Mississippi Succeeds
Maintaining Momentum through COVID-19

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State Superintendent of Education

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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
ALL Students Proficient and Showing Growth in All Assessed Areas

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

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

EVERY School Has Effective Teachers and Leaders

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

EVERY School District is Rated “C” or Higher
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:
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
Mississippi Academic Assessment Program (MAAP)

English Language Arts (ELA) Levels 4 & 5
- 2016: 33.6%
- 2017: 36.7%
- 2018: 39.8%
- 2019: 41.6%

Mathematics Levels 4 & 5
- 2016: 33.0%
- 2017: 38.6%
- 2018: 43.9%
- 2019: 47.3%
3rd Grade Reading Achievement

Level 2: 85%
Level 3: 93%
Level 3: 86%*

2015: Original Expectation
2018: 2019

Raised Expectation *after final retest
Statewide Assessments and Accountability

- 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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mississippi Connects Components</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Devices and Services</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Laptops or tablets delivered to districts with all software, security and support features pre-loaded and configured for immediate use</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Digital Curriculum and Learning Management Systems</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>High-quality instructional materials and online platforms for teaching and learning</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Connectivity</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Enhanced internet connectivity in areas of the state where students do not have broadband service</td>
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<td><strong>Professional Development</strong></td>
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<td>Training and technology support for educators, students and parents to be successful with digital learning</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Telehealth and Teletherapy</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Student access to telehealth and teletherapy services for their physical, social and emotional health</td>
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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)
Equity in Distance Learning Act (SB 3044)

148 of 150 districts purchased devices

390,000 devices purchased

325,000 devices ordered through state bulk purchasing program

65,000 devices ordered independently

98.6% of SB 3044 funds expended

($147,672,168 of $149.7 million appropriation)

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.
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](http://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.
Additional New Resources

**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.
The revamped strongreadersms.com website helps families assist children with building their reading skills. The site provides activities, resources and information for children from birth through grade 5 become strong readers.
LEGISLATIVE NEEDS AND FUNDING
Legislative Needs

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
• $3.5 million needed to complete the MSIS 2.0 design project by early 2022 and to implement the new system over the next several years.
• Funds will enable MDE to continue design and planning efforts currently under way and transition to the build phase in late spring 2022.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal Year</th>
<th>Methodology</th>
<th>ADA</th>
<th>Base Student Cost</th>
<th>MAEP Full Funding Request</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2021-22</td>
<td>Using FY22 ADA</td>
<td>410,014.22</td>
<td>5,874.08</td>
<td>$ 2,478,580,418</td>
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