

Maintaining Momentum in Mississippi

A Conversation With Dr. Carey Wright, State Superintendent of Education

Special GLR Webinar

July 14, 2020

The logo consists of a purple square with a white border. Inside the square, the text "The Campaign for" is at the top in a small font, "GRADE-LEVEL" is in the middle in a larger font, and "READING" is at the bottom in the largest font, all in white capital letters.

The Campaign for
GRADE-LEVEL
READING

Moderator



Angela S. Rutherford, Ph.D.

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Commentators



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Education Committee

Opening Remarks



Tate Reeves
65th Governor of Mississippi

Keynote Speaker



Carey M. Wright, Ed.D.
State Superintendent of Education
Mississippi

Maintaining Momentum in Mississippi

Campaign for Grade-Level Reading:
GLR Week 2020

July 14, 2020



Carey M. Wright, Ed.D.
State Superintendent of Education

VISION

To create a world-class educational system that gives students the knowledge and skills to be successful in college and the workforce, and to flourish as parents and citizens

MISSION

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

State Board of Education Strategic Plan Goals: ALL Means ALL

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



BACKGROUND

State of Mississippi in 2013

- Highest poverty rate in the nation
- **F** in K-12 achievement and **D** for chance for success (Quality Counts)
- Ranked **50th** in nation for education
- **75.5%** graduation rate, the second lowest among neighboring states
- **4th graders** reading **more than one full grade level behind** the national average on the National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP); overall NAEP scores among lowest in the nation
- Large “honesty gap” between state assessment proficiency rates and NAEP results

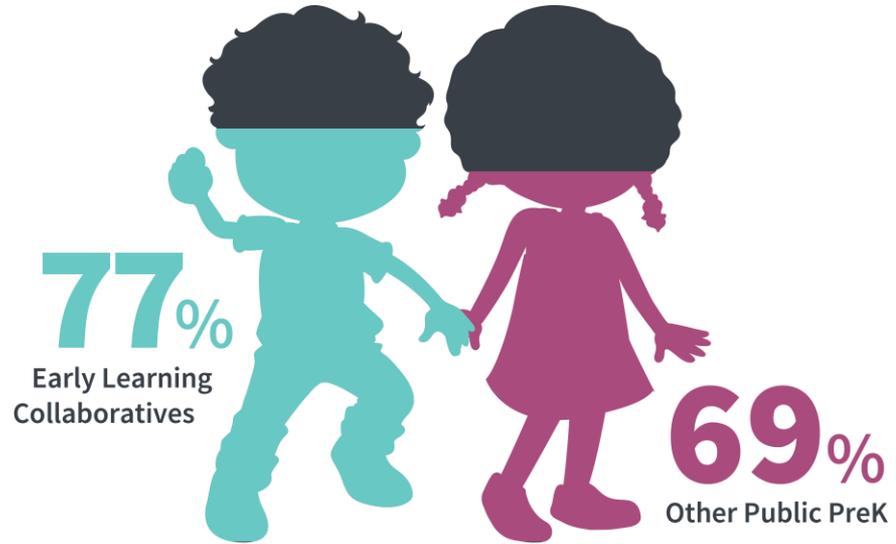
Laying the Foundation for Success

- Reorganized state education department around strategic plan goals
- Adopted rigorous, college- and career-ready standards statewide
- Developed assessments aligned to academic standards and the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)
- Implemented strong accountability system for all schools and districts
- Improved data quality and transparency
- Built teacher and leader capacity through major professional development initiative to ensure students master higher academic standards

EDUCATION ACHIEVEMENTS

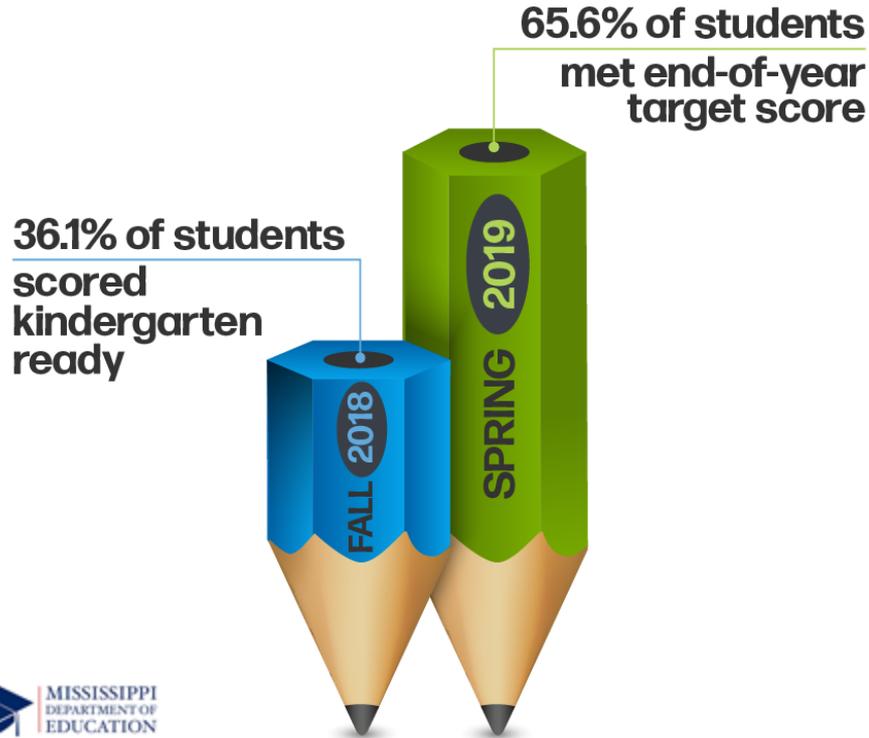
Early Childhood Education Achievement

- **77% of Early Learning Collaborative (ELC) students met target kindergarten-readiness score in 2019, an increase from 59% in 2015**
- **ELC students show higher rates of kindergarten readiness (77%) than students in other public pre-K classes (69%)**



