

**Education Achievement Council Meeting  
Wednesday, April 27, 2022**

**MINUTES**

**BE IT REMEMBERED that the Education Achievement Council met in the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning Board Room and via Zoom in Jackson, Mississippi, at 10:00 a.m. on April 27, 2022.**

**Council Members Present:**

Dr. Jay Allen, President, Itawamba Community College  
Dr. Kim Benton, representing Dr. Carey Wright, State Superintendent, Mississippi Department of Education  
Dr. Jerryl Briggs, President, Mississippi Valley State University (via zoom)  
Dr. Jason Dean, Executive Director, Mississippi Association of Independent Colleges and Universities  
The Honorable Briggs Hopson, Chairman, Mississippi Senate Appropriations Committee  
Ms. Teresa Hubbard, Trustee, Institutions of Higher Learning (via zoom)  
Dr. Tyrone Jackson, President, Mississippi Delta Community College (via zoom)  
Dr. Shawn Mackey representing Mr. Kell Smith, Interim Executive Director of the Mississippi Community College Board  
Ms. Dolly Marascalco, Board Member, Mississippi Community College Board (via zoom)  
Dr. Felicia Nave, President, Alcorn State University (via zoom)  
Mr. John Pigott, Chairman, Mississippi Community College Board  
Dr. Al Rankins, Commissioner of Higher Education, Institutions of Higher Learning

**Council Members Absent:**

Ms. Rosemary Aultman, Chair, State Board of Education  
The Honorable Richard Bennett, Chairman, Mississippi House of Representatives Education Committee  
Mr. Chris Burgio, Campus Director, Concorde Career College  
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  
Mr. William LaForge, President, Delta State University  
Mr. Adam Moore, Mississippi Department of Mental Health  
The Honorable Rita Parks, Chairman, Mississippi Senate Universities and Colleges Committee  
Ms. Vickie Powell, representing Mr. Scott Waller, President and Chief Executive Officer, Mississippi Economic Council  
The Honorable John Read, Chairman, Mississippi House of Representatives Appropriations Committee  
Ms. Holly Spivey, Policy Advisor, Governor's Office

**Guest Present:**

Mr. Henry Anderson, Website and Systems Administrator, Institutions of Higher Learning

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

Mr. Jason Carter, Deputy Executive Director for Finance and Administration, Mississippi Community College Board

Ms. Wendy Clemons, Executive Director, Office of Secondary Education/Dropout Prevention, Mississippi Department of Education

Ms. Audra Love Dean, Assistant Executive Director for Academic and Student Affairs, Mississippi Community College Board

Dr. Rachel DeVaughn, Deputy Executive Director of Programs, Mississippi Community College Board (via zoom)

Dr. Stephanie Duguid, Dean of Academic Instruction, Copiah-Lincoln Community College (via zoom)

Ms. Kim Gallaspy, Assistant Commissioner for Government Relations, Institutions of Higher Learning (via zoom)

Mrs. Marilyn Gardner, Administrative Assistant for Academic and Student Affairs, Institutions of Higher Learning

Ms. Mitzi Gendron, Director of Strategic Research, Institutions of Higher Learning (via zoom)

Dr. Martin Hatton, Education Dean, Mississippi University for Women (via zoom)

Ms. Ann Hendrick, Get2College Program Director, Woodward Hines Education Foundation

Dr. Jenny Jones, Vice President for Academic Programs, Holmes Community College (via zoom)

Ms. Sandra Kelly, Director of Student Services, Institutions of Higher Learning

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

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

Dr. Angela Payne, Assistant Executive Director for Research and Effectiveness, Mississippi Community College Board

Dr. Casey Prestwood, Associate Commissioner for Academic and Student Affairs, Institutions of Higher Learning

Mr. Ryan Reyna, Education Strategy Group

Dr. David Rock, Education Dean, University of Mississippi (via zoom)

Ms. Anna Schilling, Education Strategy Group

**Welcome**

EAC Chairman Dr. Jay Allen called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. He welcomed members of the EAC and all others in attendance to the meeting.

**Approval of Minutes**

Dr. Allen called for approval of the minutes from the October 13, 2021, meeting. Mr. John Pigott moved to approve the minutes as presented. Dr. Shawn Mackey seconded the motion.

The motion carried.

**Approval of Agenda**

Dr. Allen asked if there were any changes to the agenda. Senator Briggs Hopson moved to approve the amended agenda to add an update on Compete2Complete (C2C). Dr. Jason Dean seconded the motion. The motion carried.

