

**Education Achievement Council Meeting  
Wednesday, February 26, 2020**

**MINUTES**

**BE IT REMEMBERED that the Education Achievement Council met in the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning Board Room in Jackson, Mississippi, at 10:00 a.m. on February 26, 2020.**

**Council Members Present:**

Dr. Jay Allen, President, Itawamba Community College  
Dr. Jerryl Briggs, President, Mississippi Valley State University  
Mr. Chris Burgio, Campus Director, Concorde Career College via teleconference  
Dr. E. Harold Fisher, Executive Director, Mississippi Association of Independent Colleges and Universities  
Mr. Shane Hooper, Trustee, Institutions of Higher Learning via teleconference  
Dr. Tyrone Jackson, President, Mississippi Delta Community College  
Dr. Shawn Mackey, representing Dr. Andrea Mayfield, Executive Director of the Mississippi Community College Board  
Mr. Adam Moore, Mississippi Department of Mental Health  
Mr. John Pigott, Board President, Mississippi Community College Board  
Ms. Vickie Powell, representing Mr. Scott Waller, President and Chief Executive Officer, Mississippi Economic Council  
Ms. Cheryl Thurmond, Board Member, Mississippi Community College Board  
Dr. Carey Wright, State Superintendent, Mississippi Department of Education

**Council Members Absent:**

The Honorable Richard Bennett, Chairman, Mississippi House of Representatives Education Committee  
The Honorable Briggs Hopson, Chairman, Mississippi Senate Appropriations Committee  
Dr. Jason Dean, Chair, Mississippi Board of Education  
The Honorable Dennis DeBar, Chairman, Mississippi Senate Education Committee  
Mr. Tom Duff, Trustee, Institutions of Higher Learning  
Dr. Jim Haffey, President, Holmes Community College  
The Honorable Mac Huddleston, Chairman, Mississippi House of Representatives Universities and Colleges Committee  
Dr. Al Rankins, Commissioner of Higher Education, Institutions of Higher Learning  
The Honorable Rita Parks, Chairman, Mississippi Senate Universities and Colleges Committee  
Mr. William LaForge, President, Delta State University  
The Honorable John Read, Chairman, Mississippi House of Representatives Appropriations Committee

## **Others Present:**

Mr. Tyler Camp, Special Assistant to the President, Itawamba Community College

Ms. Audra Kimble, Associate Executive Director of Academic and Student Affairs, Mississippi Community College Board

Ms. Courtney Lange, Director of Communication and Impact, Woodward Hines Education Foundation

Mr. Jim McHale, President and CEO, Woodward Hines Education Foundation

Ms. Heather Morrison, P-20 Projects Coordinator, Institutions of Higher Learning

Dr. Casey Prestwood, Assistant Commissioner for Policy and Strategic Initiatives, Institutions of Higher Learning

Mr. Kell Smith, Director of Communication and Legislative Services, Mississippi Community College Board

Ms. Kim Verneuille, Director of Proprietary Schools, Mississippi Community College Board

## **I. Welcome**

EAC Chairman Dr. Jay Allen called the meeting to order.

## **II. Approval of Minutes**

Dr. Allen called for approval of the minutes from the last meeting. Dr. Harold Fisher moved to approve the minutes as presented. Dr. Jim Haffey seconded the motion. The motion carried.

## **III. Approval of Agenda**

Dr. Allen asked if there were any changes to the agenda. Mr. John Pigott moved to approve the agenda as presented. Dr. Haffey seconded the motion. The motion carried.

## **IV. PK-12 Achievement Update**

Dr. Carey Wright reviewed the mission, vision and goals of MDE. She presented an update on Mississippi's recent achievements in early childhood education, kindergarten, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade reading, English language arts and mathematics proficiency, Advanced Placement, and the graduation rate. A copy of the PowerPoint presentation is attached to these minutes.

## **V. Discussion of Attainment Goal**

Dr. Allen called on representatives of the Educational Attainment Goal Task Force for an update on their work. Task Force members are Dr. Jim Haffey, Audra Love Kimble, Jim McHale, Heather Morrison, Dr. Casey Prestwood, and Dr. Jay Allen.