Kindergarten Achievement

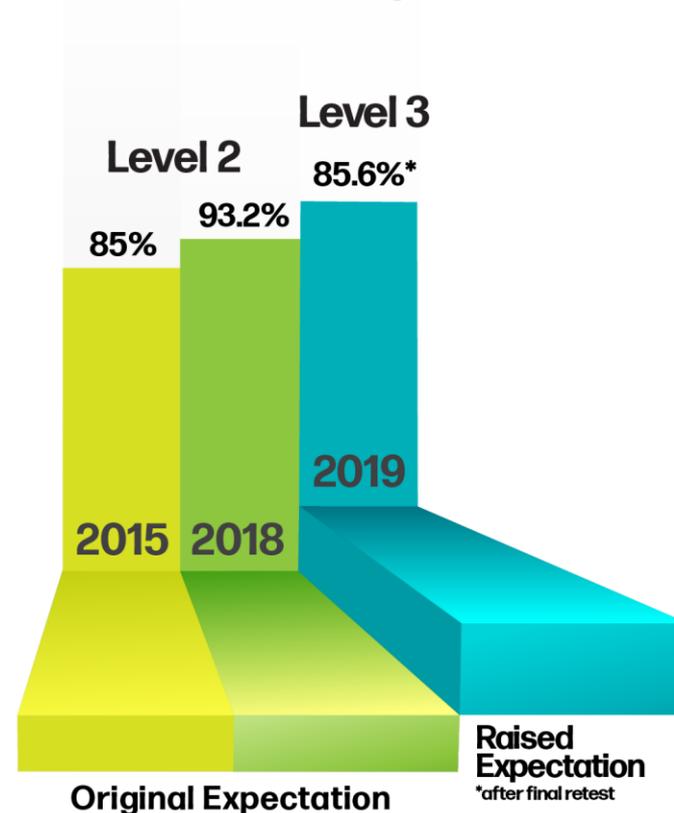
KINDERGARTEN READINESS AND GROWTH



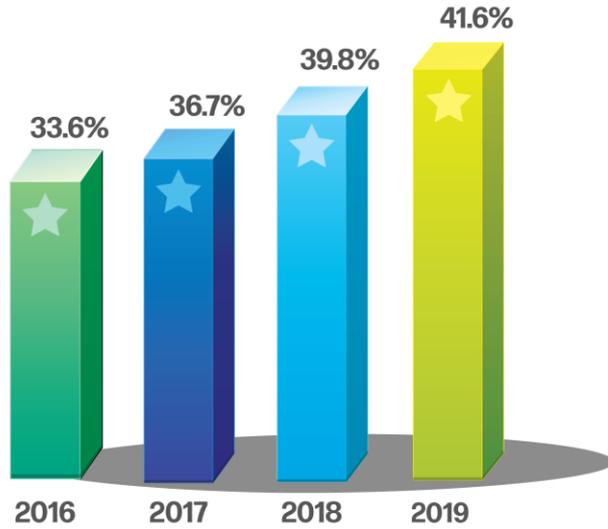
3rd Grade Reading Achievement

- Literacy-Based Promotion Act originally required 3rd graders to score at Level 2 on a reading test to be promoted to 4th grade
- Students are now expected to score at Level 3, which is closer to proficient
- When **expectations were raised** in 2019, **85.6% of students met the highest reading standard ever required** under the Literacy-Based Promotion Act

3rd Grade Reading Achievement



Mississippi Academic Assessment Program (MAAP)



English Language Arts (ELA)
Levels 4 & 5

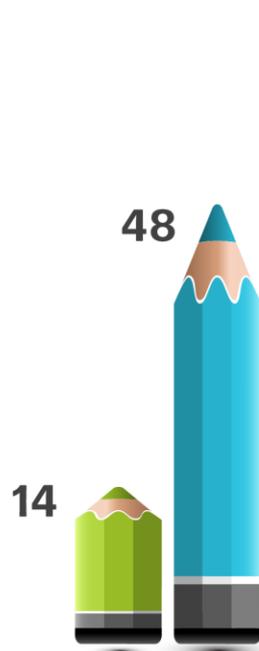


Mathematics
Levels 4 & 5

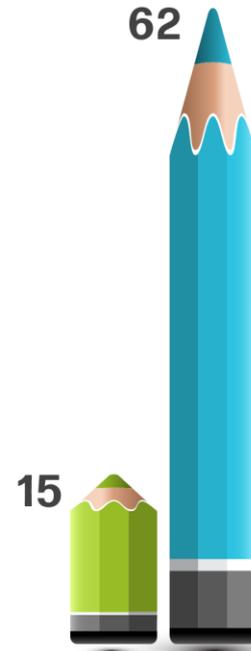
English Language Arts and Mathematics Proficiency Gains in Districts