### **Educational Attainment Goal – Press Release and Video:**

Dr. Allen and Mr. Jim McHale, President and CEO of Woodward Hines Education Foundation (WHEF), recognized the members of the Education Attainment Goal Taskforce.

Dr. Allen reported the EAC adopted the education postsecondary attainment goal of 55% by 2030 and 60% by 2035, and a resolution of that goal in October 2020.

Mr. McHale announced the Mississippi Economic Council (MEC), Public Education Forum, was awarded a \$1 million dollar grant opportunity to support Mississippi's postsecondary attainment goal – Ascent to 55%. Last summer, WHEF approved the \$1 million dollar grant opportunity and accepted RFPs to support that postsecondary attainment goal.

A copy of the Press Release was provided to all participants. Mr. McHale shared the video on *Mississippi Economic Council/Public Education Forum - Ascent to 55%*. The video included the announcement of Mississippi's newly adopted attainment goals: By 2030, 55% of working-age adults in Mississippi will have a degree of high-quality credential. By 2035, 60% of working-age adults in Mississippi will have a degree or high-quality credential. Sixty percent is the postsecondary goal established by the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) for the number of working-age adults in Southern States. A copy of the Press Release is included in these minutes.

Mr. McHale encouraged all state entities to join WHEF and MEC in supporting this effort.

Dr. Allen expressed appreciation to Mr. McHale for his continued dedication and support to Mississippi.

### **MDE Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Funding Initiatives – Dr. Kim. Benton:**

Dr. Kim Benton presented a PowerPoint presentation on programs and funding opportunities that the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) offers, as listed below: A copy of the PowerPoint is included in these minutes.

- Results of the Mississippi Academic Assessment Program (MAAP), English Language Arts and Mathematics overall percentages for 2020-2021
- Mississippi National Rankings NAEP Gains for fourth grade math and reading, and eighth grade math and reading
- Advanced Placement and Dual Credit Progress
- ESSER Funding Opt-In Opportunities
- Digital Learning Coach Program
- Mississippi Teacher Residency

Senator Briggs Hopson asked what steps are being taken to ensure all school districts have qualified teachers in their areas.

Dr. Benton stated MDE allows local education agencies to offer courses through distance and online learning. School districts can submit a Mississippi Online Course Application (MOCA)

that includes a review of proposed distant and online courses. Once approved, those courses will be available to other school districts.

Senator Hopson raised questions on MDE being able to assist districts that tend to have a learning lag due to COVID-19. Dr. Benton added that is the objective of the Digital Learning Coach Program. Literacy and Math Coaches are placed in those districts that have the highest percentage of students below proficiently.

**Statewide Articulation for Courses in Educator Prep Programs – Mrs. Heather Morrison:**  
Mrs. Heather Morrison reported Governor Tate Reeves assigned a Human Capital Task Force to look at Educator Prep Programs across the state in January 2020.

At the October EAC meeting, Dr. Nathan Oakley presented recommendations on behalf of the Governor’s Human Capital Taskforce. Those recommendations included the following:

- Expand pathways to better recruit, prepare, diversify, and compensate.
- Improve teacher support to recruit, diversify, support, advance, retain, equitably distribute talent, and compensate.
- Transform licensure to help recruit, retain, and advance.
- Re-design salary schedules

The taskforce set a goal that *every child will have a teacher.*

The taskforce also established action steps, as follows:

- Improve the P-20 State Longitudinal Data System
- Improve access to teacher pathways
- Innovate educator preparation curricula
- Improve State teacher marketing campaigns and incentives

Dr. Allen felt the second action step, improve access to teacher pathways, fell within the scope of the EAC.

He recommended the EAC appoint a taskforce to establish an initiative that will be focused on looking at ways to improve access to teacher pathways. Those taskforce members included three EAC members, three staff members from public and private institutions, three staff members from K-12, and three staff members from the community colleges.

Dr. Casey Prestwood, Mrs. Heather Morrison, and Mrs. Audra Love Dean serve on that taskforce and are charged with leading discussions.

The taskforce held its first meeting in April in which they agreed to look at North Carolina’s 2+2 Programs.

Last fall, Dr. David Rock, Education Dean at University of Mississippi (UM) along with some of the Education Deans presented a presentation to the Chief Academic Officers (CAOs), on the concept of creating a Foundations in American Education course at IHL institutions that would count as a Social or Behavioral Science class.

