



MISSISSIPPI SUCCEEDS

SUPERINTENDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

2023-24



MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION



MESSAGE FROM THE

STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

IN MY INAUGURAL YEAR OF LEADING the Mississippi Department of Education, I can't help but reflect on how previous leaders in this role laid the groundwork for success in our state's public schools. It is indeed a privilege to be entrusted with the responsibility to build upon their accomplishments.

For 2023-24, Mississippi students and educators have excelled again by surpassing the overall academic achievements from the previous school year. Student achievement on state assessments reached an all-time high in mathematics, English Language Arts and science. Reading proficiency rates among third-graders continue to increase and are higher than ever. Accountability results reveal 93.9% – the largest percentage ever – of Mississippi school districts were rated A, B or C, and of those, 70% were rated at least a B. For schools, 85.7% were rated A, B or C. These results are outstanding, especially considering it was just in 2016 the State Board of Education set a goal for all schools and districts to be rated C or higher. At that time, the percentage of schools and districts meeting that goal was 62% for both.

Through strong collective efforts on the state and local levels we have arrived at a pivotal moment in our public school system, which calls for increasing the standards for student, school and school district performance. The work has already begun with the best outcomes for students top of mind.

All education stakeholders – legislators, teachers, administrators, parents, community leaders, and students – should be proud of how far we have come. Together, we will achieve greater outcomes professionally for educators and in college and career decisions for students.

The MDE exists to serve and support Mississippi school districts. Whatever challenges may lie ahead will be overcome with a concerted effort to find the right solutions for students and educators alike.

Lance Evans, Ed.D.
State Superintendent of Education

Mississippi State Board of Education

The Mississippi State Board of Education's vision is 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. The Board sets policies and standards that advance public education in Mississippi.

MEMBERS

GLEN EAST, CHAIR

Administrator Representative

MIKE PRUITT

At-Large Representative

WENDI BARRETT, PH.D.

Teacher Representative

BILLYE JEAN STROUD

Northern Supreme Court District Representative

BILL JACOBS

At-Large Representative

MARY WERNER

At-Large Representative

MATT MAYO

Central Supreme Court District Representative

KATE RIDDLE

Senior Student Representative

RONNIE MCGEHEE, PH.D.

At-Large Representative

CROSBY PARKER

Junior Student Representative

MATT MILLER, VICE CHAIR

Southern Supreme Court District Representative

LANCE EVANS, ED.D.

State Superintendent of Education

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Facts & Figures.....	05
A Look Back as We Move Forward	06
Mississippi State Board of Education Strategic Plan.....	08
Goal 1	10
Goal 2.....	14
Goal 3.....	24
Goal 4.....	30
Goal 5.....	36
Goal 6.....	40

View financial and other statistical data at mdek12.org/superintendent2024

FACTS & FIGURES

STUDENT ENROLLMENT

426,523

STUDENT DAILY MEMBERSHIP

388,553

AVERAGE DAILY ATTENDANCE (ADA)

\$14,676.97

AVERAGE EXPENDITURE PER PUPIL
(BASED ON ADA)

TEACHERS

32,067

CLASSROOM TEACHERS

\$53,704

AVERAGE TEACHER SALARY

DISTRICTS & SCHOOLS

138

SCHOOL DISTRICTS
(NOT INCLUDING CHARTER SCHOOLS)

634

ELEMENTARY/MIDDLE SCHOOLS

150

TRADITIONAL HIGH SCHOOLS
(GRADES 9–12)

85

COMBINED GRADES
(K–12 ATTENDANCE CENTERS AND HIGH
SCHOOLS WITH GRADES BELOW 9)

10

CHARTER SCHOOLS

3

SPECIAL STATE SCHOOLS



FEATURE

A LOOK BACK AS WE MOVE FORWARD

TO UNDERSTAND WHERE YOU NEED TO GO, you should look back at where you've been. That saying fits perfectly for Mississippi public-school districts and the Mississippi Department of Education for the 2023-24 school year.

Back in 2013 there were snapshots of academic success throughout the state, but overall Mississippi ranked 50th in the nation for education. When educators traveled to out-of-state convenings, they heard the whispers of "Thank God for Mississippi" because other states were grateful to not be ranked at the bottom.

Things have drastically changed. The last Quality Counts report in 2023 ranked the state 35th in education. Nationally, the state is also now ranked 35th in education by U.S. News and World Report and 30th in education – our highest ranking ever – by the 2024 Annie E. Casey Foundation's KIDS COUNT® Data Book.

As an agency, MDE finds itself at a pivotal moment. The agency welcomed a new leader,

State Superintendent of Education Dr. Lance Evans, in July 2024. The goals in the Mississippi State Board of Education Strategic Plan, which were established in 2014 and expanded in 2016, are in the midst of being updated. In fall 2026, an updated accountability system will award grades to schools and districts.

Such significant change comes on the heels of more than a decade of monumental work that propelled Mississippi into a national spotlight for achievement in education.

MDE's work has been guided by the Mississippi State Board of Education Strategic Plan, which set the roadmap for changing the trajectory of public education in Mississippi.

Here's a look at the Board's goals and MDE's key strategies that advanced those goals and produced positive outcomes for students and educators.

GOAL 1

All Students Proficient and Showing Growth in All Assessed Areas

- Comprehensive strategy to improve early literacy
- Rigorous, college- and career-readiness standards implemented statewide
- State assessments aligned to higher academic standards

GOAL 2

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

- Expanded accelerated learning, career and technical education, and workplace learning opportunities
- Diploma options that challenge students to achieve at higher levels
- Targeted support for students with disabilities and English learners

GOAL 3

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

- Major state investment in public pre-K
- High-quality pre-K implemented in areas of need
- Support and monitoring to ensure program quality

GOAL 4

Every School Has Effective Teachers and Leaders

- Comprehensive and targeted professional development for teachers and administrators
- Expanded educator preparation and licensure pathways
- Educator Professional Growth System for feedback and continuous improvement

GOAL 5

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

- State assessments and reporting on student achievement from pre-K through graduation
- Family-friendly school and district report card
- Modernized statewide student information system

GOAL 6

Every School and District is Rated C or Higher

- Strong accountability system for all schools and districts
- Coaching support for school and district leaders
- State leadership to turn around underperforming districts

STRATEGIC PLAN

MISSISSIPPI STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Mississippi State Board of Education Strategic Plan sets the roadmap for continually improving public education in Mississippi. The plan describes the objectives and strategies the Mississippi Department of Education employs to help local school districts achieve the Board's vision and goals. The Board's goals were created in 2014 and expanded in 2016.

STRATEGIC PLAN 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 Effectively Uses a World-Class Data System to Improve Student Outcomes
6. Every School and District is Rated C or Higher

Read the complete Mississippi State Board of Education Strategic Plan:

mdek12.org/MBE



GOAL 1

All Students
Proficient and
Showing Growth in
All Assessed Areas



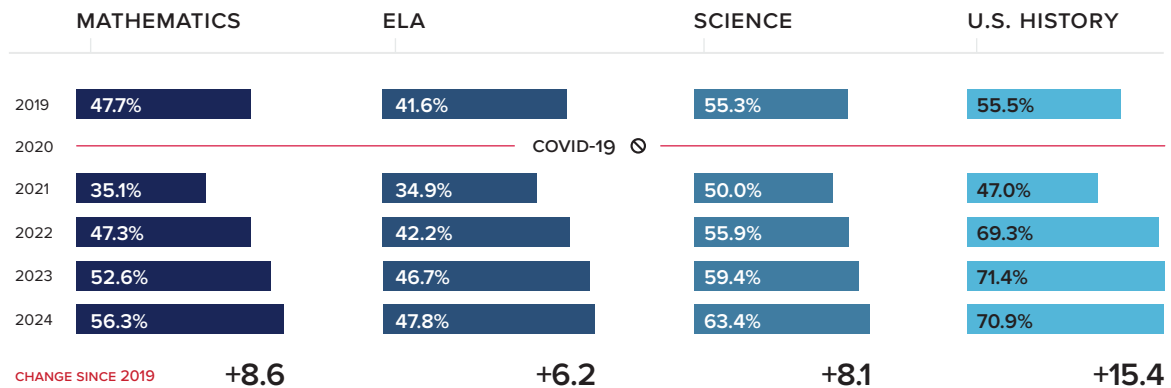
GOAL 1

MAAP

THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION statewide results from the 2023-24 Mississippi Academic Assessment Program (MAAP) showed student achievement reached an all-time high in mathematics, English Language Arts (ELA) and science.

