

Mississippi Senate Hearing

# Mississippi Succeeds

## Maintaining Momentum through COVID-19

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**Carey M. Wright, Ed.D.**

State Superintendent of Education



MISSISSIPPI  
DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION

January 6, 2021



# VISION

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



# MISSION

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



1

**ALL** Students Proficient and Showing Growth in All Assessed Areas



2

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



3

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

**EVERY** School Has Effective Teachers and Leaders

4



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

5



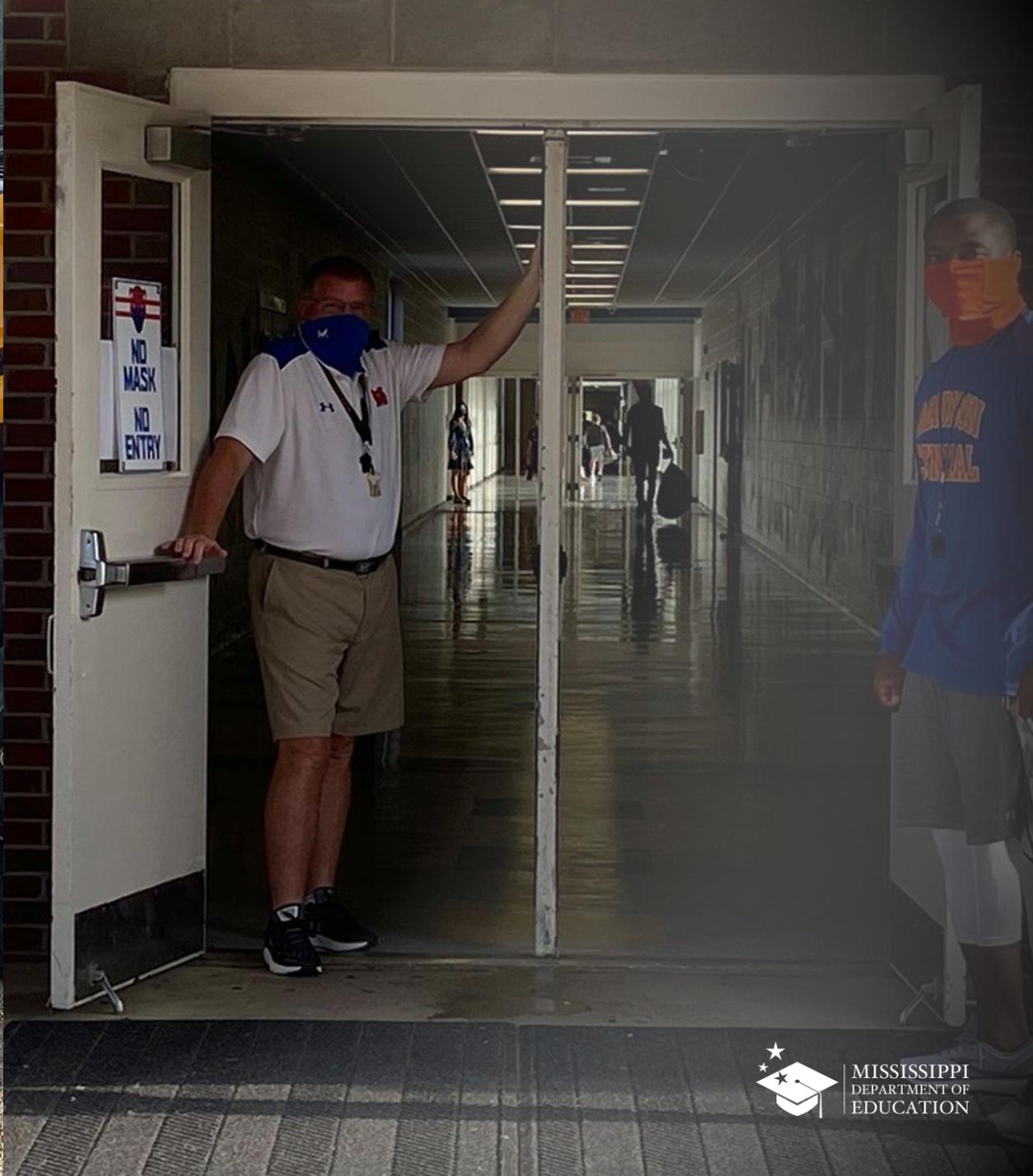
**EVERY** School District is Rated “C” or Higher