The next meeting of the taskforce will be held in May via zoom.

**EAC Report Cards Discussion – Dr. Jay Allen:**

Dr. Allen stated in 2010, the Education Achievement Council was created by the state legislature to bring Mississippi’s educational attainment and skill levels of the working-age population to the national average by 2025. The report cards show the progress that has been made toward educational goals for each university and community colleges.

Developmental English and Developmental Mathematics, first-time, full-time cohort is reported as part of the Remediation Success for the community colleges. Students completing two years is reported, but it does not count their fourth semester.

A student enrolled in an academic program may decide to take a career technical program during that two-year period, but it is not counted as part of the cohort. Some of those students might be required to take Developmental English or Developmental Mathematics while enrolled in a career technical program. Therefore, they will count as a failure.

Dr. Allen asked the Mississippi Association of Community Colleges (MACC) to consider removing Remediation Success from the Report Cards during the MACC meeting held on Tuesday, April 26, 2022. He informed them that MCCB will continue to collect remediation success data internally and provide that data to the presidents. The motion carried.

Dr. Allen asked the EAC members to consider removing Remediation Success reporting of Developmental English and Developmental Mathematics for the Community Colleges. The Institutions of Higher Learning institutions will continue to report its College Readiness, Intermediate Courses data because IHL institutions does not have career technical students.

Dr. Shawn Mackey moved to approve removing Remediation Success reporting of Development English and Development Mathematics data from the Community Colleges Report Cards. Mr. John Pigott seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**C2C Update – Dr. Casey Prestwood:**

Dr. Prestwood announced Complete2Compete (C2C) has been selected for the Beautiful Minds Contest and is competing for a \$50,000 prize. She shared a 6-minute video that tells the story of Krystal Austin, just one of thousands of adults in Mississippi who were able to complete a degree with the help of C2C program.

She asked everyone to please help C2C win the contest by texting C2C to 66866 to access the video and click the “Thumbs Up” (like) button to vote.

The next meeting of the EAC will be held on Monday, October 24, 2022, beginning at 2:00 p.m.

**Adjourn:**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

# Education Achievement Council

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**Dr. Kim Benton**

Interim Deputy State Superintendent/Chief Academic Officer

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



MISSISSIPPI  
DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION

April 2022



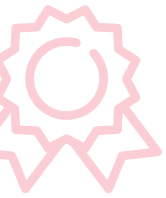
## VISION

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 and District is Rated “C” or Higher