Dr. Prestwood shared that the team attended the Lumina Foundation Policy Retreat in November where they were able to network with other states and learn about the policies, practices and initiatives they are using to increase educational attainment. One of the themes that rose to the top was a focus on how increasing educational attainment would benefit individuals and the workforce. As a result of the meeting, the task force set seven goals for the effort to increase educational attainment:

1. Increase the number of adults with credentials of value.
2. Getting more adults with credentials of value to stay in Mississippi.
3. Attract adults with credentials of value to move to Mississippi.
4. Increase the number of jobs requiring credentials of value.
5. Close racial, ethnic and gender gaps.
6. Develop ways to show what these efforts will gain for Mississippi, not what they will cost Mississippi.
7. Create a culture that values credentials of value.

Mr. Jim McHale shared feedback received during the Mississippi Economic Council Road Show. Feedback from the business community has been positive as leaders in business and industry are concerned about having enough employees with the training and skills their businesses need.

Dr. Allen shared a handout describing the effort to increase Mississippi's Educational Attainment level. The state's graduation rate for the 2018-2019 school year hit an all-time high at 85%. In 2019 Mississippi was the only state to improve reading scores and was first in the country for gains in fourth grade reading and math. Overall, educational attainment in Mississippi has increased 13.1 percentage points since 2008. These recent achievements are paving the way to a more focused effort to increase educational attainment. A copy of the handout is attached to these minutes.

Dr. Allen invited Donna Ritchey, with the Godwin Group, to discuss opportunities to promote the educational attainment goal. Woodward Hines Education Foundation is providing support for the communications campaign.

The next steps for the task force are finalizing a recommendation for an attainment goal to the Council and developing a communications strategy to promote the goal.

## **VI. Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on April 6, 2020.

## **VIII. Adjourn**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

# Advancing Education in Mississippi: Pre-K through Grade 12

Education Achievement Council Meeting

February 26, 2020



MISSISSIPPI  
DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION

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

State Superintendent of Education

## VISION

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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

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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



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

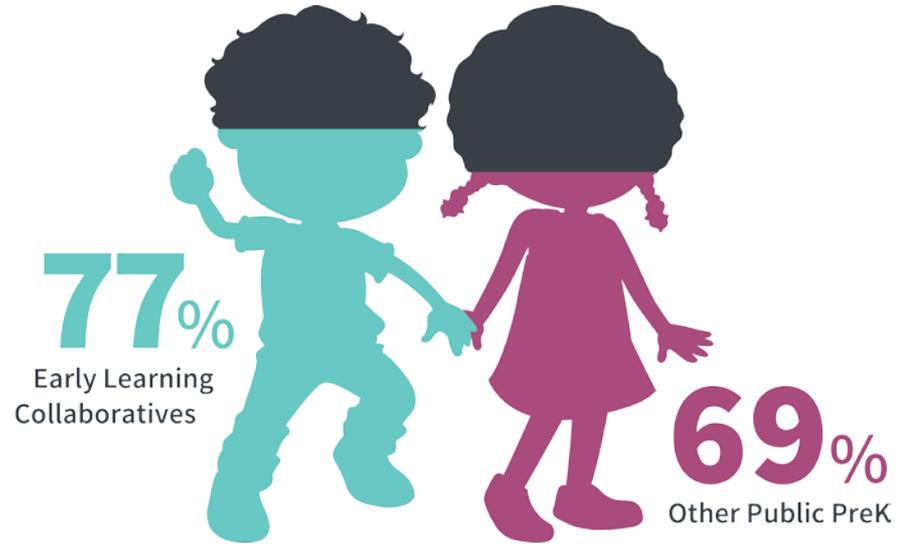


# ACHIEVEMENTS IN EDUCATION

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# Early Childhood Education Achievement