6





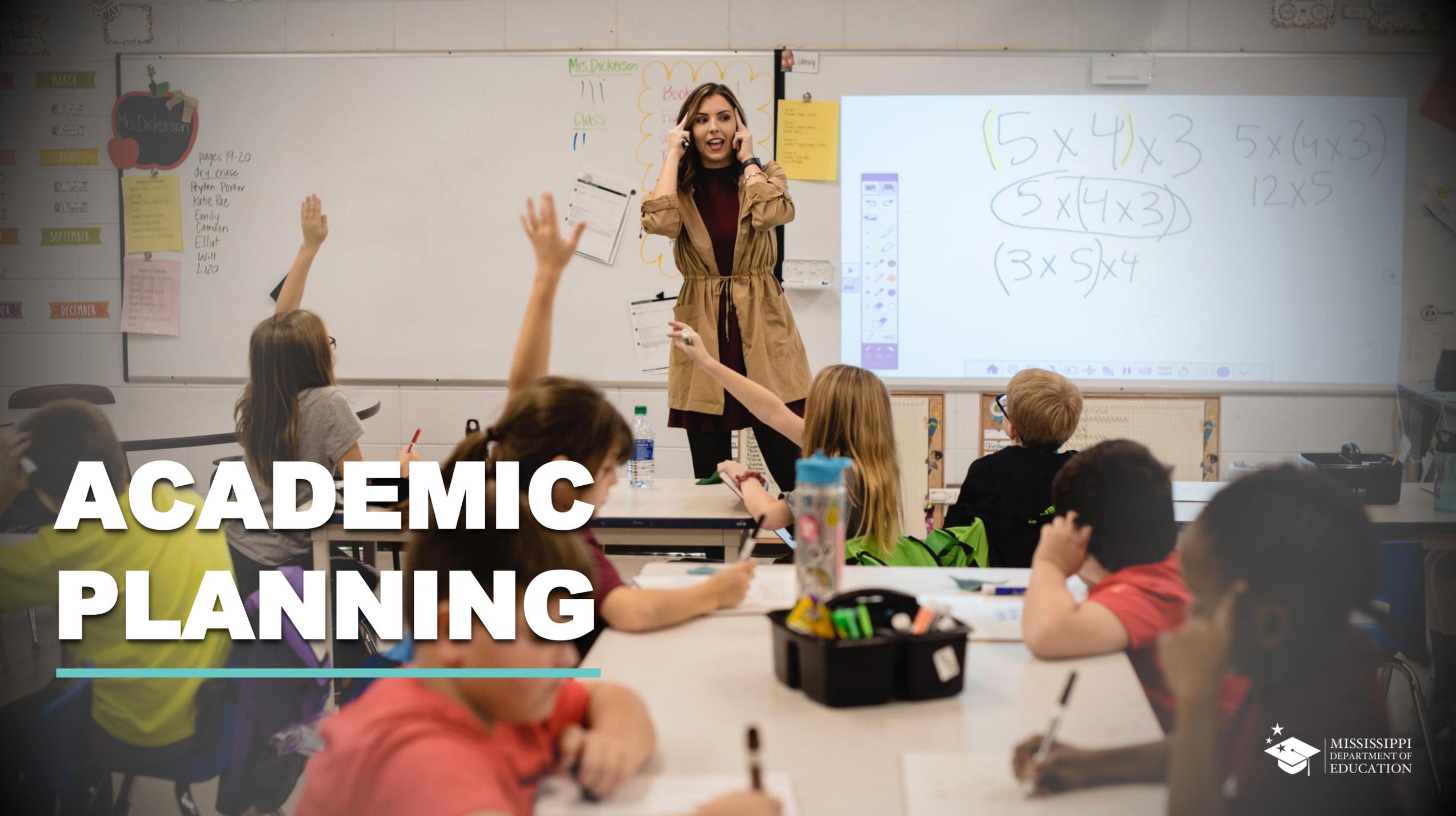
# SCHOOL REOPENING



MDE partnered with a task force of nine superintendents from a diverse range of districts to help all districts address the key issues to reopen schools. The group published guidance and is supporting continued training in key areas:



# ACADEMIC PLANNING



- Superintendents Task Force will continue its focus on Academic Planning to help districts plan afterschool, enrichment and summer learning opportunities.
- Literacy-Based Promotion Act funds could fund summer reading camps, afterschool programs and reading enrichment programs. These funds are available because of reduced face-to-face training and travel costs due to COVID-19.
- Districts are expected to use federal Title I funds to support literacy and learning efforts.
- Educators have been urged to focus on grade-level standards, not remediation. Remediation does not work because it keeps students behind in learning.
- Compulsory kindergarten would increase participation in school (4,345 fewer kindergarteners enrolled in school in 2020-21 compared to last year).