Total districts
with more than 45%
of students scoring
proficient or advanced

● 2016 ● 2019



English Language Arts
more than tripled



Mathematics
more than quadrupled

English Language Arts and Mathematics Proficiency Gains By Grade

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

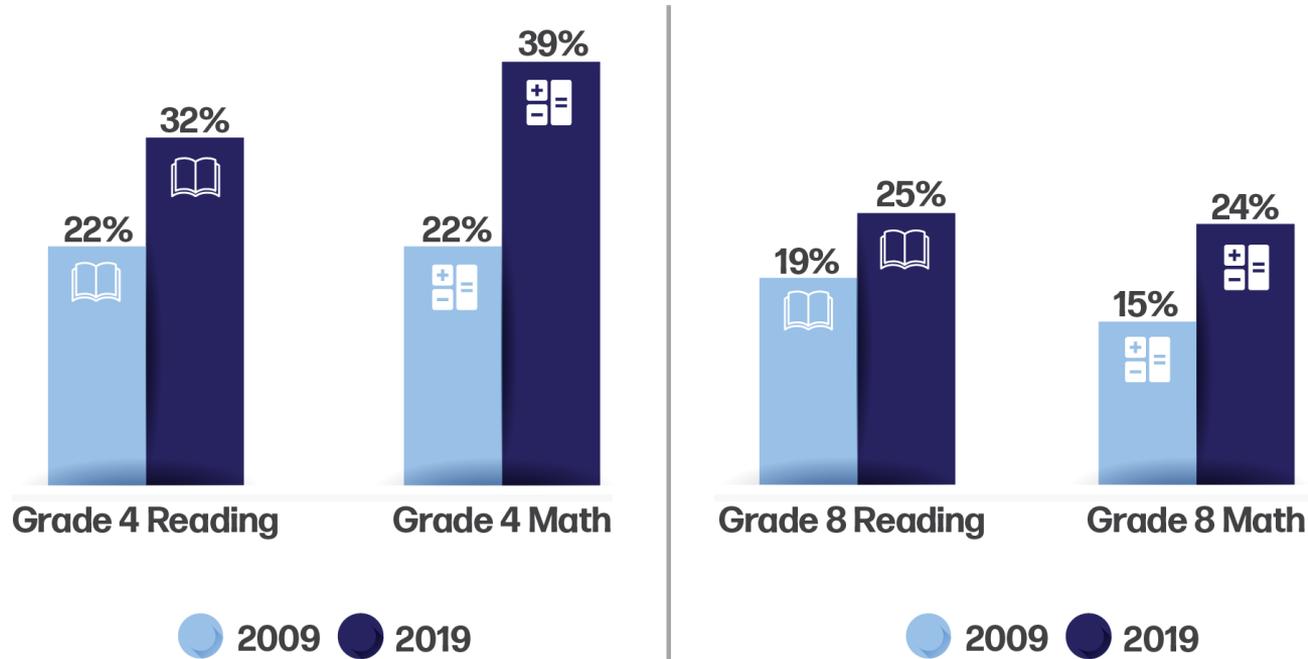
GRADE	2017-18 PROFICIENT OR ADVANCED	2018-19 PROFICIENT OR ADVANCED	CHANGE
Grade 3	44.7%	48.3%	+3.6% ▲
Grade 4	45.1%	48.5%	+3.4% ▲
Grade 5	36.2%	43.1%	+6.9% ▲
Grade 6	38.0%	33.6%	-4.4%
Grade 7	34.7%	39.0%	+4.3% ▲
Grade 8	35.1%	35.5%	+0.4% ▲
English II	44.5%	43.8%	-0.7%
Overall	39.8%	41.6%	+1.9% ▲

MATHEMATICS

GRADE	2017-18 PROFICIENT OR ADVANCED	2018-19 PROFICIENT OR ADVANCED	CHANGE
Grade 3	46.0%	51.4%	+5.4% ▲
Grade 4	44.4%	48.8%	+4.4% ▲
Grade 5	33.8%	38.9%	+5.1% ▲
Grade 6	46.4%	47.6%	+1.2% ▲
Grade 7	49.2%	51.1%	+1.9% ▲
Grade 8	41.2%	44.8%	+3.6% ▲
Algebra I	46.6%	49.3%	+2.7% ▲
Overall	43.9%	47.3%	+3.5% ▲

NAEP Proficiency Gains in Mississippi

National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) Mississippi Students Scoring Proficient or Above