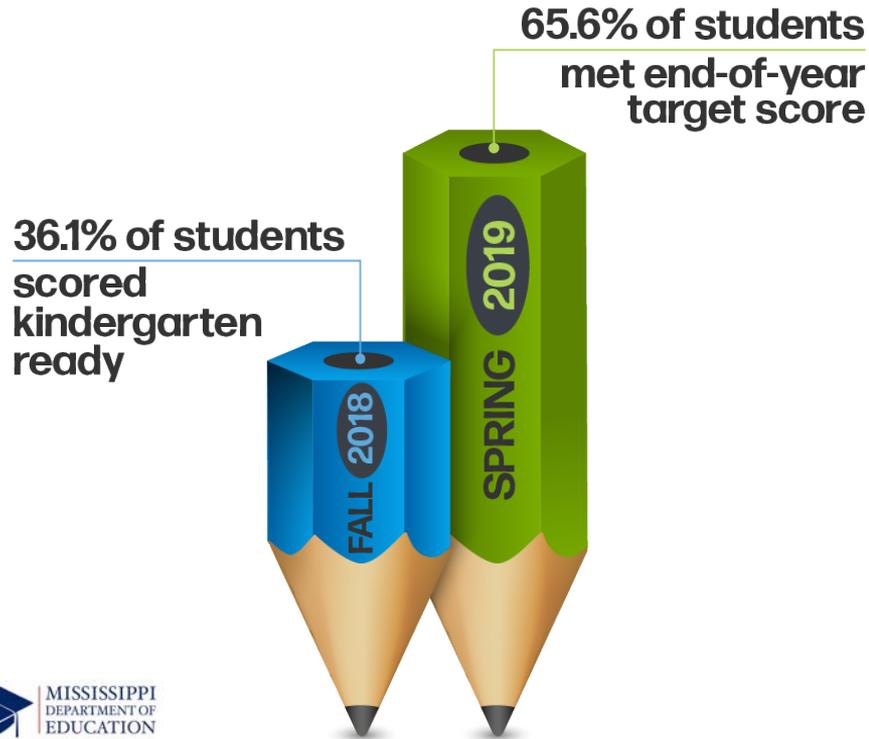
- **77% of Early Learning Collaborative (ELC) students met target kindergarten-readiness score in 2019, an increase from 59% in 2015**
- **ELC students show higher rates of kindergarten readiness (77%) than students in other public pre-K classes (69%)**



**STUDENTS MEETING**  
Kindergarten-Readiness Score in 2019

# Kindergarten Achievement

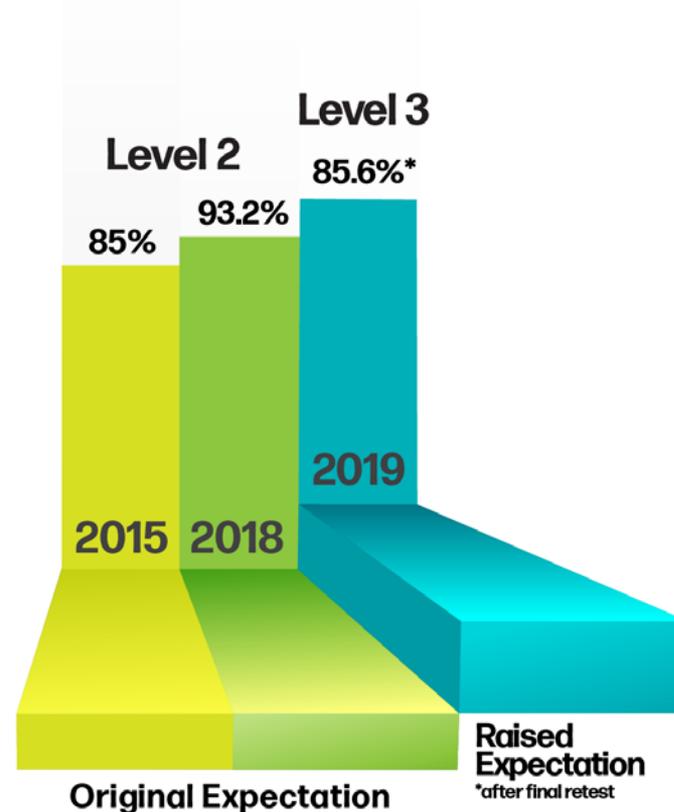
## KINDERGARTEN READINESS AND GROWTH



# 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Reading Achievement

- Literacy-Based Promotion Act originally required 3<sup>rd</sup> graders to score at Level 2 on a reading test to be promoted to 4<sup>th</sup> 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