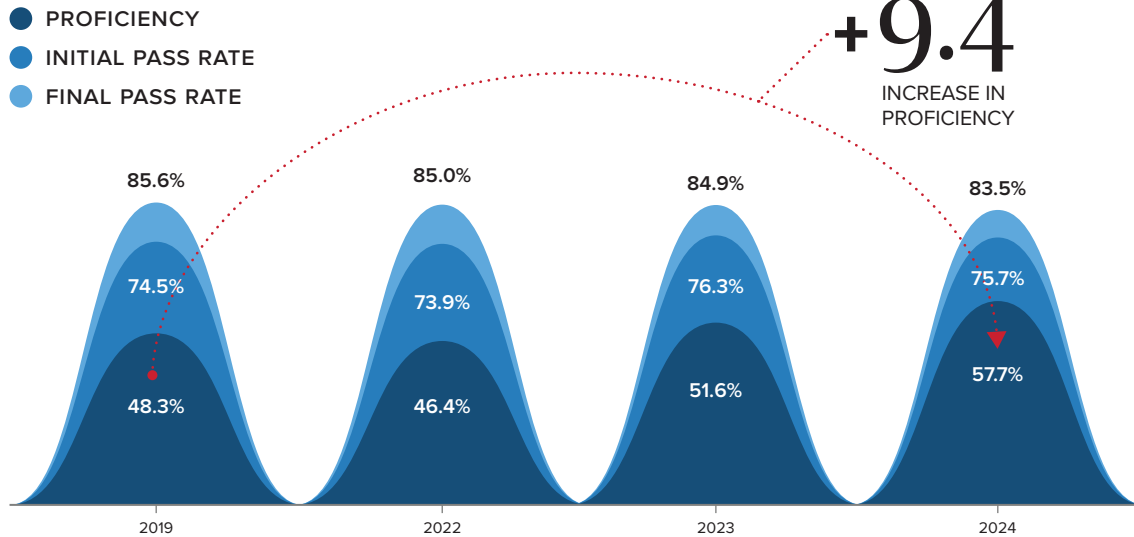
Overall, the percentage of students scoring proficient or advanced reached a record high of 47.8% in ELA, 56.3% in mathematics and 63.4% in science. U.S. History decreased slightly from 71.4% in 2022-23 to 70.9% in 2023-24.

The 2023-24 assessment results show student achievement continued to exceed pre-pandemic levels. Student achievement in Mississippi and the nation dropped in 2021 due to the pandemic, though Mississippi students mostly rebounded by 2022.



3RD GRADE READING PROGRESS

2019 TO 2024



COMPARISON OF GRADE LEVEL RESULTS

Scoring Proficient or Advanced

Grade	2022–2023	2023–2024	Change
MATHEMATICS			
Grade 3	54.8%	53.3%	-1.5
Grade 4	56.7%	55.0%	-1.7
Grade 5	44.3%	53.7%	9.4
Grade 6	45.5%	51.8%	6.3
Grade 7	55.6%	57.3%	1.7
Grade 8	46.1%	55.4%	9.3
Algebra I	65.8%	67.4%	1.6
OVERALL	52.6%	56.3%	+3.7
ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS			
Grade 3	51.6%	57.7%	6.1
Grade 4	53.3%	57.1%	3.8
Grade 5	51.9%	51.7%	-0.2
Grade 6	40.2%	39.7%	-0.5
Grade 7	40.2%	40.9%	0.7
Grade 8	40.6%	41.9%	1.3
English II	50.1%	46.2%	-3.9
OVERALL	46.7%	47.8%	+1.1
SCIENCE			
Grade 5	64.3%	71.2%	6.9
Grade 8	53.3%	59.1%	5.8
Biology	60.9%	60.5%	-0.4
OVERALL	59.4%	63.4%	+4.0
U.S. HISTORY			
U.S. History	71.4%	70.9%	-0.5
OVERALL	71.4%	70.9%	-0.5

GOAL 2

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



GOAL 2

Graduation

MISSISSIPPI HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ACHIEVED a record-breaking graduation rate of 89.4% in the 2022-23 school year and a statewide dropout rate that fell to 8.5%. Rates are based on students who entered ninth grade for the first time during the 2019-20 school year.

Among students with disabilities, the graduation rate increased to 70.0%, and the dropout rate fell to 17.7%.

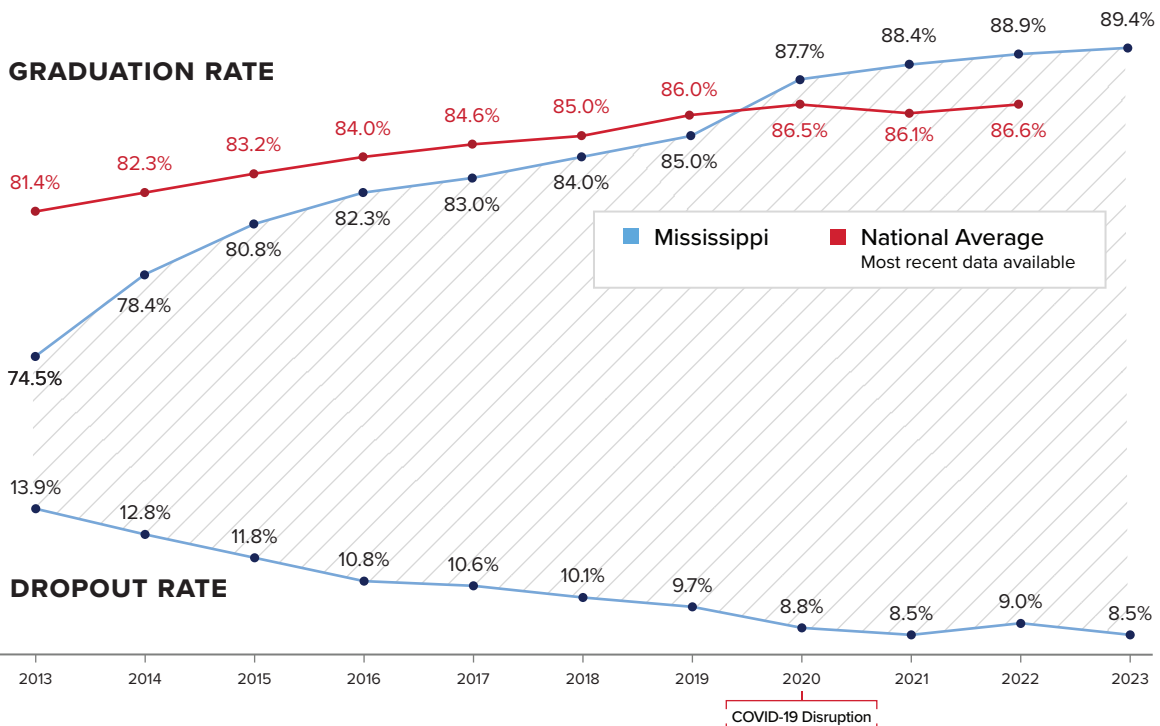
MDE's latest figures mark a continuing positive trend for Mississippi's students. The statewide graduation rate was 74.5% in 2013 and has increased annually. The statewide dropout has decreased from 13.9% in 2013. The graduation rate among students with disabilities has more than tripled from 22.5% in 2013.

GRADUATION RATE STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

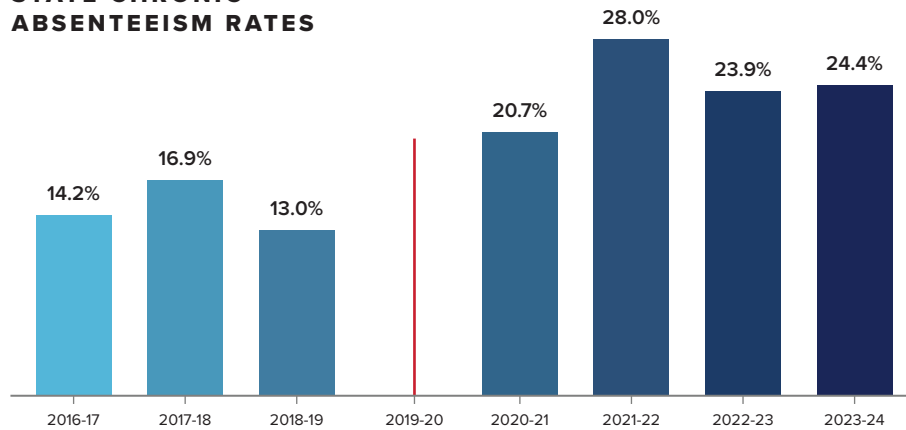
INCREASED MORE THAN

3X

2013 \longrightarrow 2023
22.5% **70.0%**



STATE CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM RATES



Note: School Year 2019-20 was the year of the COVID-19 pandemic. Attendance was not recorded in the same manner as in the other school years.

Chronic Absenteeism

CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM IS DEFINED as missing 10% (18 days) of the school year for any reason, which includes excused and unexcused absences and suspensions. This averages to just two days a month.

Mississippi's chronic absenteeism rate was 24.4% in 2023-24, which was a slight increase from 23.9% in 2022-23. In Mississippi and nationally, chronic absenteeism rates spiked during the pandemic and have not returned to pre-pandemic levels.

Research on chronic absenteeism has identified several effective strategies for reducing absenteeism including early

identification and intervention, building strong relationships with students and families, maintaining a positive school climate, and expanding student access to health services.

To support local school districts' efforts to reduce chronic absenteeism, the MDE has continued its attendance awareness campaign called *Every School Day Counts - Attend to Achieve*. The campaign highlights the benefits of regular school attendance and emphasizes ways to prevent students from being chronically absent.