6

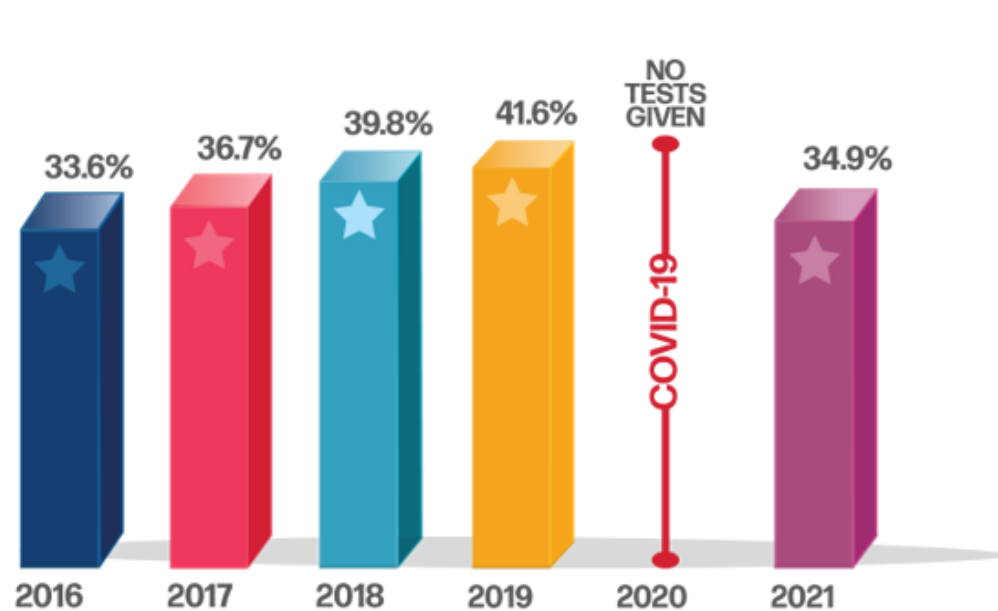




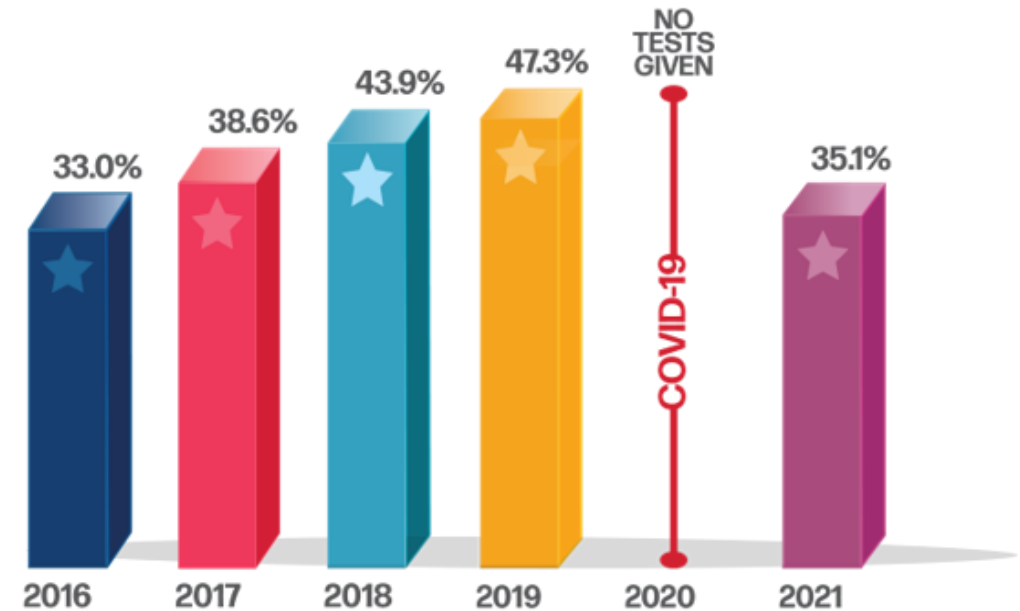
# COVID-19 Impact on Student Achievement

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## Mississippi Academic Assessment Program (MAAP)



English Language Arts (ELA)  
Proficient & Advanced



Mathematics  
Proficient & Advanced

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

GRADE	2018-19 PROFICIENT OR ADVANCED	2020-21 PROFICIENT OR ADVANCED	CHANGE
Grade 3	48.3%	34.8%	-13.5%
Grade 4	48.5%	37.2%	-11.3%
Grade 5	43.1%	41.5%	-1.6%
Grade 6	33.6%	29.6%	-4.0%
Grade 7	39.0%	30.7%	-8.3%
Grade 8	35.5%	35.6%	0.1%
English II	43.8%	34.9%	-8.9%
<b>Overall</b>	<b>41.6%</b>	<b>34.9%</b>	<b>-6.7%</b>

## MATHEMATICS

GRADE	2018-19 PROFICIENT OR ADVANCED	2020-21 PROFICIENT OR ADVANCED	CHANGE
Grade 3	51.4%	34.9%	-16.5%
Grade 4	48.8%	33.2%	-15.6%
Grade 5	38.9%	33.4%	-5.5%
Grade 6	47.6%	35.0%	-12.6%
Grade 7	51.1%	41.7%	-9.4%
Grade 8	44.8%	34.3%	-10.5%
Algebra I	49.3%	33.2%	-16.1%
<b>Overall</b>	<b>47.4%</b>	<b>35.1%</b>	<b>-12.3%</b>