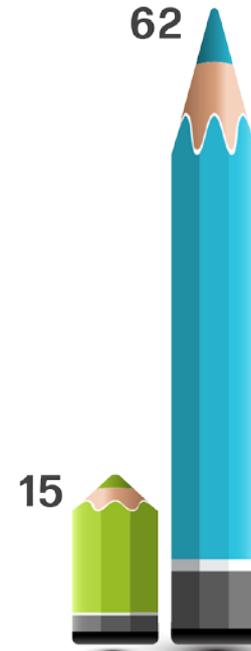
# English Language Arts and Mathematics Proficiency Gains in Districts

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

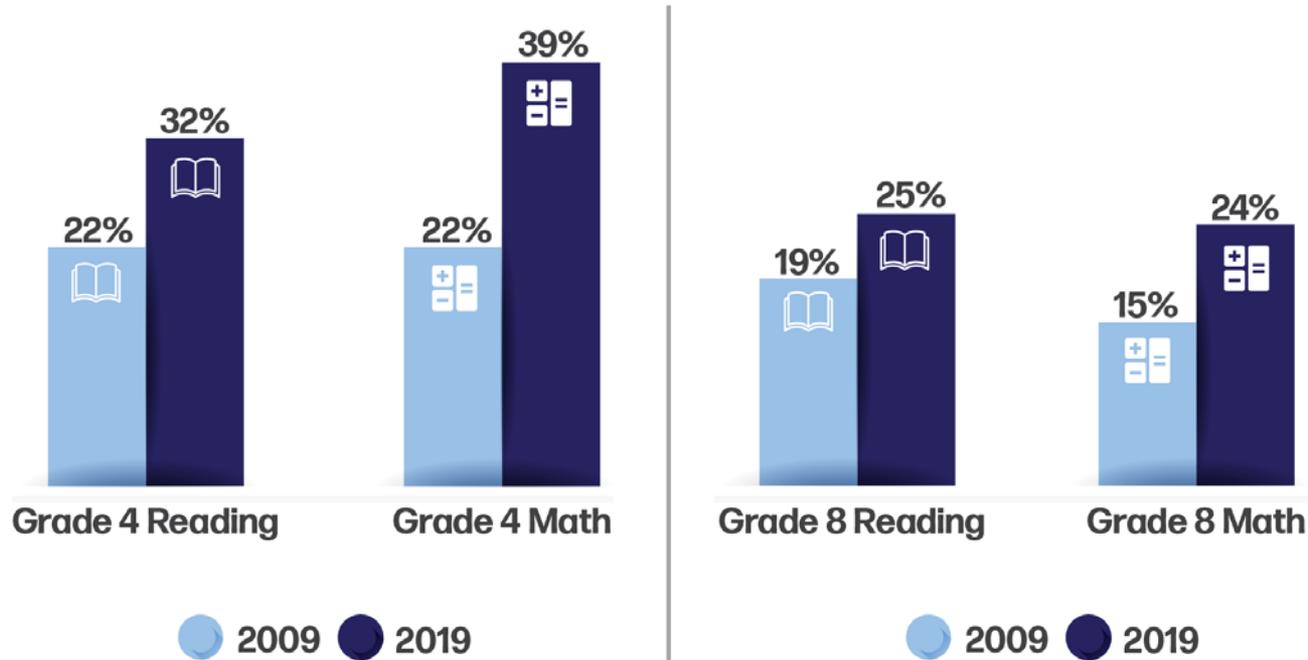
GRADE	2017-18 PROFICIENT OR ADVANCED	2018-19 PROFICIENT OR ADVANCED	CHANGE
Grade 3	44.7%	48.3%	+3.6% ▲
Grade 4	45.1%	48.5%	+3.4% ▲
Grade 5	36.2%	43.1%	+6.9% ▲
Grade 6	38.0%	33.6%	-4.4%
Grade 7	34.7%	39.0%	+4.3% ▲
Grade 8	35.1%	35.5%	+0.4% ▲
English II	44.5%	43.8%	-0.7%
<b>Overall</b>	<b>39.8%</b>	<b>41.6%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