Advanced Placement

DURING THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR, the number of Mississippi students taking Advanced Placement (AP) exams reached a record high of 12,442 public school students taking 17,717 AP exams, with a record high of 7,733 exams earning a qualifying score. **The rate of exams achieving a qualifying score reached an all-time high of 43.7%.**

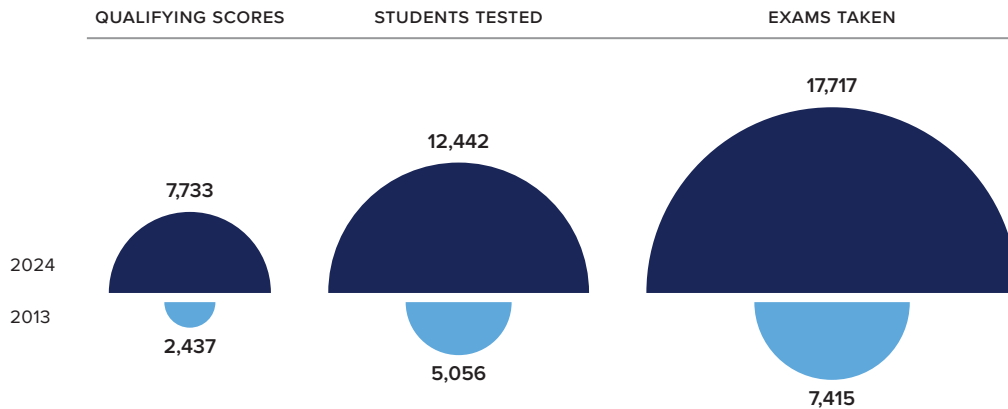
Compared to 2022-23, the numbers mark a 3.3% increase of students taking AP exams, a 4.3% increase of tests taken and a 32% increase in passing scores of exams. Among African-American students, who made up 35% of AP test takers, the passing rate of exams taken increased by 45.6% over the previous school year.

Since 2013, the overall number of Mississippi students taking AP courses and passing AP exams has more than doubled.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT

Participation & Achievement

MORE THAN DOUBLED



ACT

THE MISSISSIPPI LEGISLATURE PROVIDES FUNDING for all public-school students to take the ACT at no cost in their junior year of high school. The test measures college-readiness at a critical time in high school when there is still time to provide interventions to improve ACT performance. Mississippi is one of 16 states that administers the ACT to all high school juniors. The ACT now generates superscores, which are generated when students take the ACT multiple times and the student's best scores from each of the four tested ACT subjects are combined.

2024 11TH GRADE

17.4

AVERAGE

2024 GRADUATING CLASS

18.4

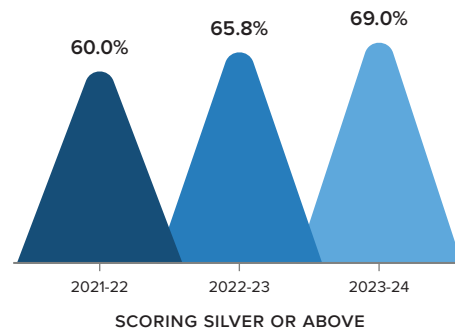
HIGHEST SCORE

18.7

SUPERSCORE

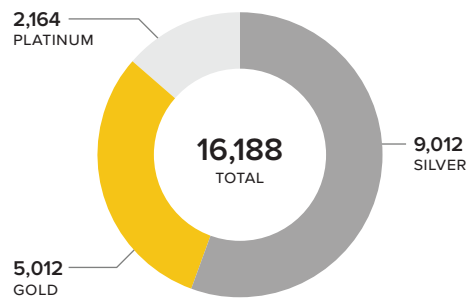
ACT WORKKEYS

Since the 2021-22 school year, ACT WorkKeys assessment scores have been an option to use instead of ACT results as the state's accountability measure that evaluates how schools and districts prepare students for college and the workforce. Since that time, the percentage of students scoring silver or above on ACT WorkKeys has steadily increased.



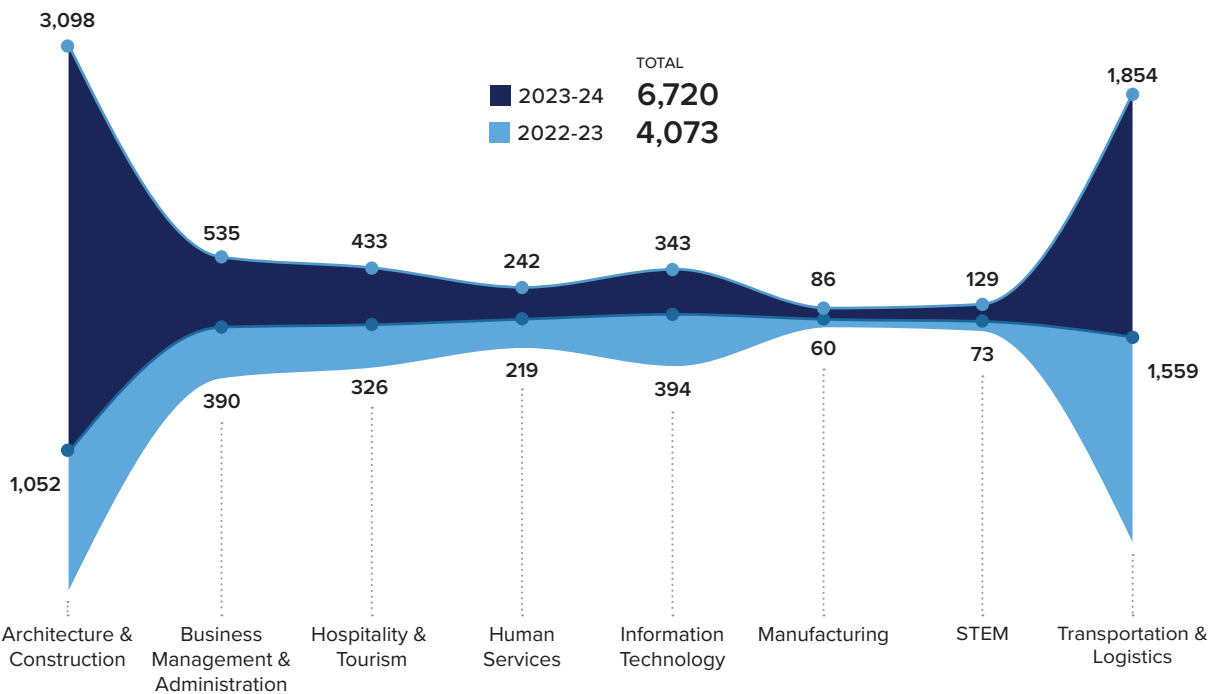
ACT NATIONAL CAREER READINESS CERTIFICATES

16,188 students earned ACT National Career Readiness Certificates in 2023-24 for their performance on the ACT WorkKeys.



Recognized Industry Certifications

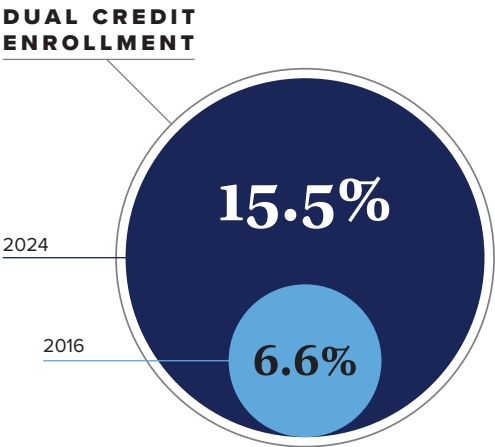
RECOGNIZED INDUSTRY CERTIFICATIONS PROVIDE PROOF of knowledge and verify a student’s capability to perform a particular trade, skill, or occupation. Certification opportunities bring value to Career and Technical Education programs because they validate the education and training these programs provide as well as give students incentive for further achievement. School districts reported 6,720 students earned industry certifications in 2023-24, **an increase of 26% over the previous school year.**



Dual Credit & Dual Enrollment

DUAL CREDIT AND DUAL ENROLLMENT COURSES ENABLE STUDENTS to take college courses while in high school and receive college credit.

The percentage of students participating in dual credit courses more than doubled from 6.6% in 2016 to 15.5% in 2024. 95.3% of students passed their courses and earned college credit in 2024.



Career & Technical Education

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE) COURSES help students develop marketable job skills and earn national industry certifications needed to achieve their career goals. Students who take at least two CTE courses in the same field of study are CTE concentrators.

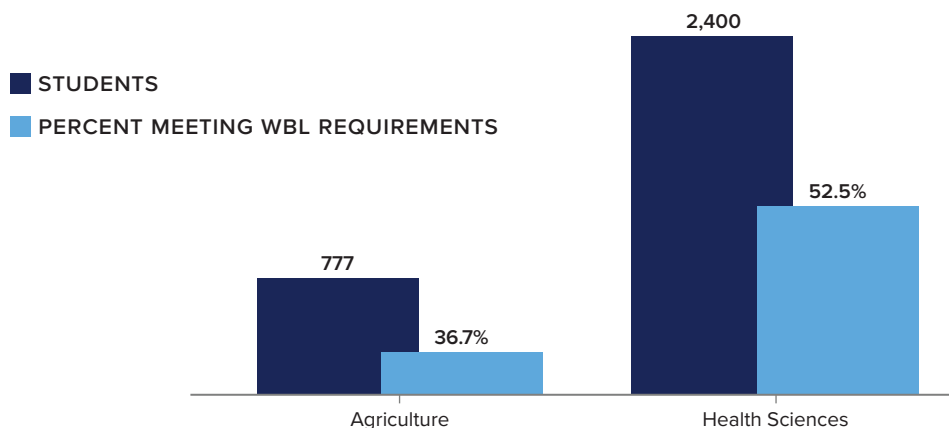
CTE completers had the state's highest average graduation rate of 99.5% for the 2022-23 accountability year.

