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 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
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
Early Literacy Policy in Mississippi

- **Improving early literacy** is a major part of the Mississippi State Board Strategic Plan to improve outcomes for all students.

- Two new laws passed in 2013 to advance early literacy:
  - **Early Learning Collaborative Act**: Establishes first state-funded pre-K program ($3M annually 2014-2016; $4M in 2017; $6.5M 2018; $7.8M 2019)
  - **Literacy-Based Promotion Act**: Makes reading instruction a major focus K-3 ($9.5M in 2014; $15M annually thereafter)
Early Learning Collaborative Act: Key Components

• Provides funding to local communities to establish or expand high-quality early childhood education programs called Early Learning Collaboratives (ELCs)

• ELCs include a lead partner (public school or nonprofit group) and collaborators including school districts, Head Start sites, child care centers and nonprofit organizations

• Enables state education department to establish first Office of Early Childhood Education

• Professional development offered, for free, to all early childhood providers in public and private settings
Literacy-Based Promotion Act: Key Components

- Trains educators statewide to be more effective at teaching reading
- Deploys literacy coaches to lowest-performing schools to support teachers
- Adds K-3 monitoring and assessment system, including a 3rd grade reading test for students to qualify for 4th grade promotion
- Requires schools to engage parents and communicate with them regularly
- Enables state education agency to establish first Office of Elementary Education and Reading
Teacher Certification

- Law enacted in 2016 requires elementary education candidates to pass “a rigorous test of scientifically research-based reading instruction and intervention” to ensure they know effective practices for teaching reading.
- Mississippi requires candidates to pass the Foundations of Reading Assessment.
Laws that Enhanced Literacy-Based Promotion Act

Higher Expectations for 3rd Grade Reading

- Amendment passed in 2016 to raise the passing score on the 3rd grade reading test starting in the 2018-19 school year
- Students are now required to score above the lowest two achievement levels, which shows they are approaching proficiency
- 3rd grade students who fail to meet the academic requirements for promotion to 4th grade may be promoted for good cause (included in original law)
Research on Mississippi’s Early Literacy Strategy

- Regional Educational Laboratory at Florida State University (REL Southeast) found that professional development provided by the Mississippi Department of Education to K-3 teachers improved teachers’ knowledge and practice of early literacy instruction.

- News release: mdek12.org/OCGR/mdeliteracy

- Research paper: https://ies.ed.gov/ncee/edlabs/projects/project.asp?projectID=466
Early Childhood Education Results

- 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%)
Pre-K Impact on Kindergarten Readiness

Children who attend pre-K score higher on the Kindergarten Readiness test and start kindergarten more prepared to succeed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Type</th>
<th>Score 2019</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-K Public</td>
<td>539</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-K Private</td>
<td>530</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Childcare Center</td>
<td>513</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head Start</td>
<td>478</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home</td>
<td>467</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Care</td>
<td>465</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fall 2019 Average Score
3rd Grade Reading Results

- 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

- Level 2: 2015 - 85%, 2018 - 93.2%
- Level 3: 2019 - 85.6%* (after final retest)

*Original Expectation

Raised Expectation
English Language Arts and Mathematics Proficiency Gains

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%
English Language Arts and Mathematics Proficiency Gains in Districts

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

- 48 districts in 2016
- 62 districts in 2019

- English Language Arts more than tripled
- Mathematics more than quadrupled
National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) Proficiency Gains

Mississippi Students Scoring Proficient or Above

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade 4 Reading</th>
<th>Grade 4 Math</th>
<th>Grade 8 Reading</th>
<th>Grade 8 Math</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>22%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2009 2019

Ensuring a bright future for every child
Mississippi National Rankings
NAEP Gains

2nd IN THE NATION 2009-2019
EIGHTH GRADE MATH

2nd IN THE NATION 2009-2019
FOURTH GRADE MATH

2nd IN THE NATION 2009-2019
FOURTH GRADE READING

1st IN THE NATION 2017-2019
FOURTH GRADE MATH

1st IN THE NATION 2017-2019
FOURTH GRADE READING

3rd IN THE NATION 2017-2019
EIGHTH GRADE MATH

4th EIGHTH GRADE READING
District Improvement

Note: Percentages have been rounded
School Improvement

Note: Percentages have been rounded
Next Steps: Strengthen Educator Preparation Programs

- Requiring professional learning and testing for Educator Preparation Program (EPP) faculty teaching Early Literacy I and II
- Redesign the 15-hour sequence for Reading
- Requiring additional clinical experiences for candidates
- Requiring all programs embed culturally and linguistically responsive pedagogy to support Mississippi's Equity Plan
Advancing Early Literacy in Mississippi

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