## 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% ▲
<b>Overall</b>	<b>43.9%</b>	<b>47.3%</b>	<b>+3.5% ▲</b>

# NAEP Proficiency Gains in Mississippi

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



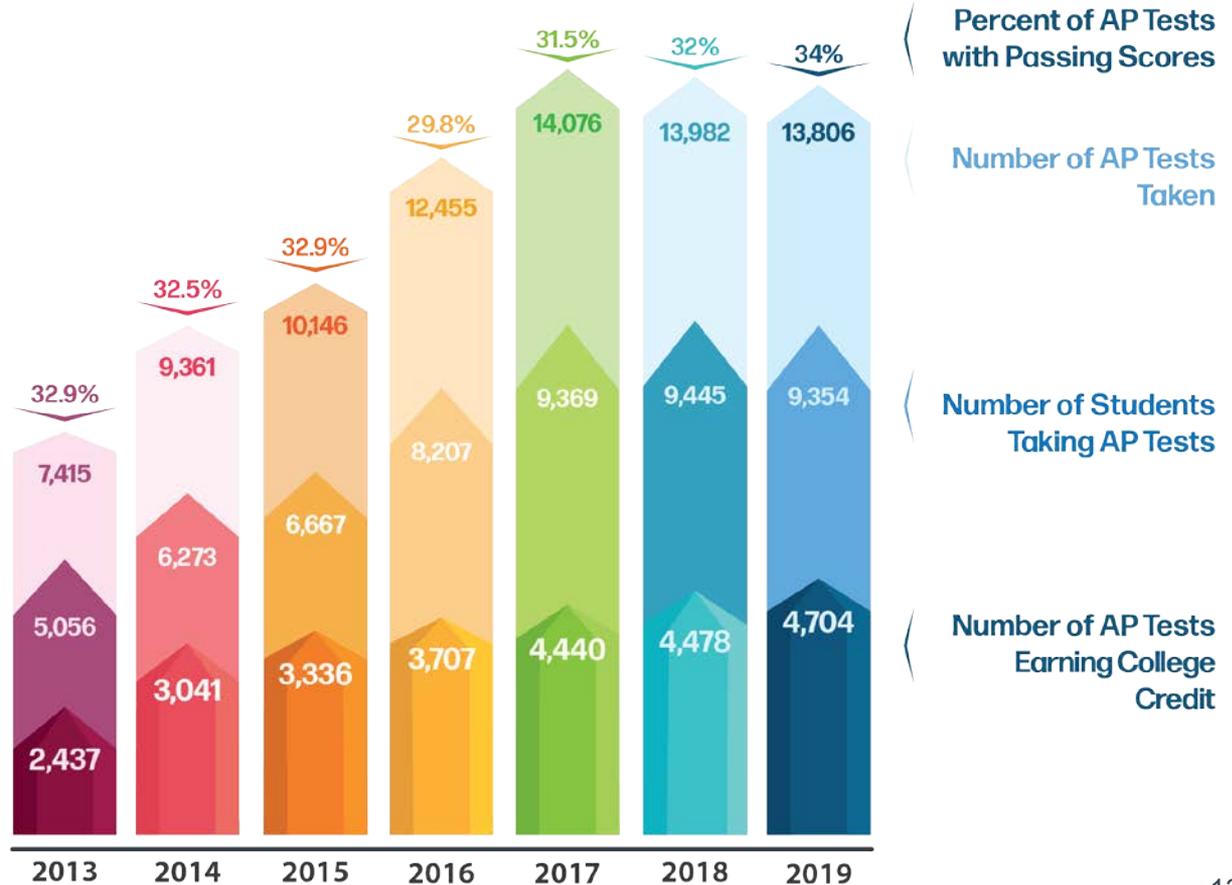
# National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)