CTE CONCENTRATORS



WORK-BASED LEARNING INTERNSHIPS

The federal Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (Perkins V) requires states to annually report on performance indicators for all CTE pathways. Pathways using Work-based Learning (WBL) as a quality indicator are called embedded WBL experiences, or Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) for the agriculture, food and natural resources pathway. Perkins V defines WBL as sustained interactions with industry professionals in real or simulated workplace settings, fostering hands-on engagement with career-specific tasks aligned to curriculum. The MDE has chosen Agriculture and Health Sciences as focus areas for embedded WBL experiences.

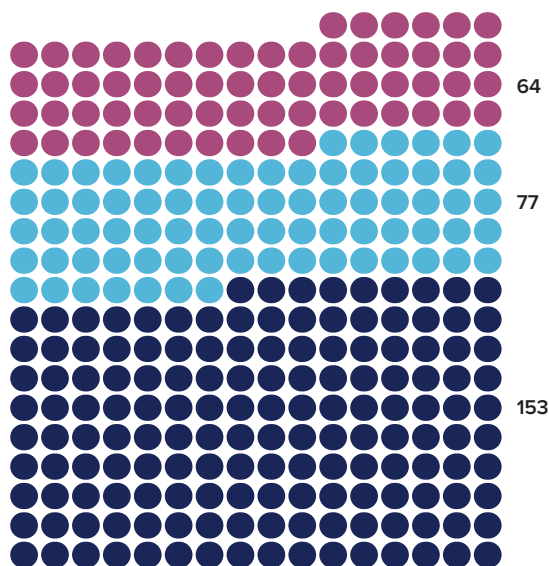


Early College High Schools

EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOLS ARE SMALL SCHOOLS LOCATED ON A PARTNERING COLLEGE CAMPUS that serve as a bridge from secondary to post-secondary education for students who traditionally might not have the highest expectation of continuing their education after high school. Underrepresented students who participate in early college high school see many benefits, including:

- Successful completion of high school
- College credits earned, potentially resulting in an associate degree
- Enrollment in college directly after high school

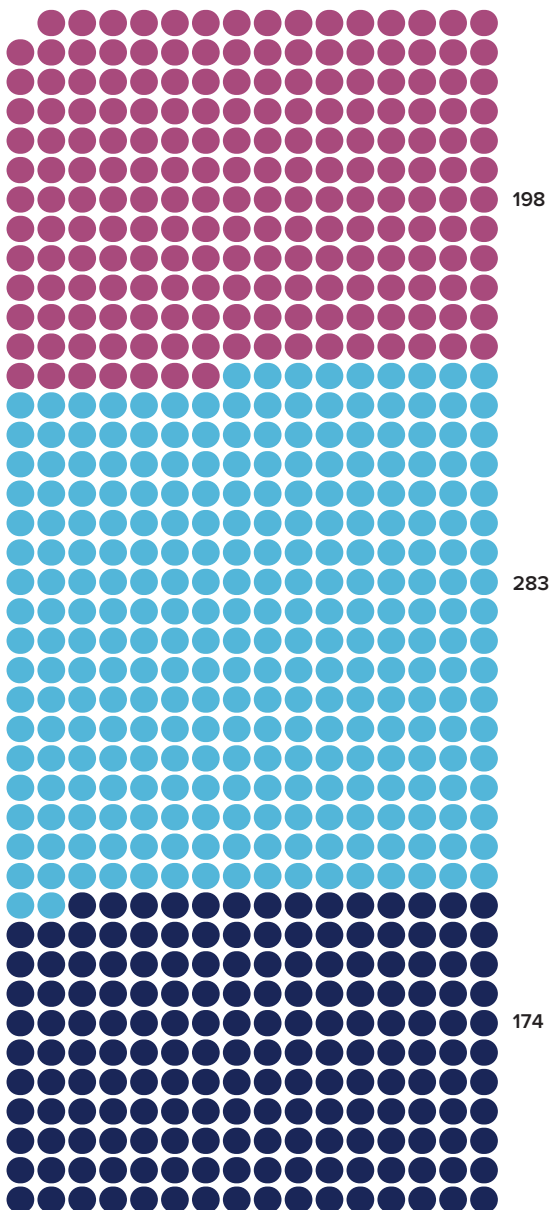
- ASSOCIATE DEGREES EARNED TO DATE
- GRADUATES TO DATE
- 2023-24 ENROLLMENT
- CAREER/TECH CERTIFICATIONS EARNED TO DATE