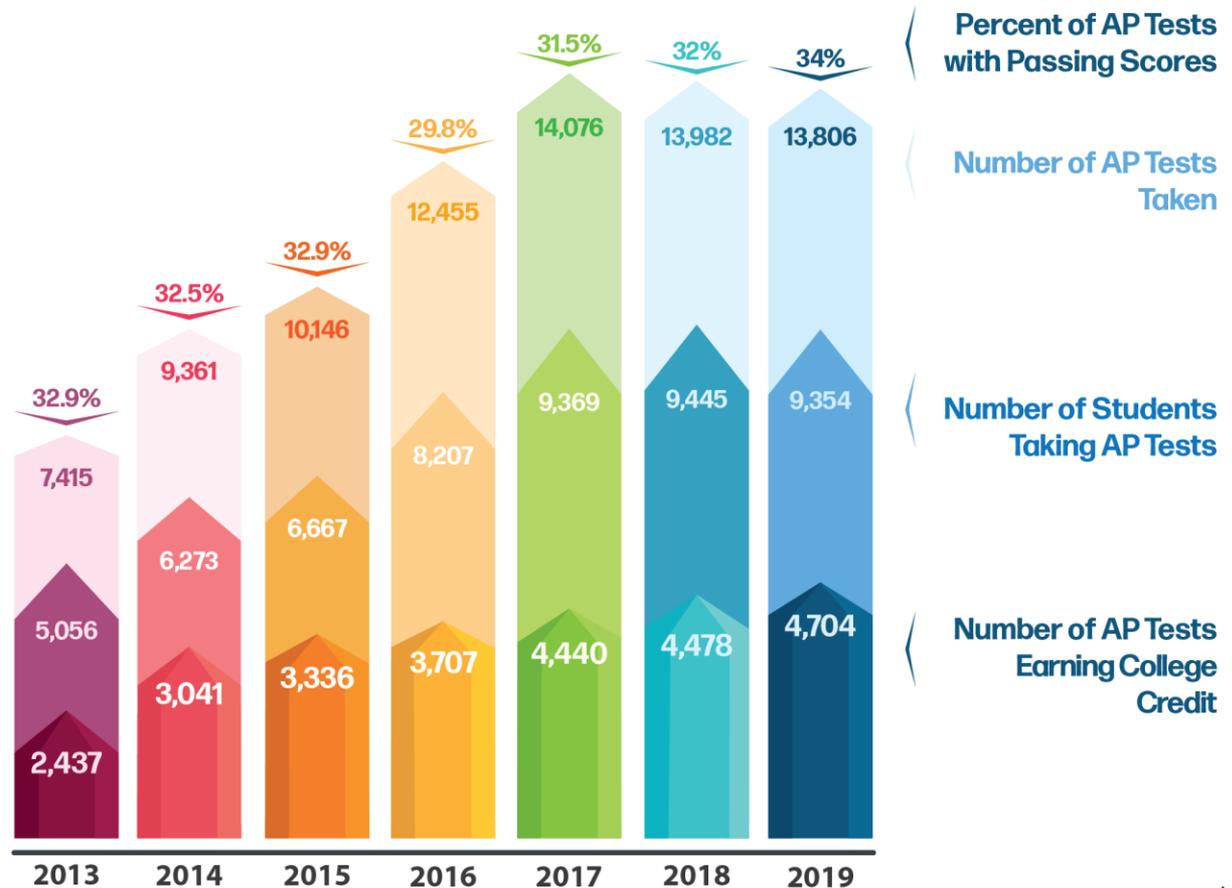
National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)

Mississippi National Rankings NAEP Gains



Advanced Placement (AP) Achievement

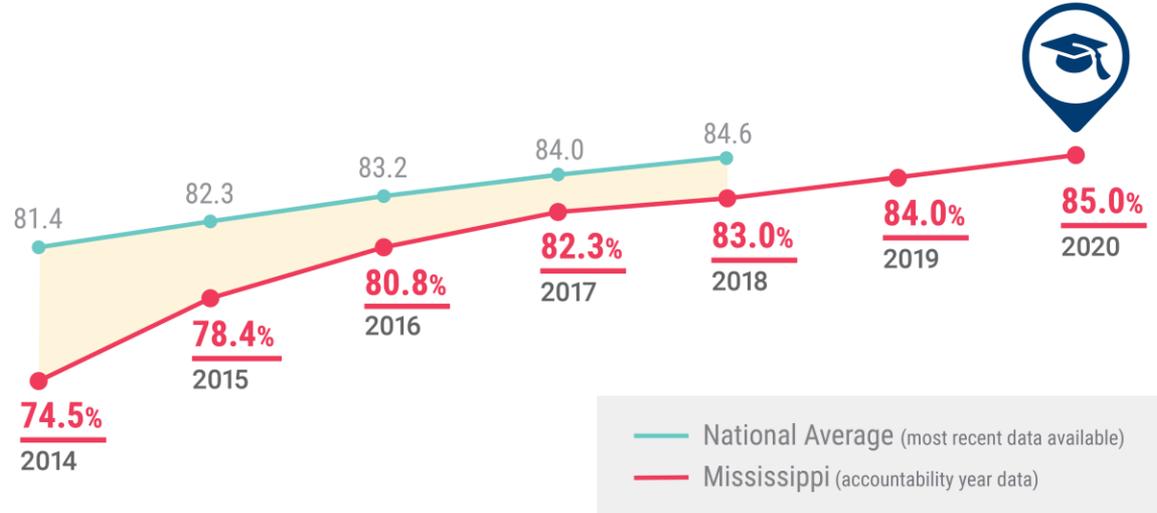
- Advanced Placement (AP) participation and performance nearly doubled since 2013
- AP pass rate reached an all-time high of 34% in 2019
- Greatest increase in AP qualifying scores from 2018 to 2019 was among African-American students (+9.5%) and Hispanic students (+6.4%)



