkraman@mdek12.org

Cliff Triplett, *Director of Infrastructure and Support Services*
ctriplett@mdek12.org

Deborah Donovan, *Director of Data Analysis and Reporting*
ddonovan@mdek12.org

Sarita Donaldson, *Director of Core School Application*
sdonaldson@mdek12.org

Lee Bray, *State E-Rate Coordinator*
lbray@mdek12.org

Debra Hines, *Director of Administration and Budget*
dhines@mdek12.org

MDE Network Helpdesk
601-359-2837
mdenet@mdek12.org

MDE Applications Helpdesk
mdeapps@mdek12.org

What we do...

- Provide technical assistance to school districts in the form of remote tech support and onsite field engineers
- Build and host online applications for district and state document sharing and collaboration (SharePoint)
- Provide guidance and consultation on networking best practices and security strengthening
- Provide data reporting services for both internal and external MDE stakeholders
- Provide training and support for school districts reporting student demographics, personnel and financial data to MSIS
- Assist school districts in data submission and quality related to absences, student indicators, course codes, incidents, enrollment, withdrawal, etc.
- Provide technical assistance to school districts related to data entry issues with TIMS, ELMS and MSIS
- Provide training and support for school districts filing, responding to and processing E-Rate applications submitted to USAC
- Assist school districts in the E-Rate consortium with internet bandwidth and related issues

What you need to know...

- **MDE Network Helpdesk** – Districts can request network support from the MDE. We provide, free of charge, field engineers to assist with network configuration and implementation. Contact the MDE Network Helpdesk at mdenet@mdek12.org for assistance.
- **SharePoint** – MDE program offices provide a secured location for sharing files with school districts. For example, Special Education Directors can submit sensitive information to the Office of Special Education through this secured portal. For more information on how to gain access to SharePoint, please contact the MDE program office specific to your need.
- **OTSS Blog** – The OTSS posts articles about the latest in technology updates and practices to our online Blog. You can explore the blog at <https://technobotss.mdek12.org>.
- **Data Request** – Members of the public may submit a Public Records Request at <http://mdek12.org/OPR/Reporting/Request>. In order to provide the most timely and efficient service, please provide a thorough description of the data being requested, including the school year and any break-outs (e.g. by district, school, gender, race/ethnicity, etc.).
- **MDE Applications Helpdesk** – Districts may request assistance with data reporting (e.g. schedules, attendance, grades, transportation, discipline, CTE, Gifted or Special Education, and Textbooks) to meet state and federal requirements online ([https://servicedesk.mde.k12.ms.us/](https://servicedesk.mde.k12.ms/)) or email mdeapps@mdek12.org.
- **E-Rate Program** – E-Rate is a federal program that provides discounts to schools and libraries for purchases of telecommunication services and network equipment/services. The program is governed by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and administered by USAC, the Universal Services Administrators Company. OTSS assists school districts with the E-Rate process from the initial application, implementation and closeout of each year's application. Training consists of annual roadshows prior to the application process and roundtables to assist in filing for E-Rate reimbursement. For more information visit <https://www.mdek12.org/OTSS/e-rate>.
- **The Technology Advisory Committee (TAC)** – TAC is comprised of technology directors, coordinators, and administrators from districts across the state. These individuals serve in an advisory role to the OTSS. The committee focuses on technology needs, strategic and measurable actions for technology integration, guidelines for technology planning, and collaboration between MDE/OTSS and school districts. The committee meets every other month to share ideas and discuss relevant topics. If you are interested in becoming a member, please email Debra Hines at dhines@mdek12.org.
- **Website feedback** – In July 2018, the MDE launched a new website with several new features, including built-in accessibility options. The new website also has a feedback submission form built into every page that allows users to report any issues with the website. All feedback form submissions will be sent to the MDE Network Helpdesk.

Textbooks

Get in touch with us...

601-984-8273

Chauncey Spears, *Director*
crspears@mdek12.org

What we do...

- Textbook and instructional materials adoption processes, policies, and procedures
- Textbook Inventory Management System (TIMS) support
- Textbook procurement support

What you need to know...

- **2018-2019 Textbook Adoption** – The 2018-2019 Textbook Adoption process began in August 2018. The subject areas up for adoption this year are Mathematics Grades K-12 and the Social Studies Grades K-12. The State Adopted titles will be announced in February 2019.
- **Virtual Textbook Caravan in 2019.** The MDE-hosted State Virtual Caravan will allow for all districts to view caravan presentations from publishers with state adopted titles without having to incur the cost of sending district representatives to regional caravan sites. The State Virtual Textbook Caravan website will be available in February 2019.
- **Non-Adopted Textbook Procurement** – All non-state adopted textbook purchases are subject to state procurement rules. Please note those rules when making purchases for textbook adoptions.
- **New Textbook Office** – The Textbook Office has moved. Please note the new address: 1252 Eastover Dr. (Suite 301), Jackson, MS 39211

What Every

INSTRUCTIONAL LEADER



NEEDS TO KNOW