Jackson Public Schools
SCHOOL/DISTRICT

Tougaloo College
HIGHER EDUCATION PARTNER

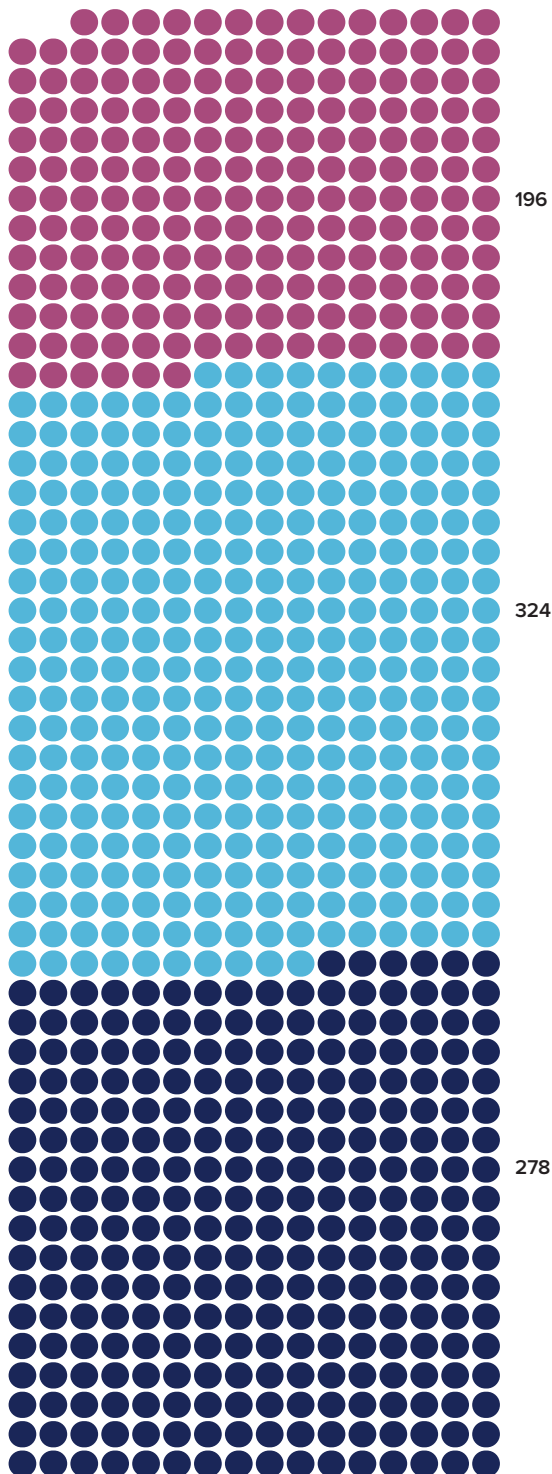
2018
FOUNDED



Natchez-Adams
SCHOOL/DISTRICT

Copiah-Lincoln Community College
HIGHER EDUCATION PARTNER

2016
FOUNDED



River City (Vicksburg-Warren)
SCHOOL/DISTRICT

Hinds Community College
HIGHER EDUCATION PARTNER

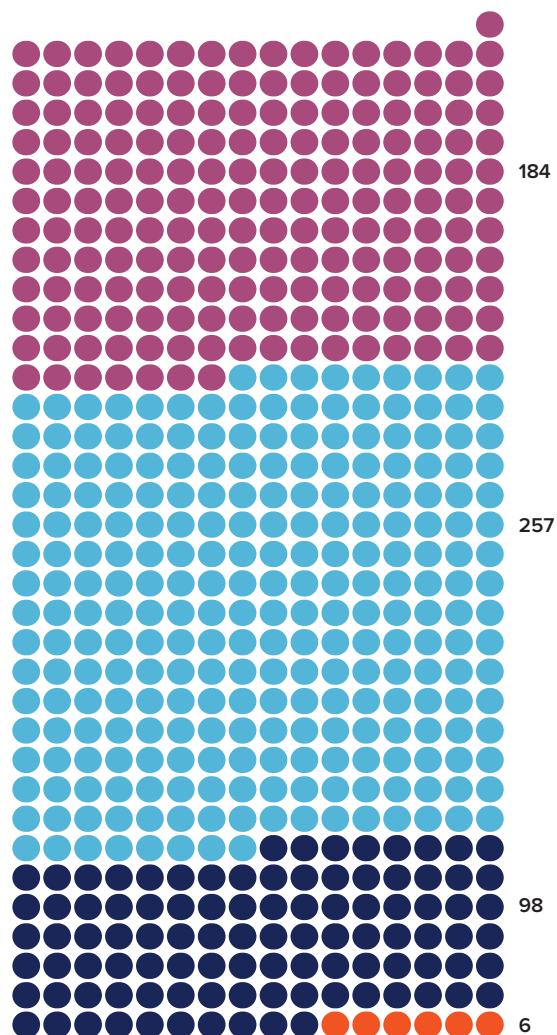
2016
FOUNDED

703
TOTAL ENROLLMENT
2023-24

941
TOTAL GRADUATES
TO-DATE

642
ASSOCIATE DEGREES
TO-DATE

6
CAREER/TECH CERT.
TO-DATE



Golden Triangle
SCHOOL/DISTRICT

East Mississippi Community College
HIGHER EDUCATION PARTNER

2015
FOUNDED

GOAL 3

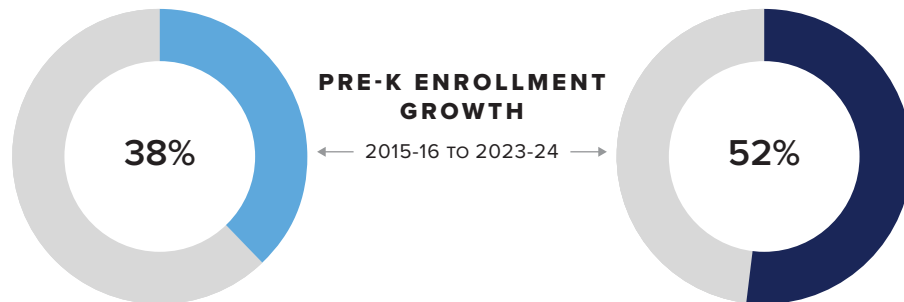
Every Child
Has Access to a
High-Quality Early
Childhood Program



GOAL 3

Growth of Public Pre-K

PUBLIC PRE-K IN MISSISSIPPI includes local, state and federally funded programs. An increase of state funds invested in pre-K contributed to the percentage of 4-year-olds enrolled in pre-K rising from 38% in 2015-16 to 52% in 2023-24.



Early Learning Collaboratives

THE NUMBER OF EARLY LEARNING COLLABORATIVES (ELC) rose to 40 through August 2024. The Early Learning Collaboratives provide high-quality early childhood education pre-K programs to 4-year-old students through partnerships among school districts, Head Start agencies, childcare centers and non-profit organizations. The total number of pre-K 4-year-olds served since the 2014-15 school year is more than 30,000.

Mississippi started building its first publicly funded early childhood education infrastructure in 2013 after the passage of the Early Learning Collaborative Act. The law initially provided \$3 million to establish 11 Early Learning Collaboratives in underserved areas throughout the state. Based on their success, the Legislature increased funding in subsequent years. Appropriations for ELCs have steadily increased since the 2014-15 school year to a cumulative total of \$131 million.

State Invested Pre-K Programs

DURING THE 2022 LEGISLATIVE SESSION, THE MISSISSIPPI LEGISLATURE APPROPRIATED \$20 MILLION in new state funding to provide grants to public schools not participating in an ELC. The number of State Invested Pre-K (SIP) programs rose to 24 as of August 2024. The SIPs expand MDE's offering of high-quality pre-K programs and have the capacity to serve 2,120 4-year-old children in 106 classrooms in districts that are not part of an ELC. Just like the ELCs, SIP programs meet all National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER) quality standards.



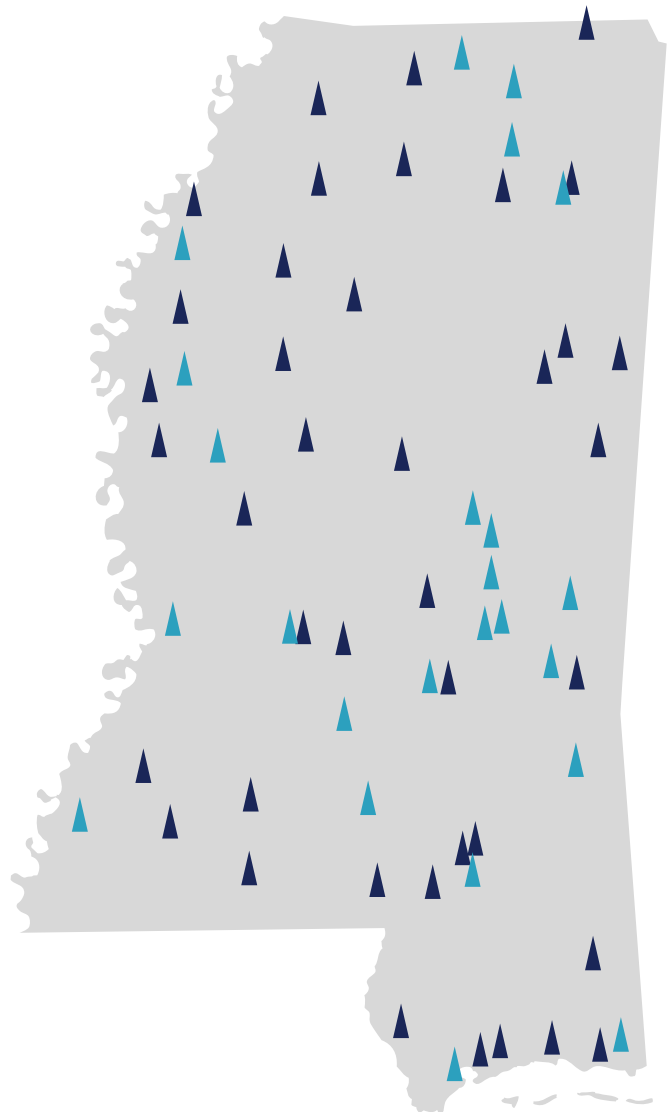
40 EARLY LEARNING COLLABORATIVES

Biloxi	Long Beach
Brookhaven	Lowndes County
Clarke County	Marion County
Cleveland	McComb
Coahoma County	Monroe
Corinth-Alcorn-Prentiss	Noxubee County
George County	Pass Christian
Greenwood-Leflore	Pascagoula-Gautier
Grenada	Petal
Hattiesburg	Picayune
Hollandale	Pontotoc
Holly Springs	Rankin County
Holmes County	Scott County
Jackson-Hinds	Senatobia
Jefferson County	South Panola
Kosciusko	Starkville-Oktibbeha
Lamar County	Tallahatchie County
Lee County	West Jasper
Lafayette-Oxford	West Point
Leland	Yazoo City



24 STATE-INVESTED PRE-K PROGRAMS

Bay St. Louis-Waveland	Newton Municipal
Benton County	North Bolivar
Enterprise	Philadelphia
Forest County	Simposon County
Humphreys County	Smith County
Jefferson Davis County	South Tippah
Lauderdale County	Sunflower County
Midtown Public Charter School (Jackson)	Tupelo
Moss Point	Union City
Natchez-Adams	Union County
Neshoba County	Vicksburg-Warren
Newton County	Wayne County

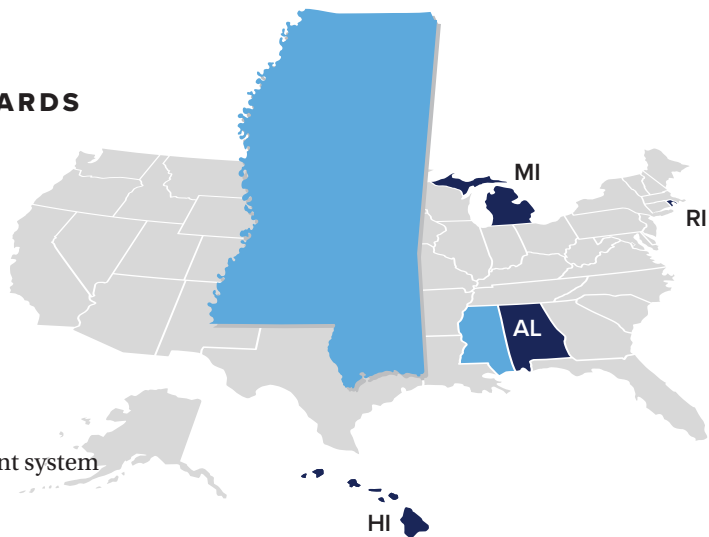


National Model

THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR EARLY EDUCATION RESEARCH (NIEER) first recognized Mississippi for its ELC program in 2015 as one of only a handful of states that meets all 10 of its quality standards. In subsequent years, NIEER continued to name Mississippi among the top states in the nation for quality pre-K. Today, **Mississippi remains one of only five states** that meets all of NIEER’s quality standards for pre-K.

NIEER QUALITY STANDARDS

1. Use of early learning standards
2. Curriculum supports
3. Teacher degree
4. Teacher specialized training
5. Assistant teacher degree
6. Staff professional development
7. Maximum class size
8. Staff-child ratio
9. Screenings and referrals
10. Continuous quality improvement system



Early Learning Collaborative Growth & Support

Mississippi’s investment in Early Learning Collaboratives increased from **\$3 million in 2013** to **\$24 million in 2024**. Individuals or corporations who donate to ELCS are eligible to receive a 1:1 state tax credit for the donated amount up to \$1 million.