Graduation Rate

- Graduation rate **increased for all subgroups** from 2014 to 2020 accountability year
- Graduation rate for **students with disabilities** had the **greatest increase** from 27.5% to 42.2% (+14.7%)

MISSISSIPPI'S GRADUATION RATE



Declining Drop-out Rate

- Drop-out rate decreased from **13.9%** in **2014** to **9.7%** for the **2020** accountability year

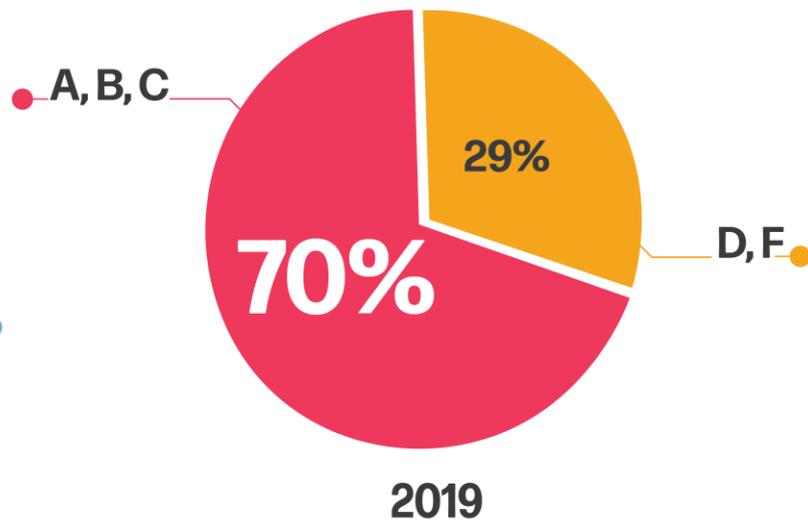
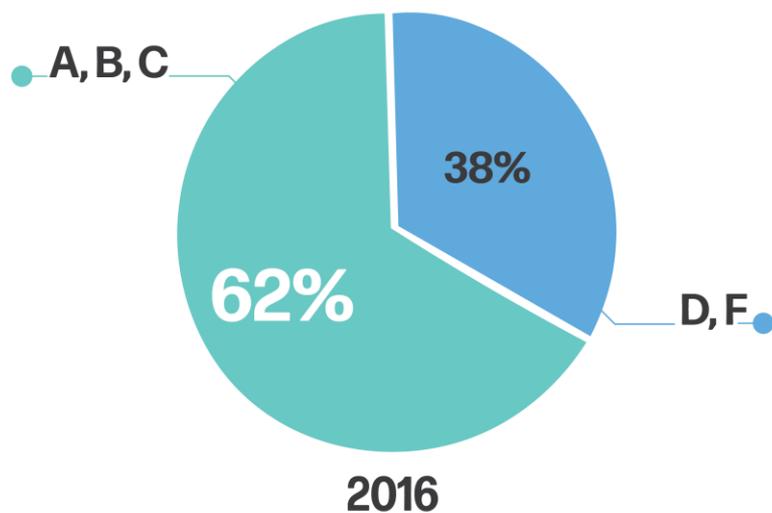
MISSISSIPPI'S **DECLINING** DROPOUT RATE



District Improvement

DISTRICT GRADE IMPROVEMENTS

2016 - 2019

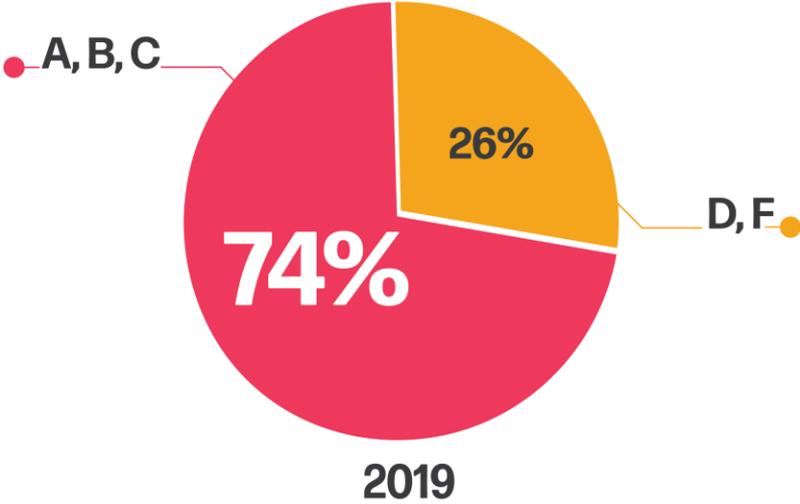
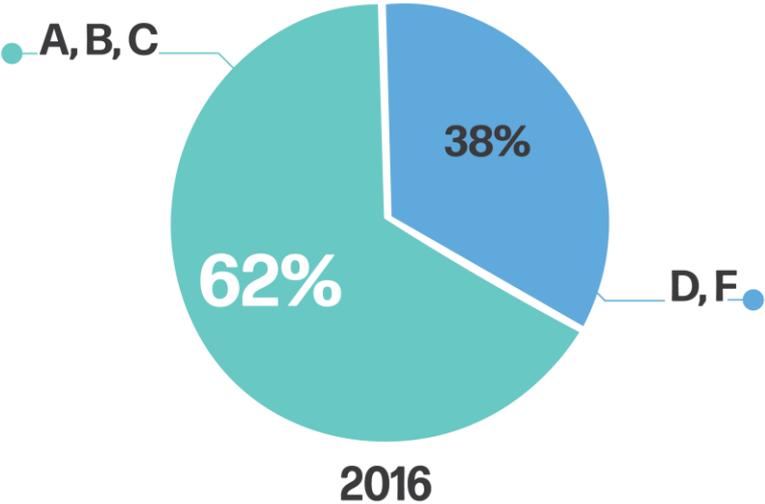