**COVID-19** | NO TESTS GIVEN IN 2019-20

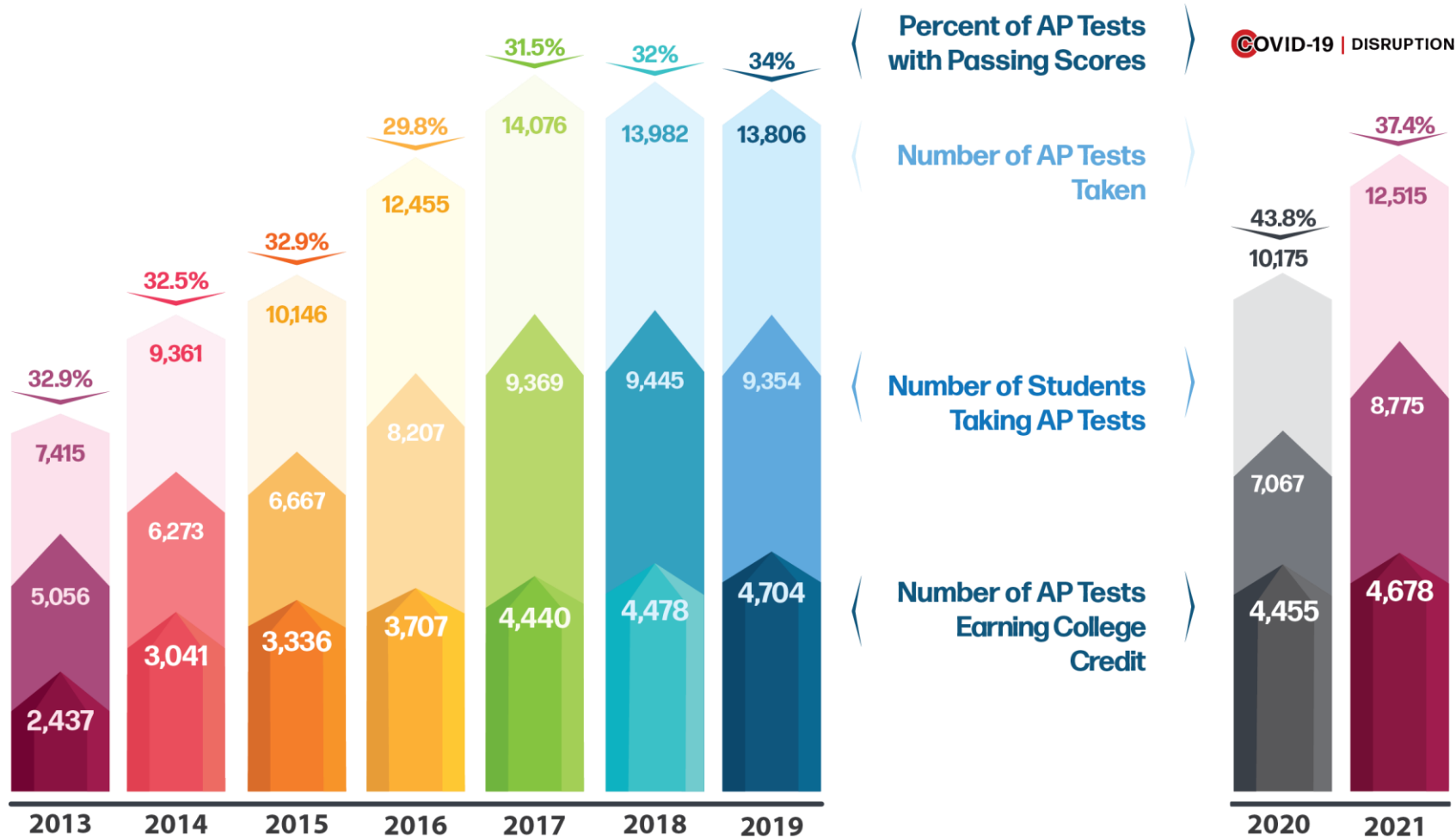
# Mississippi National Rankings NAEP Gains



# Advanced Placement and Dual Credit Progress

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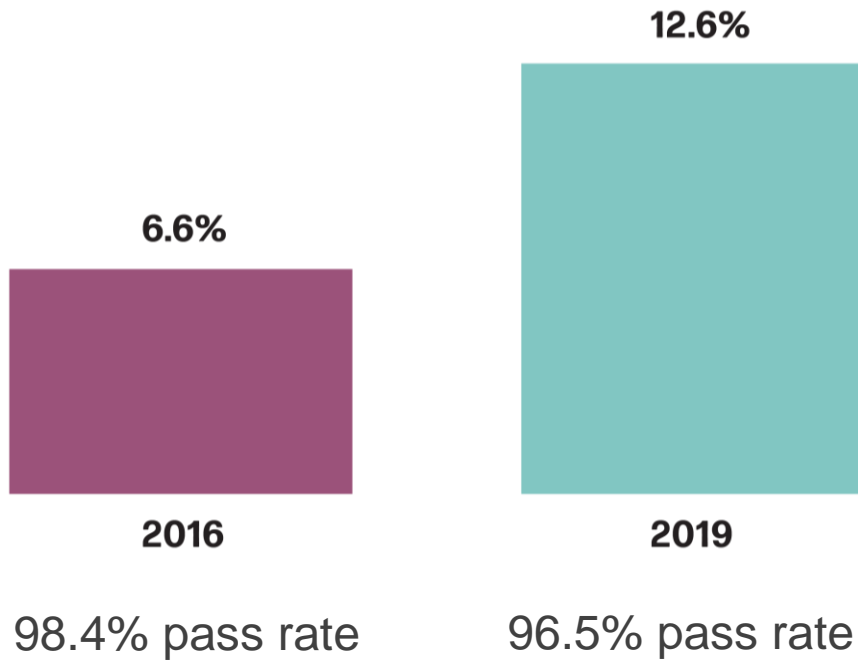
## Advanced Placement