FUNDING & ENROLLMENT

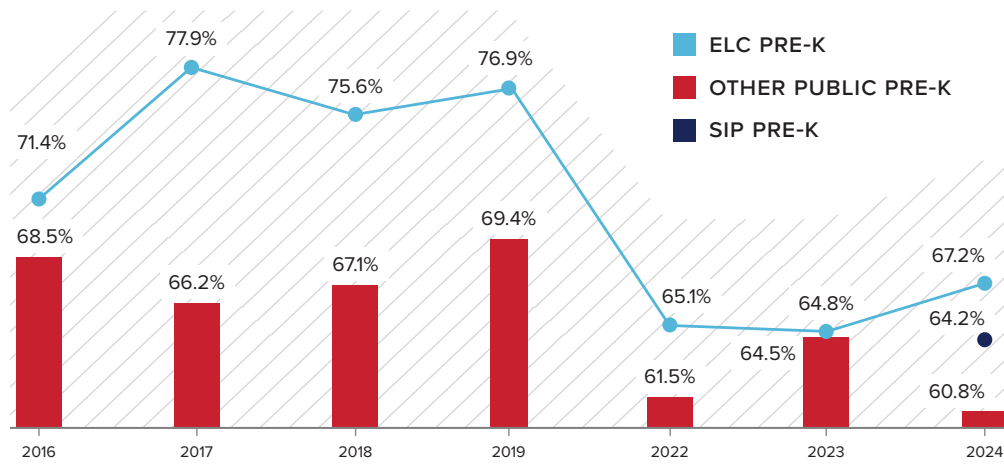
School Year	State Funding	Students	Sites	Calendar Year	1:1 Tax Credit
2013-14	\$3 M	—	—	—	—
2014-15	\$3 M	1,700	11	2014	\$276,850
2015-16	\$3 M	1,000	11	2015	\$812,686
2016-17	\$4 M	2,000	14	2016	\$1.6 M
2017-18	\$4 M	3,000	18	2017	\$2.7 M
2018-19	\$6.5 M	3,000	18	2018	\$3.8 M
2019-20	\$6.7 M	3,000	18	2019	\$3.3 M
2020-21	\$7.8 M	3,000	18	2020	\$5.6 M
2021-22	\$16 M	6,000	30	2021	\$3.9 M
2022-23	\$24 M	9,120	37	2022	\$5.2 M
2023-24	\$24 M	9,120	40	2023	\$3.9 M

Pre-K Students Meeting Kindergarten Readiness Score

EARLY LEARNING COLLABORATIVE STUDENTS HISTORICALLY OUTPERFORM STUDENTS in all other public pre-K programs. Two factors had an impact on pre-K outcomes since 2020. First, the pandemic interrupted learning and development among the state's youngest learners. As a result, pre-K outcomes have not yet returned to pre-pandemic levels.

Second, state-funded pre-K programs have grown rapidly since the 2018-19 school year, with the number of Early Learning Collaboratives more than doubling from 18 to 40 and the 2023-24 school year marking the first full school year of State Invested Pre-K programs.

Student achievement historically increases after the initial year of pre-K program implementation and teachers' implementation of the early learning standards.



Note: Due to pandemic disruptions, there were no assessments in 2020 and 2021.

Mississippi Beginnings: Pre-K

MDE CONTINUED TO PILOT AN OPEN-SOURCE curriculum for 4-year-old pre-K classrooms, including public, private, childcare, home care and Head Start. The Mississippi Beginnings: Pre-K curriculum is intended to support any preschool teacher in providing rich, play-based, intentional developmentally appropriate instruction. The curriculum has been implemented in 306 classrooms in 30 Early Learning Collaboratives and 105 classrooms in 24 State-Invested Pre-K sites. Additional resources and professional learning have been offered to teachers.

The Mississippi Beginnings: Pre-K curriculum is organized in six thematic units that each have five weeks of content. Information for each week includes instructions about learning centers, materials needed, read-aloud activities, songs, word play, letters, family activities to do at home, and a weekly lesson plan. Pre-K teachers can access materials and training online to learn about the curriculum and how to implement it in the classroom: mdek12.org/EC/Mississippi-Beginnings-Curriculum

GOAL 4

Every School Has Effective Teachers & Leaders





GOAL 4

Professional Development

BUILDING THE CAPACITY OF EDUCATORS is a major part of MDE's strategy to improve student achievement. MDE's professional development team offers in-person and virtual training, online Canvas courses and self-directed professional development on demand in the areas of mathematics, English Language Arts, science and special education topics.

Professional development sessions and participants:

- 541 Trainings
- 32 Canvas courses
- 125 Districts served
- 21,504 On-demand training views
- 33,044 Participants

Coaching Model

MDE'S COACHING MODEL has proven to be an effective method of transforming Mississippi schools and improving student achievement. Developed around transformational coaching, it is a powerful, comprehensive and systematic way to plan and organize coaching support.

MDE coaches:

- Build educators' instructional capacity across the curriculum
- Promote school-wide culture for learning that includes all stakeholders
- Enhance and refine instruction and interventions
- Target instructional coaching using the gradual release model

MDE's coaching staff has expanded from 29 literacy coaches in 2013-14 to a team of 119 coaches supporting teachers and school leaders in the areas of literacy, early childhood education, special education, school improvement, mathematics and digital learning.

COACHING ACROSS MISSISSIPPI & EMPOWERING ELEVATING

LITERACY

- Coaches & Coordinators: 39
- Districts served: 43
- Schools served: 68
- Coach Academy Graduates: 13

DIGITAL LEARNING

- Coaches: 27
- Districts served: 56
- Schools served: 87

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

- Coaches: 8
- Schools served: 32
- Districts served: 23

MATHEMATICS

- Coaches & Coordinators: 27
- Districts served: 42
- Schools served: 81

SPECIAL EDUCATION

- Coaches & Coordinators: 9
- Districts served: 9
- Schools served: 12

EARLY CHILDHOOD

- Coaches: 16
- Classrooms served: 457

LITERACY COACH ACADEMY OF MISSISSIPPI

The Literacy Coach Academy of Mississippi (LCAM) is a new professional development program that provides educators who serve or will serve in a coaching role in any school district to receive the same onboarding coach training as MDE literacy coaches. The LCAM is a free, year-long learning program that prepares K-5 school- and district-based literacy coaches to support teachers, paraprofessionals, and administrators in the implementation of literacy best practices grounded in the Science of Reading. In June 2024, the inaugural class of 13 educators completed the LCAM and received their certificates of completion.

MECCA

MISSISSIPPI EDUCATOR CAREER CONTINUUM ARCHIVE (MECCA) SYSTEM

MDE COMPLETED ITS DEVELOPMENT of the MECCA educator workforce information system that manages licensure and other information about the careers of Mississippi educators from recruitment through retirement.

MECCA performs four functions:

1. Educator Preparation, Licensure, and Misconduct Evaluations
2. Professional Growth System Observation and Development
3. Educator Talent
4. Accreditation

Since its launch in January 2023, MECCA has supported over **69,000 registered users**, with staff reviewing **58,081** licensure applications, and the system automatically processing **14,785** licenses through September 2024. The Professional Growth System portal has collected **36,743** final summative observations, with more than **2,700** observations completed wwdirectly within MECCA.

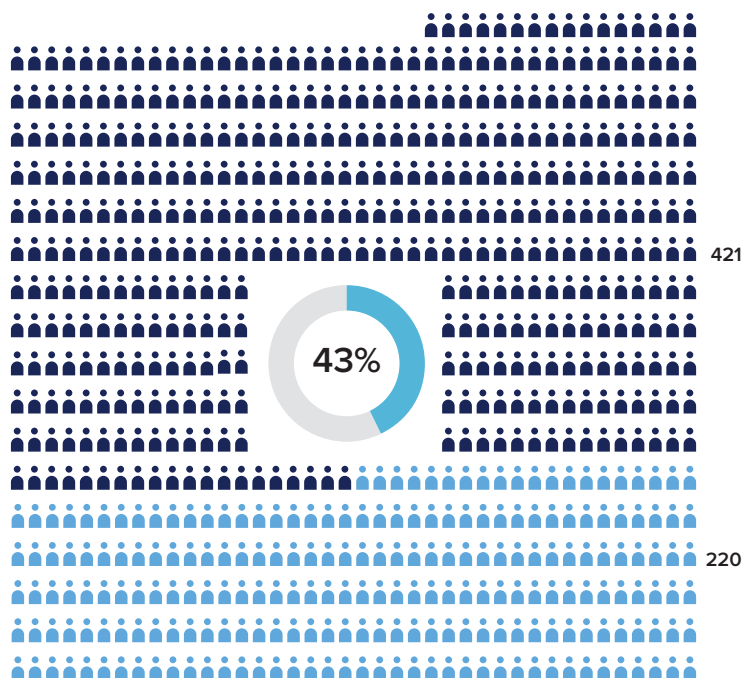
MECCA includes an Interactive Voice Response (IVR) component, which allows callers to quickly check the status of their licensure applications. Along with the IVR system, MDE's expanded Licensure Call Center staff has maintained an average call wait time of just 60 seconds while handling over **25,314** calls January through September 2024.

MTR & PBL

MDE LAUNCHED the Mississippi Teacher Residency (MTR) and Performance-Based Licensure (PBL) programs with support from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation in 2019. MTR is a fully funded preparation program for candidates pursuing a graduate degree in elementary and special education. PBL is a nationally unprecedented initiative to study performance-based alternatives to current licensure testing requirements. MDE expanded the MTR program in 2021 by awarding over \$9.8 million in federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds to five Mississippi universities.

In 2023, the State Board of Education approved PBL as a licensure pathway based on the results of a three-year pilot study.