## Mississippi National Rankings NAEP Gains



# Advanced Placement (AP) Achievement

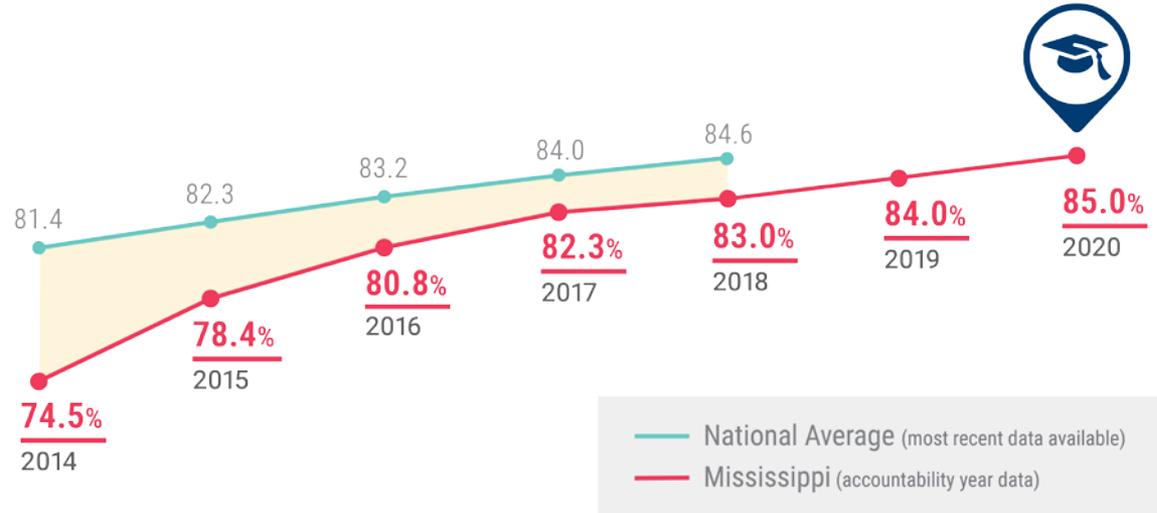
- Advanced Placement (AP) participation and performance nearly doubled since 2013
- AP pass rate reached an all-time high of 34% in 2019
- Greatest increase in AP qualifying scores from 2018 to 2019 was among African-American students (+9.5%) and Hispanic students (+6.4%)