Note: Percentages have been rounded

School Improvement

SCHOOL GRADE IMPROVEMENTS

2016 - 2019



Note: Percentages have been rounded

2020 Quality Counts and KIDS COUNT Rankings

- **Quality Counts** ranks Mississippi **No. 2 in the nation** for improvement in education
- **KIDS COUNT 2020** showed Mississippi experienced the **greatest improvement in education**, ranking **39th** in the country, a substantial upturn from the previous ranking of **44th** in 2019

QUALITY COUNTS MOST IMPROVED

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

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

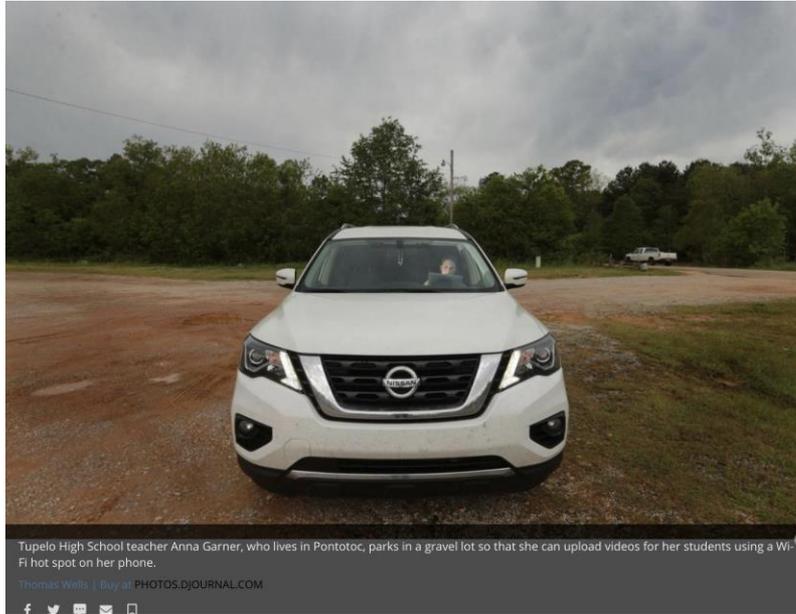
IMPACT OF SCHOOL CLOSURES

Digital Access in Mississippi: Impact on Students

- COVID-19 has amplified the inequities that exist among Mississippi students
- Children with no access to computers and adequate internet access have been put at a great disadvantage when schools shifted to distance learning
- 32% of Mississippi households do not have broadband
(Center for Population Studies, University of Mississippi, May 1, 2020)
- Percentage of Mississippi households without a computer device ranges from 8% in the university town of Oxford to 44% in the Mississippi Delta city of Greenwood
(AP article, Virus forced schools online, but many students didn't follow, April 17, 2020)