SINCE THE INCEPTION OF MTR & PBL



● CANDIDATES BECAME RESIDENT TEACHERS ● CANDIDATES BECAME FULLY LICENSED EDUCATORS AS A RESULT OF MTR OR PBL

● % OF ALL GEOGRAPHICAL CRITICAL SHORTAGE DISTRICTS JOINED MTR

Learn more about the nation's first performance-based licensure pathway: mdek12.org/OEL/Performance-Based-Licensure

University & School District Partners

▲ DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

- Clarksdale Municipal School District
- Cleveland School District
- Coffeeville School District
- Copiah County School District
- DeSoto County School District
- Forest Municipal School District
- Mississippi Achievement School District -Humphreys County Region
- Natchez-Adams School District
- North Panola School District
- Quitman County School District
- Quitman School District
- South Panola School District
- Sunflower County Consolidated School District*
- Tate County School District
- Water Valley School District
- West Bolivar School District
- Winona-Montgomery Consolidate School District

▲ JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY

- Canton Public School District
- Holmes County School District
- Jackson Public Schools
- Mississippi Achievement School District - Yazoo City Region
- Sunflower County Consolidated School District

▲ MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

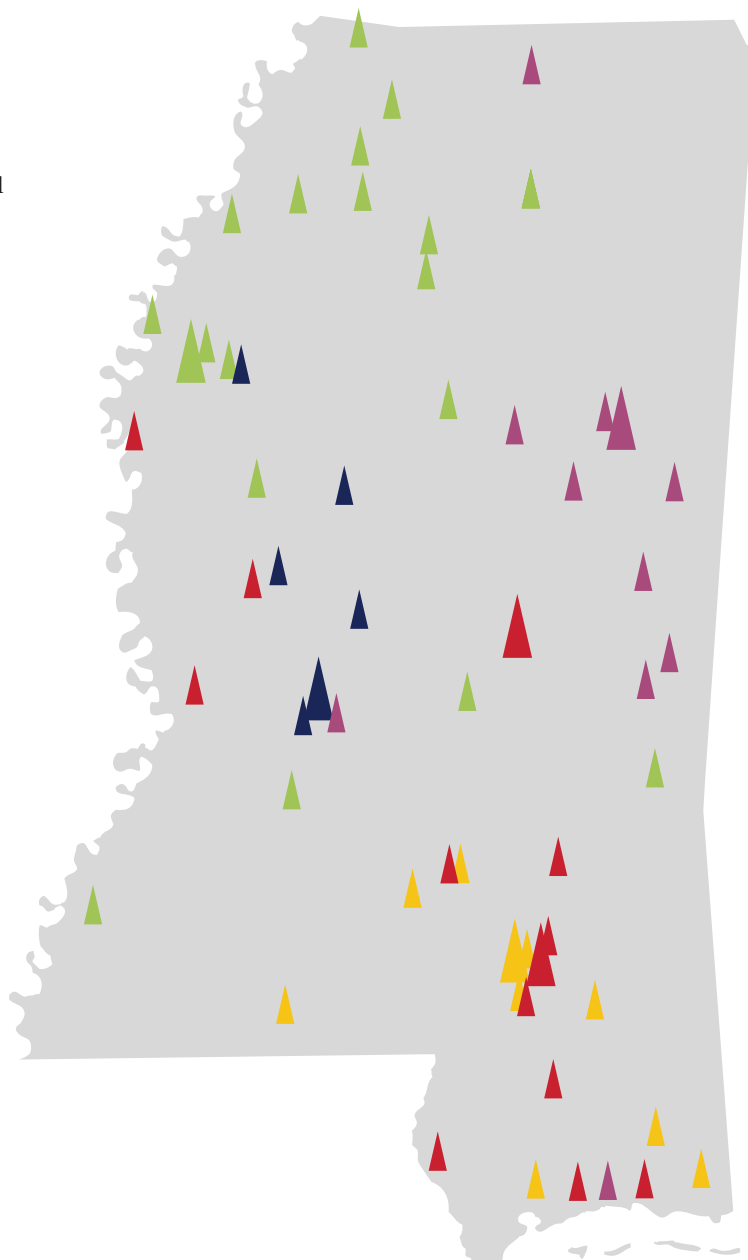
- Benton County School District
- Biloxi Public School District*
- Choctaw County School District
- Jackson Public School District*
- Kemper County School District
- Lauderdale County School District
- Louisville Municipal School District
- Meridian Public School District
- Noxubee County School District
- Starkville-Oktibbeha School District

▲ UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI

- Columbia School District
- Forrest County School District
- Hattiesburg Public School District
- Jackson County School District
- Jefferson Davis County School District
- Moss Point School District
- Pass Christian School District
- Perry County School District
- South Pike School District

▲ WILLIAM CAREY UNIVERSITY

- Covington County School District
- Forrest County School District
- Greenville Public School District
- Gulfport School District*
- Hattiesburg Public School District
- Laurel Public School District
- Ocean Springs School District*
- Picayune School District
- Stone County School District
- Vicksburg-Warren School District
- Yazoo County School District



*These programs are funded through the W.K. Kellogg Foundation

GOAL 5

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



GOAL 5

MSIS Modernization

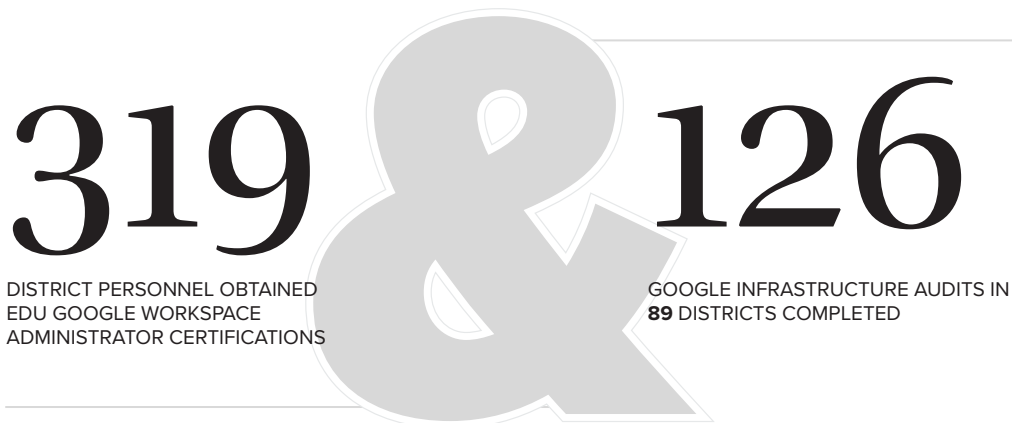
A REVAMPED MISSISSIPPI STUDENT INFORMATION SYSTEM (MSIS) launched in July 2024 to modernize the 24-year-old system. MSIS provides for the electronic collection, management, and reporting of financial data and data about students, teachers, administrators, school board members, and support staff.

The new MSIS features a modern and intuitive user interface, improved data quality checks, and optimized, secure data transfers directly from district data sources to MSIS.

Seven training events were held in 2023-24 to prepare school districts' staff for the new MSIS. To boost engagement and motivation during training, digital badges were awarded to individuals and districts. The badges demonstrated commitment to the training and encouraged friendly competition among districts. In total, 1,572 individuals and 149 districts earned badges.

Technology Support for School Districts

OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS, MDE HAS PROVIDED THE AMPLIFIED FOR EDUCATION PROGRAM to school districts. This initiative enhances security and engagement in learning environments and optimizes returns on educational technology investments. It supports district technical staff who manage Google infrastructure through comprehensive services including detailed audits of a district's Google setup and targeted recommendations to improve educational outcomes for teachers and students. The program offers formal Google training that enables district technical staff to achieve up to four levels of certification. Key achievements include:



MSIS

MODERNIZATION

TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT **FOR** **SCHOOL DISTRICTS**

GOAL 6

Every School and
District is Rated C
or Higher



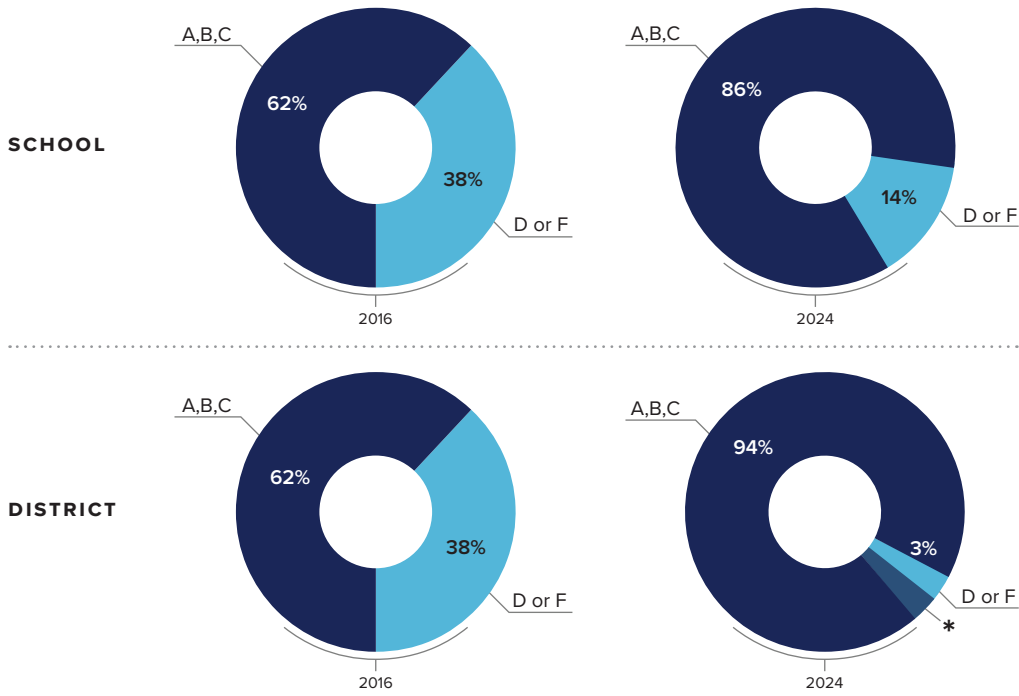
GOAL 6

2023-24 School & District Grades

MISSISSIPPI SCHOOL AND DISTRICT ACCOUNTABILITY A-F GRADES for 2023-24 showed 85.7% of schools and 93.9% of districts earned a grade of C or higher. In 2016, when the Mississippi State Board of Education set a goal that all schools and districts be rated C or higher, the percentage of schools and districts meeting this goal were both 62%.