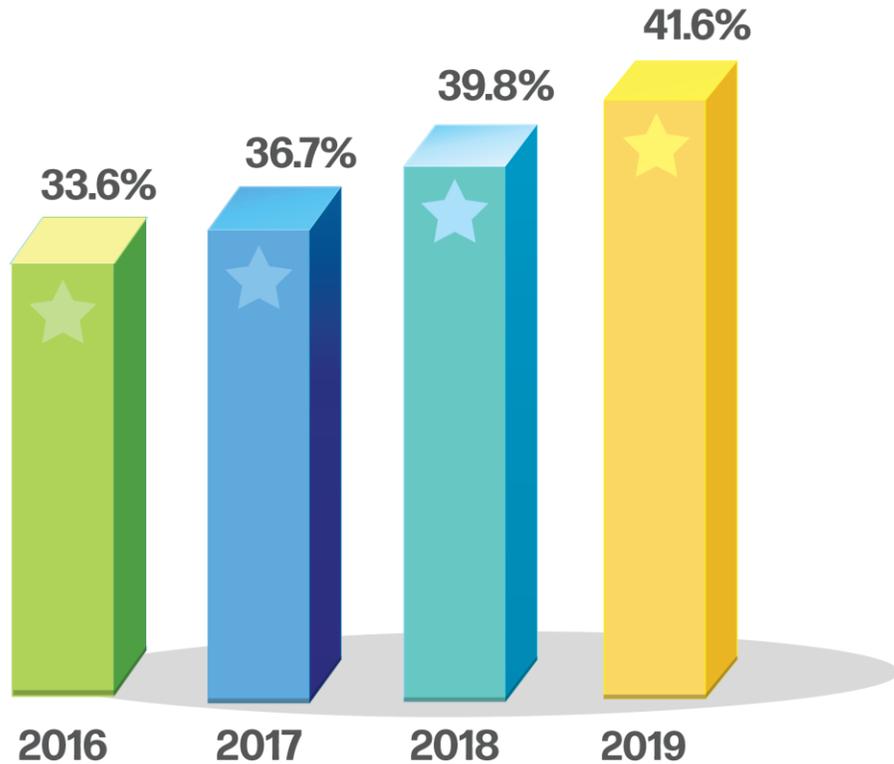
# STATEWIDE ASSESSMENTS AND ACCOUNTABILITY

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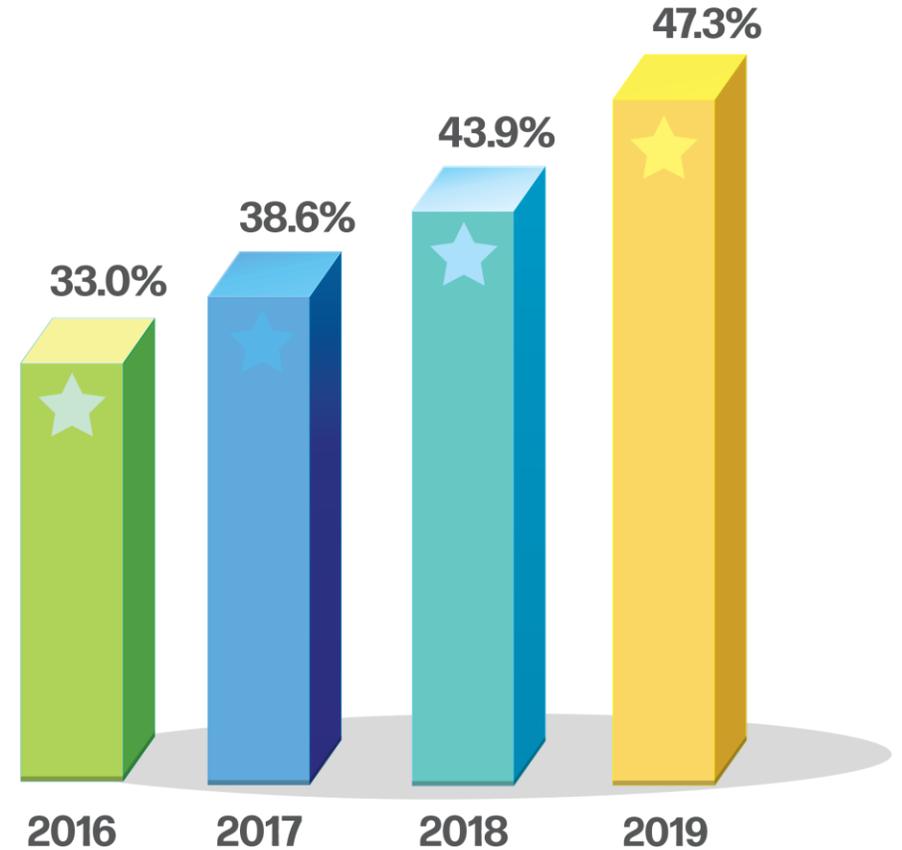


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# Mississippi Academic Assessment Program (MAAP)