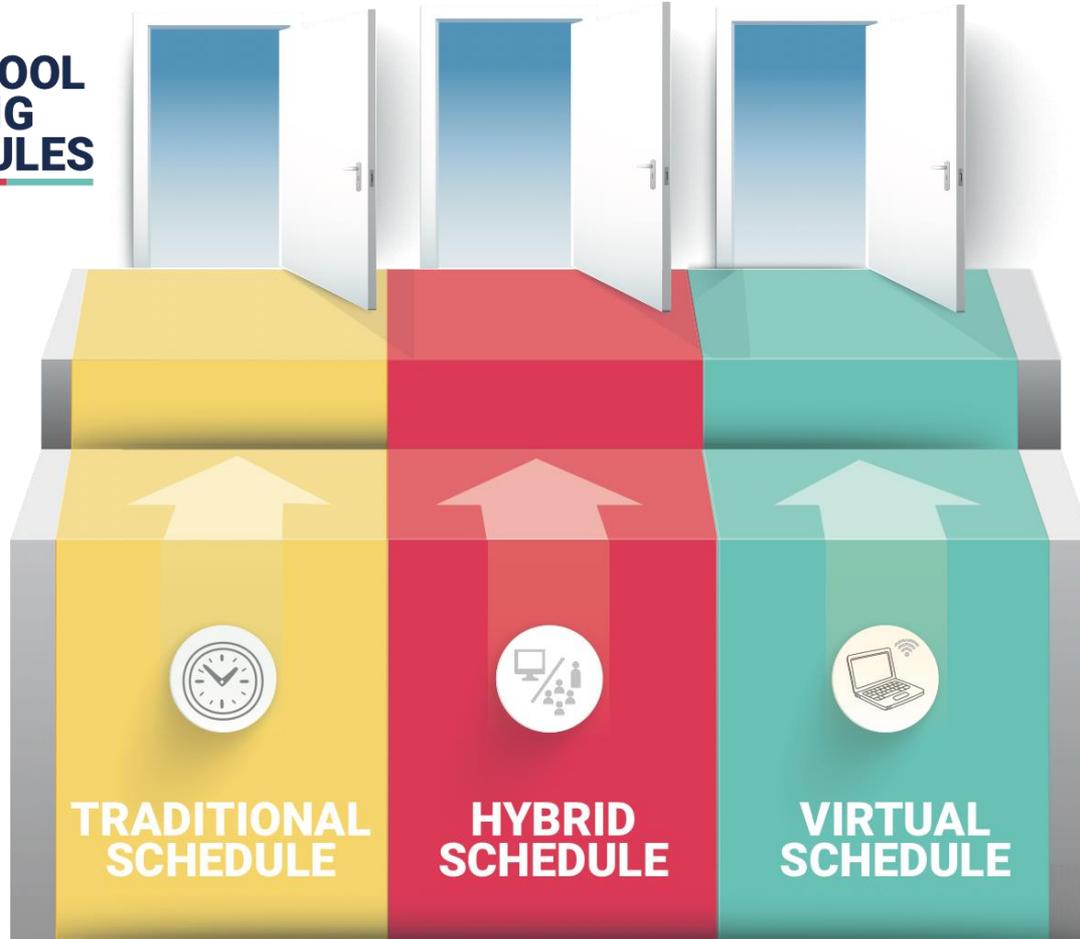
Digital Access in Mississippi: Impact on Teachers

This Tupelo High School teacher lives in Pontotoc County, MS, and cannot get broadband or high-quality phone service at her rural home. She parks in a gravel lot to upload videos for her students using a Wi-Fi hotspot on her phone.



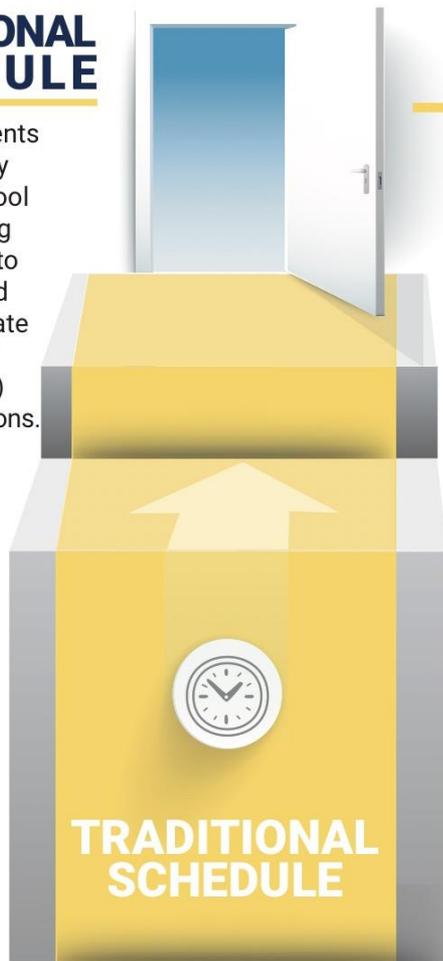
SCHOOL REOPENING PLANS

TYPES OF SCHOOL OPENING SCHEDULES



TRADITIONAL SCHEDULE

Requires students to be physically present in school with scheduling modifications to follow CDC and Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) recommendations.

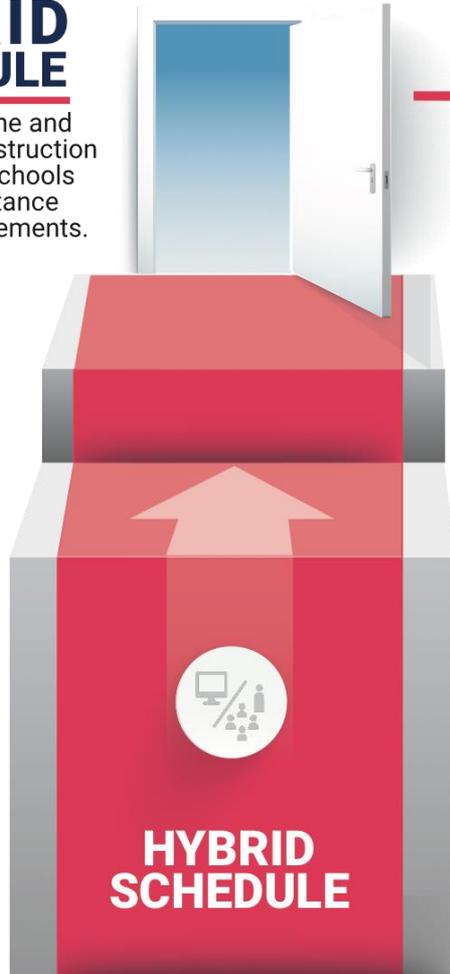


Facility and Staffing Considerations

- Daily screening protocols
- Transportation adjustments
- Routine disinfectant protocols
- Consider keeping students static and moving teachers to limit interactions and assist with contact tracing
- Create plan for serving students and adjusting duties for staff who cannot return to the building due to health issues
- Limit student movement and restrict gatherings in buildings to achieve social distancing guidelines

HYBRID SCHEDULE

Combines online and face-to-face instruction for students. Schools must meet distance learning requirements.