# 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

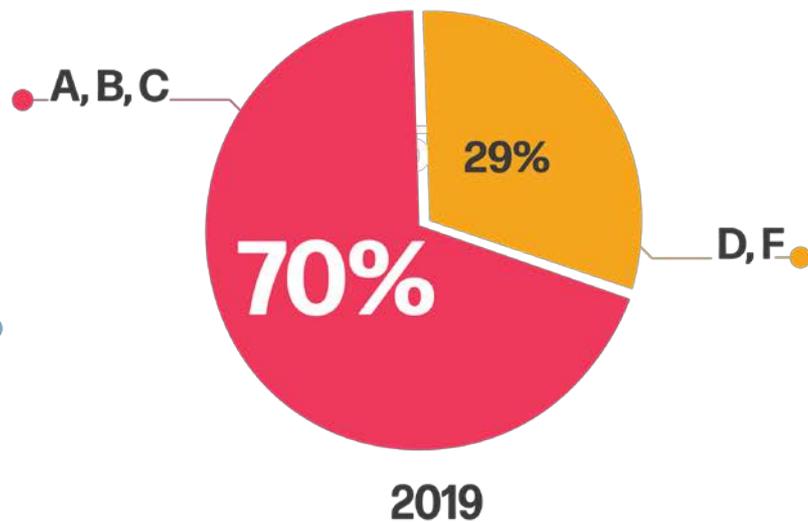
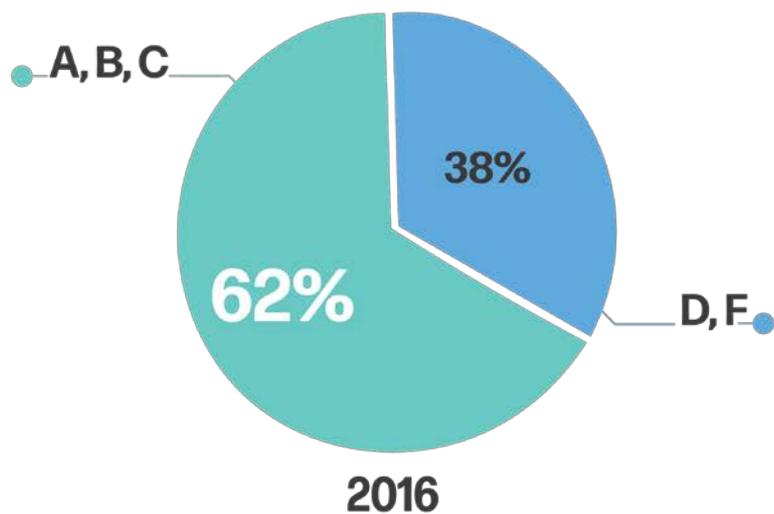
## MISSISSIPPI'S **DECLINING** DROPOUT RATE



# District Improvement

## DISTRICT GRADE IMPROVEMENTS

2016 - 2019

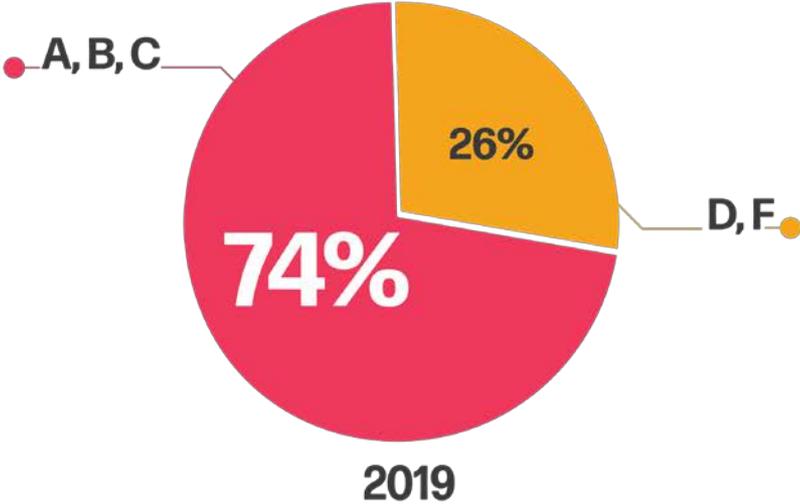
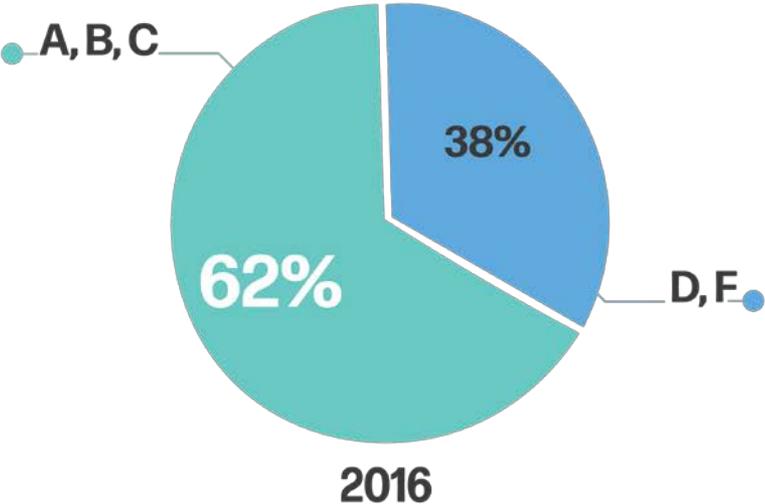