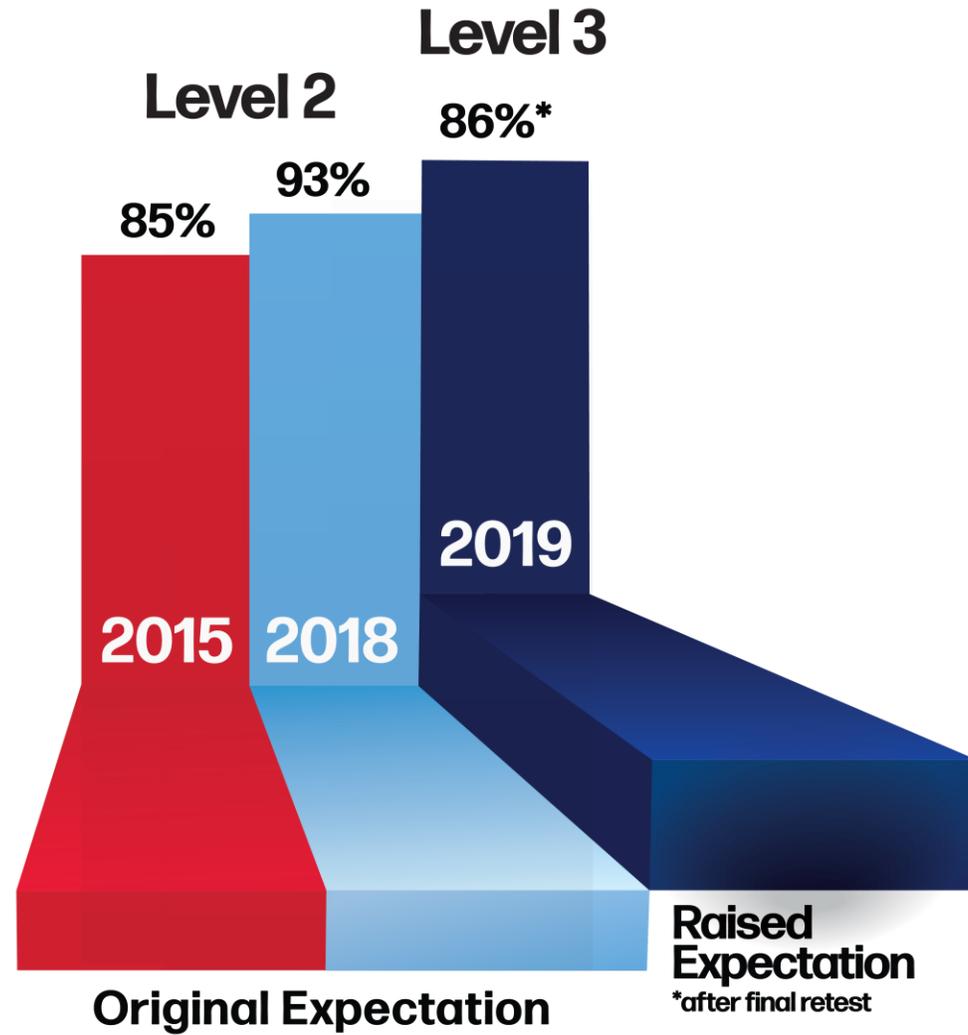


English Language Arts (ELA)  
Levels 4 & 5



Mathematics  
Levels 4 & 5

# 3rd Grade Reading Achievement



- Statewide assessments will take place as scheduled this year to measure statewide student progress, assess the impact of COVID-19 disruptions and meet U.S. Department of Education requirements.
- For the 2020-21 school year, MDE recommends waiving the passing requirements for statewide 3rd grade reading and high school end-of-course assessments.
- MDE is working with its Technical Advisory Committee to examine ways to meet requirements of ESSA to address accountability concerns.
- MDE recommends all districts and schools retain their letter grade from the 2018-19 school year for the 2020-21 school year.
- All recommendations are pending policy decisions from incoming presidential administration.