Examples of Hybrid Schedules

A/B Days

Student population is divided in half, with each half reporting to school on alternating days and participating in distance learning during days scheduled at home. Fridays could be used for tutorials/special populations/professional development.

Elementary Face-to-Face & Secondary Distance Learning

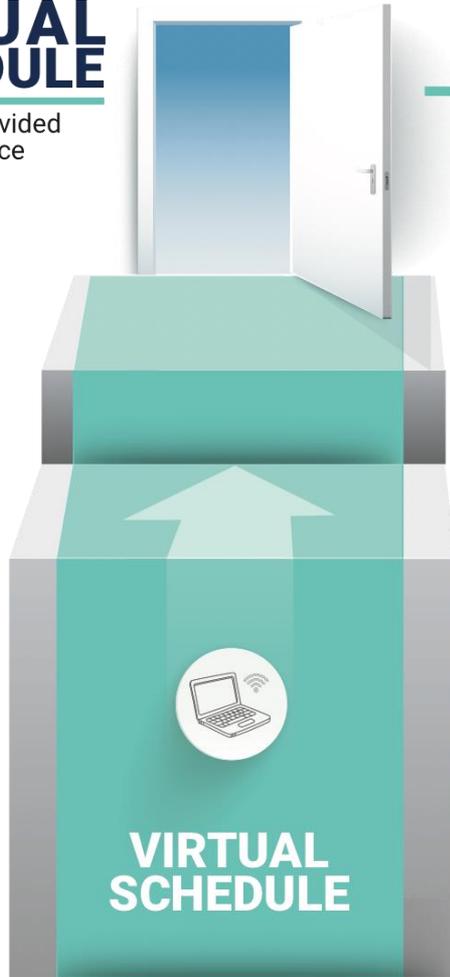
Elementary students attend four full days a week, spread out across buildings to reduce the student-teacher ratio to support social distancing. Secondary students would complete work through distance learning.

Elementary Face-to-Face & Secondary A/B Days

Combination of the two models above with the goal of reducing the number of students in the schools each day to achieve social distancing guidelines.

VIRTUAL SCHEDULE

Instruction provided through distance learning.



Considerations for Distance Learning Effectiveness

- Sufficient internet bandwidth
- Mitigation of the digital divide among families
- Implementation of a Learning Management System (LMS) and developed curriculum content
- Training for teachers on instruction in a virtual environment

Considerations for Reopening Schools

- MDE partnered with a workgroup of nine superintendents from a diverse range of school districts to outline the key issues districts need to address for the eventual reopening of schools.
- The issues are divided into six topics and outlined in the document, *Considerations for Reopening Mississippi Schools*, which provides a three-month timeline of strategies for district leaders to consider as they plan for the 2020-21 school year.



DIGITAL LEARNING PLAN

Digital Learning Plan

- The Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) requested \$250 million from the state's Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act stabilization fund to support bringing digital learning to all schools and students across Mississippi
- If fully funded – and implemented with a committed portion of local district funds – the plan would effectively create a 1:1 initiative in every district by providing every student with a computer device to learn at school or at home

Digital Learning Plan Components

1. **Devices and services:** Laptops or tablets for all students who need one
2. **Connectivity:** Hotspots and data plans to connect to the internet
3. **Digital curriculum and learning management systems:** High-quality instructional materials and the best online platform(s) to deliver them
4. **Professional development for teachers, parents and school staff:** Training teachers how to deliver instruction online and training parents how to support their children with technology at home
5. **Computer security, planning, and support:** Device management, software, network configuration and accessibility
6. **Telehealth/Teletherapy:** Devices, connectivity, curriculum and professional development will support student access to telehealth/teletherapy and social-emotional learning

Equity in Digital Learning Act (SB 3044)

- Designates \$130 million in CARES Act funds for a grant program to purchase computer devices and other distance learning-related expenses
- Funds will be distributed according to average daily membership
- An additional \$20 million will be distributed to school districts based upon schools' needs

Pandemic Response Broadband Availability Act (HB 1788)

- Allocates an additional \$50 million to provide grants to schools to expand broadband access in the unserved areas of the state

Challenges to Implementing Digital Learning Plan

- Majority of funding from the state is based on student enrollment rather than specific district needs (89 districts are underfunded by \$45 million; 61 districts are overfunded by \$35 million)
- Short timeline for districts to obligate funds
- Districts must spend own funds and then be reimbursed
- Competition with other states to procure computer devices

Next Steps

- Despite the challenges, MDE is committed to bringing equity to education through the statewide Digital Learning Plan
- We will continue to partner with the philanthropic community help advance our Digital Learning Plan
- We will continue to support districts with professional development to help students accelerate learning in the 2020-21 school year
- We are focused on acceleration, rather than remediation



MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

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mdek12.org



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Questions & Discussion

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