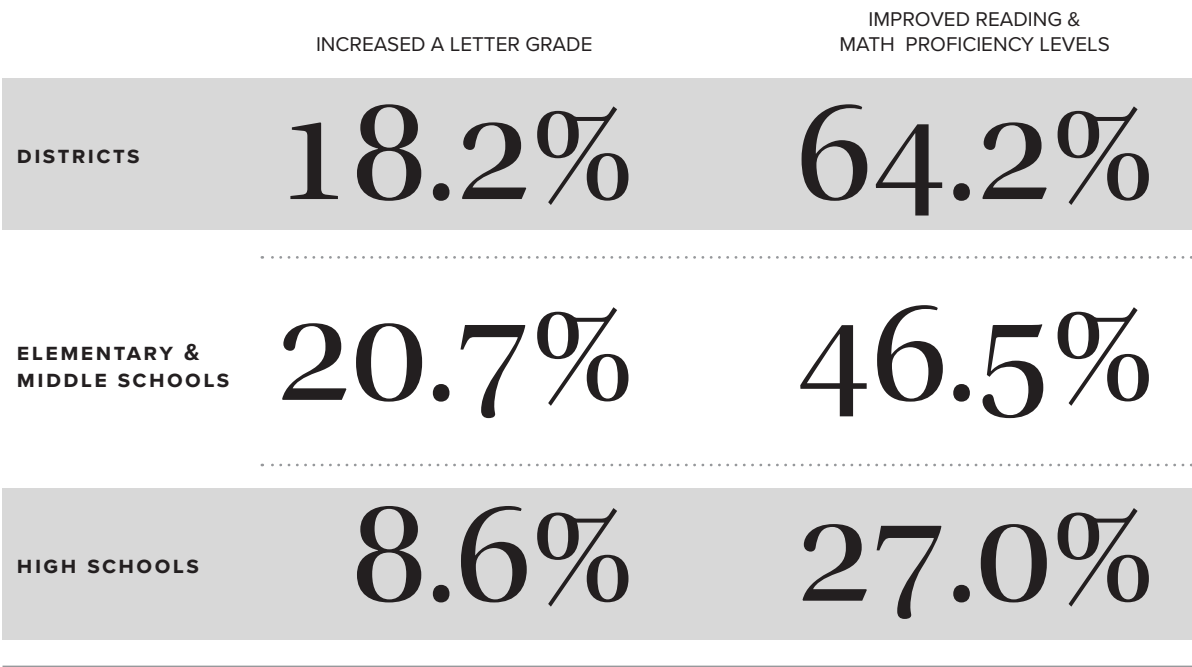
State law requires standards to be raised when 65% of schools or districts are rated B or higher. Therefore, new accountability standards will be implemented in the 2025-26 school year that will raise the bar for achievement and put a stronger focus on workforce readiness at the high school and district levels.

Accountability grades help teachers, school leaders, parents and communities know how well their local schools and districts are serving their students. The calculation of district and school grades relies heavily on the amount of progress students make in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics from one year to the next, particularly the lowest performing 25% of students.



*Three charter school districts too new to be graded.
One district will receive grade after locally selected performance data is available.

2023-24 ACCOUNTABILITY GRADE HIGHLIGHTS



DISTRICTS UNDER STATE LEADERSHIP

School and district achievements in 2023-24 extend to all districts under state leadership because of poor academic performance or a state of emergency. All four state-led districts have steadily improved under state leadership:

Holmes County Consolidated School District

Improved to a B grade this year, after maintaining a C for two consecutive years. The district was rated F when it was taken over in 2021.

Noxubee County School District

Maintained its C grade from 2023, improving upon its D rating in 2022. The district earned an F every year from 2016 to 2021.

Achievement School District (ASD)

The Humphreys County portion of the ASD improved its grade to a C, improving upon its D grade in 2023 and F in 2022. The Yazoo City portion of the ASD improved to a C from an F in 2023.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT ACTIVITY

The federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires each state to identify schools for support and improvement. Those schools are classified as Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI); Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI); and Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (ATSI).

2023-24 School improvement support:

- Nine district and school team interviews with failing and/or CSI schools to examine staffing, achievement, and funding
- Leadership coaching support for 32 CSI schools
- Annual Convening for identified schools
- 24 focused professional learning engagements for identified schools addressing data, stakeholder engagement, fiscal and program monitoring, instructional leadership practices and school improvement requirements
- Awarded \$15,552,559 in Title I school improvement funds to support interventions



Four Mississippi Schools Named 2024 National Blue Ribbon Schools

THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION recognized four Mississippi schools among 356 schools across the nation as National Blue Ribbon Schools for 2024. The recognition is based on a school's overall academic performance or progress in closing achievement gaps among student subgroups. Educators from each school received their awards Nov. 8, 2024, at a ceremony in Washington, D.C.

National Blue Ribbon Schools serve as models of effective and innovative school practices for state and district educators and other schools throughout the nation. They are categorized into two groups. Exemplary Achievement Gap-Closing Schools are among their state's highest performing schools in closing achievement gaps between a school's student groups and all students. Exemplary High-Performing Schools are among their state's highest performing schools as measured by state assessments or nationally normed tests.



EXEMPLARY **HIGH PERFORMING** SCHOOLS

Magnolia Park Elementary School
OCEANS SPRINGS SCHOOL DISTRICT

Mannsdaile Upper Elementary School
MADISON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

EXEMPLARY **ACHIEVEMENT GAP CLOSING** SCHOOLS

Ripley High School
SOUTH TIPPAAH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Stone Elementary School
STONE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Mississippi Rankings

ON A NATIONAL SCALE, MISSISSIPPI'S PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM HAS GARNERED notable rankings in 2024. The state's progress is applauded and well-known. Moving forward, Mississippi will continue to build a strong foundation for future generations of students with a coordinated effort that combines policy, leadership, strategic planning, investments in educator effectiveness, and the unwavering belief that Mississippi children could reach, and exceed, higher expectations.

2024 NATIONAL RANKINGS

04 For percentage of National Board Certified Teachers
NATIONAL BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL TEACHING STANDARDS

35 In education
U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT

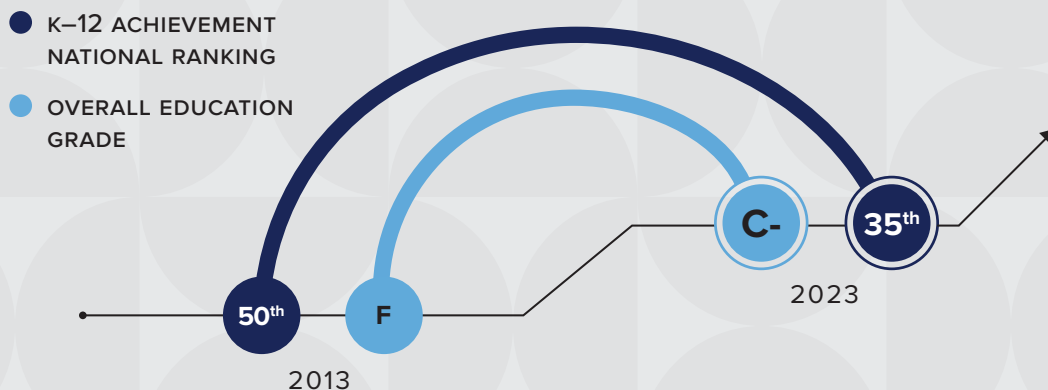
30 In education
2024 ANNIE E. CASEY FOUNDATION'S KIDS COUNT® DATA BOOK

2022 NATIONAL ASSESSMENT FOR EDUCATION PROGRESS GRADE 4 READING ACHIEVEMENT (MOST RECENT DATA)

21 Among All students

02 Among economically disadvantaged students

05 Among African American & Hispanic students



QUALITY COUNTS

In March 2024, Education Week announced the end of the Quality Counts report after 25 years of serving as a comprehensive K-12 education scorecard. Quality Counts' final report included data from 2023, which recorded the nation's overall grade as a C. Mississippi earned a C-, just shy of the nation's grade. The Mississippi Department of Education often noted the state's success highlighted in the report.



MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

Office of Communication and
Government Relations
601-359-3515 | MDEK12.ORG