# MISSISSIPPI CONNECTS



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## Devices and Services

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



## Digital Curriculum and Learning Management Systems

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



## Connectivity

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



## Professional Development

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



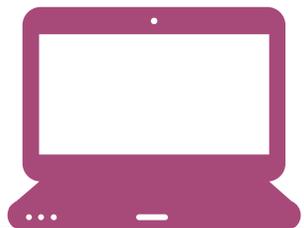
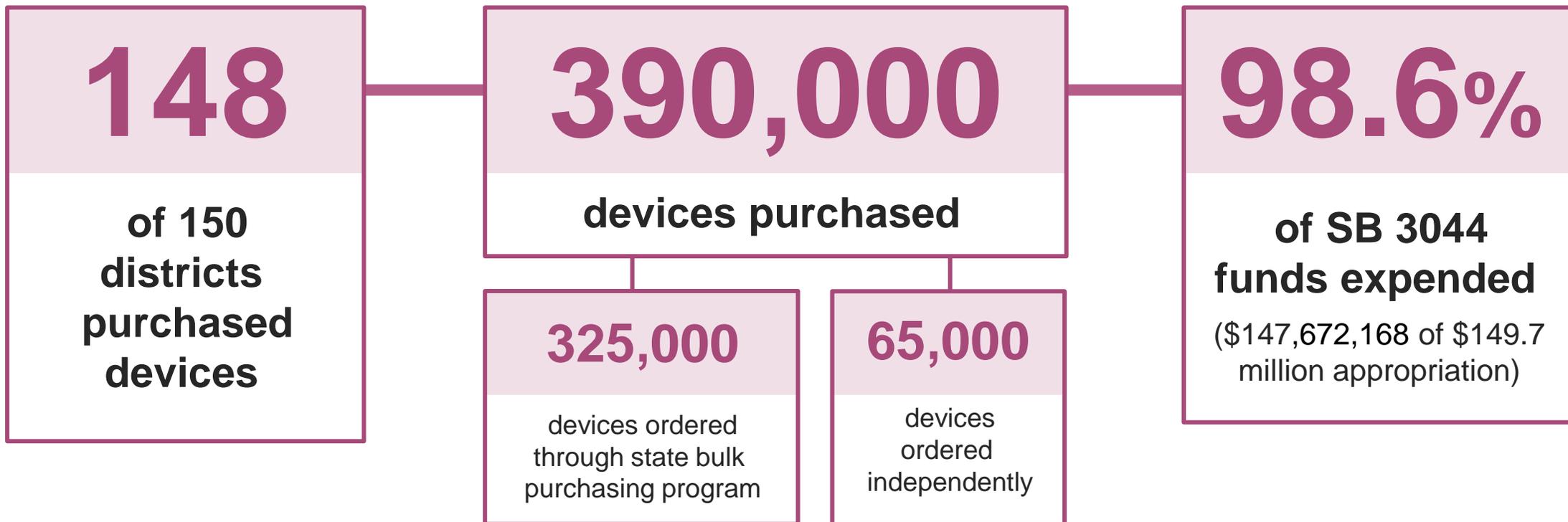
## Telehealth and Teletherapy

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

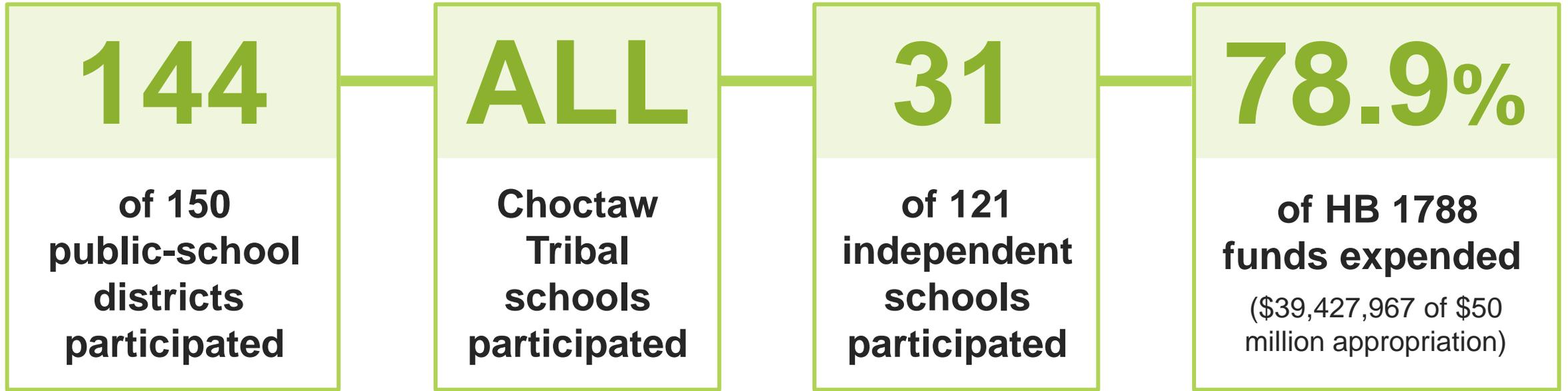


Mississippi legislators passed two laws that made Mississippi the **only state in the nation** with a comprehensive digital learning program that provides computers to every public-school student in the state:

- Equity in Distance Learning Act (SB 3044)
- Mississippi Pandemic Response Broadband Availability Act (HB 1788)



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



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

# PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

AND NEW RESOURCES



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14,419  
teachers

468

MDE professional  
development  
sessions

2019-20



- Building the capacity of teachers and school leaders is the most effective strategy to improve student achievement.
- MDE provided professional development opportunities to educators throughout 2019-20, shifting to virtual sessions and virtual coaching in response to the pandemic.
- An additional **2,000 educators** received customized training in the fall through the Mississippi Connects digital learning initiative.
- Educators take part in **scheduled, online and on-demand** professional development sessions, which makes professional learning accessible anytime, anywhere.

## Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) Standards

- MDE created new social and emotional learning standards to address the needs of all students to ensure their success in school and in life
- New standards establish social and emotional learning as a priority in education and will support children beyond academics
- Standards assist school staff integrate social and emotional learning into students' daily classroom and school experiences
- Professional learning is available to help implement standards

## Telehealth and Teletherapy

MDE collaborated with Mississippi State Medical Association and other medical professionals to develop school-based telehealth/teletherapy pilot program set to launch in 2021.

### MPB Education Channel

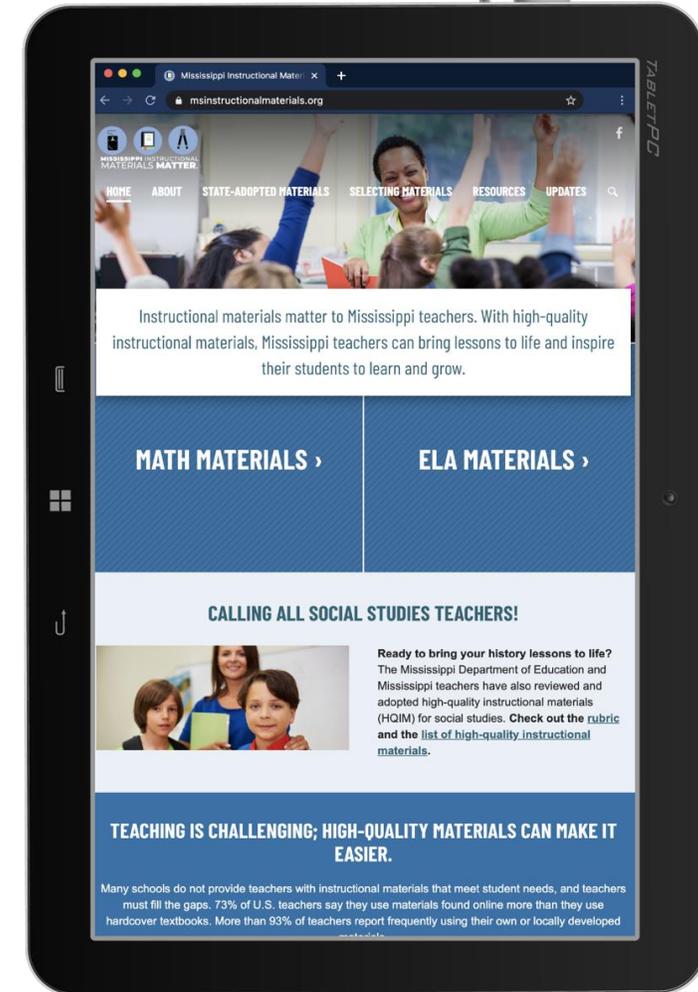
New TV channel developed by MDE and MPB supports students, teachers and parents during the pandemic. Certified teachers and MDE content staff teach 25-minute lessons aligned to Mississippi College and Career Readiness Standards.



Watch weekdays starting at 7 a.m.