*Note: Percentages have been rounded*

# School Improvement

## SCHOOL GRADE IMPROVEMENTS

2016 - 2019



*Note: Percentages have been rounded*

# 2020 Quality Counts Ranking

- Quality Counts ranks Mississippi **No. 2 in the nation** for improvement in education
- Mississippi **one of the five most improved** states in the nation for education

## QUALITY COUNTS MOST IMPROVED

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

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



MISSISSIPPI  
DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION

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# Advancing Education in Mississippi: Pre-K through Grade 12

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

[mdek12.org](https://mdek12.org)



# FORWARD LOOKING EDUCATION ATTAINMENT GOAL

## THE ISSUE

Many public, private and NGO entities are advocating for increased post-secondary attainment. The space is loud and cluttered. Proliferation could be viewed as an obstacle to increasing attainment. Conversely, proliferation can be a strength – positioning that a variety of pathways are “placed” to engage/meet candidates where that individual “is” and in a manner that best fits the individual.

## THE NUMBERS

- Lumina Foundation reports in Mississippi today there are **866,259** ages 25-64 currently have no credential or post-secondary degree.
- 15.8%** of working-age Mississippians have earned some college credit, but not completed to degree or credential.
- 42.4%** of Mississippians aged 25-64 do have a credential of value. Compared to 48.4% nationally.
- According to current data from the 2020 MEC Tour, **87%** of employers believe their current workforce will need additional training, credentials, certifications or degrees in next 10-20 years

## THE MOMENTUM

Capitalize on increased attention to current and future workforce needs and on Mississippi’s positive momentum:

# 85%

*Graduation rates for the 2018-2019 school year hit an all-time high at 85%.*

# #1

*In 2019, Mississippi was the only state to improve reading scores and was number one in the country for gains in fourth grade reading and math. Mississippi was the only state to see improvement in eighth-grade math.*

# 13.1%

*Overall educational attainment in Mississippi has increased 13.1 percentage points since 2008.*

## THE INITIATIVE

The fundamental challenge is creating permission to believe – to build a culture of advocacy and achievement around post-secondary education.

- It's about aligning candidates with opportunity to meet workforce needs now and for the future.
- We must champion the belief that all jobs in the economic spectrum have value.
  - *The fact is regardless of a person's post-secondary attainment status, changing technologies, demographics and global markets will require continuing education for everyone.*
- We must create permission to believe that post-secondary attainment is achievable.
  - *Agree to translate "post-secondary attainment" into easier definition – any legitimate education beyond high school diploma or GED. To include recognized certifications, credentials, on-the-job-training, associates degrees, bachelors, masters, doctoral and post-doctoral education.*
  - *Create positive aspiration, belief and momentum in promoting post-secondary attainment as key to personal economic success (regardless of learning style) and key to state economic success.*
- Capitalize on post-secondary momentum and urgent workforce demands for skilled workers to establish a state goal for educational attainment targeting **300,000 Mississippians to achieve a post-secondary education certificate, credential or degree by 2040.**
  - *Harness interests, coordinate messaging and fill communication channels across public and private sectors – educational system from childcare providers across K-12, MCCB and IHL and across employer and community sectors statewide.*

## THE OBJECTIVE

To raise post-secondary attainment rates to 60% by 2040 in order to improve the overall well-being of the state. This would create an additional 300,000 workers with credentials of value.

## THE GOALS

- Increase the number of working-age adults (25-64) with credentials of value, whether college degrees or other credentials, certificates or on-the-job-training ending with a credential of value to improve their economic condition.
  - *Actively work to close ethnic and gender educational attainment gaps.*
- Increasing educational attainment to add value to Mississippi's economic development case.
  - *Help increase the number of skilled jobs coming to Mississippi through support of expansion of existing industry and recruit new industry.*
- Encourage adults with credentials of values to stay or relocate to Mississippi.