### High-Quality Instructional Materials Website

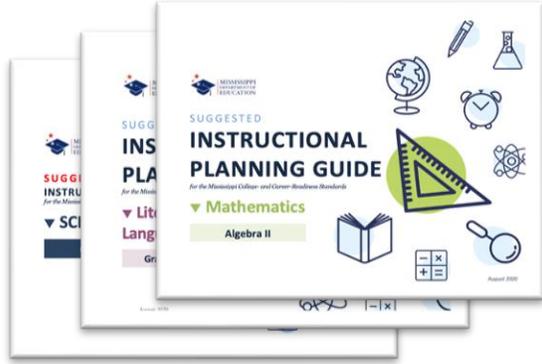
MDE partnered with Mississippi First to launch a new website for Mississippi teachers to increase their access to high-quality instructional materials. The site, [msinstructionalmaterials.org](https://msinstructionalmaterials.org), provides a central location for math and social studies teachers to review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



### Mississippi Connects Professional Development and Resources Hub

Provides Mississippi educators with free resources and learning opportunities that are research-based, readily accessible and support online, blended and hybrid models of instruction and learning.

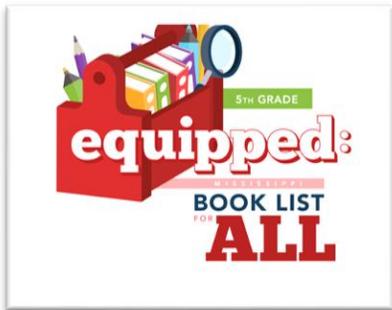




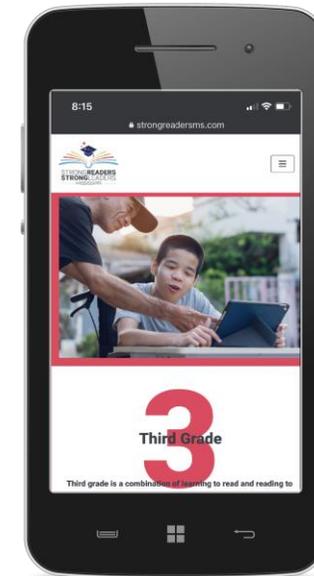
**Instructional Planning Guides for Grades K-12 in Mathematics, ELA, and Science**  
Support teachers with sequencing of content standards across the grade and locating aligned resources.



**PreK-Grade 12 Arts Education Guidance**  
Provides practical guidance for preK-12 schools as administrators and arts educators seek to provide meaningful arts instruction for students of all ages and grade levels during the COVID-19 pandemic.



**Equipped Booklist**  
Supports educators as they make purposeful instructional decisions around the Mississippi College and Career Readiness Standards while promoting literacy that acknowledges a variety of text types.



## Strong Readers Strong Leaders Mississippi

The revamped [strongreadersms.com](https://strongreadersms.com) website helps families assist children with building their reading skills. The site provides activities, resources and information for children from birth through grade 5 become strong readers.



# LEGISLATIVE NEEDS AND FUNDING

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### **Early Childhood Education**

- Increase in funding to expand access to high-quality early childhood education.

### **Literacy**

- Increase in funding to hire additional literacy coaches.

### **High-Quality Instructional Materials (HQIM)**

- Funding needed to purchase digitally-based high-quality instructional content to support students learning in remote and hybrid settings.

### **Mississippi Student Information System (MSIS) Modernization**

- \$3.5 million needed to complete the MSIS 2.0 design project by early 2022 and to implement the new system over the next several years.
- Funds will enable MDE to continue design and planning efforts currently under way and transition to the build phase in late spring 2022.

Fiscal Year	Methodology	ADA	Base Student Cost	MAEP Full Funding Request
2021-22	Using FY22 ADA	410,014.22	5,874.08	\$ 2,478,580,418
2021-22	Using 3-Year Average ADA (FY 2019, 2020 & 2021)	432,728.16	5,874.08	\$ 2,612,003,918
2021-22	Using FY21 ADA	425,063.75	5,874.08	\$ 2,566,982,561



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