2021 passing rate reached an all-time high of **37.4%** for a full school year.

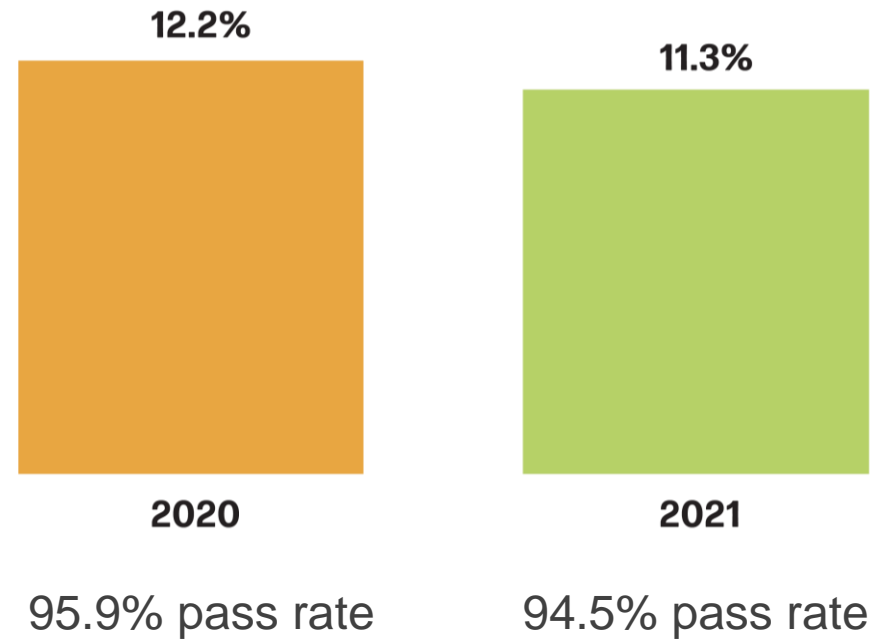
2020 figures cannot be compared to other years because exams were abbreviated, and students nationwide were permitted to test on mobile phones and other devices while quarantining at home.

**COVID-19 | DISRUPTION**

## Dual Credit Enrollment 2016 to 2019



## Dual Credit Enrollment 2020 & 2021



# ESSER-Funded Opt-In Opportunities

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**Telehealth:** UMMC to deliver on-demand urgent care and telebehaviorial health during school hours

**Health & School Safety Platform (nSide):** Online system with cameras, first responder alerts and building plans with georeferenced images

**College & Career Ready Platform (MajorClarity):** Manages college and career readiness plans for students in grades 7-12 and e-transcript feature

**High-Dosage Tutoring (PAPER):** 24/7 online access to English Language Arts (ELA) and mathematics tutors for students in grades 3-12

- **137** school districts opted-in to this service for students
  - English Language Arts, Grades 3-12
  - Mathematics, Grades 3-12
- Six regional Customer Service Managers (CSMs) are assigned in the state based on RESA designations and will provide "boots on the ground" to support local-level implementation.



- 24 x 7, on demand, LIVE tutoring sessions
- Individualized
- Accessible on any device
- Document upload, essay annotation, virtual tools, and bookmarked sessions
- No time limit
- Spanish, French, Arabic, and Mandarin
- Cohort of tutors trained to work with students from special populations



- Schedule one-on-one or small group sessions
- Select optional assignments for enrichment or intervention
- Tutors use the Socratic method; do not provide answers
- Extension of the classroom
- Unlimited professional development and support
- Data dashboard with real-time data



- Free, no cost to parents
- Safe, recorded, transcribed sessions without camera access
- Monitor student progress
- Connectivity with LIVE tutor in approximately 15 seconds
- Set a personal schedule for child
- Spanish, French, Arabic, and Mandarin parent supports
- Simple How-to-Guide and parent sessions in parent-friendly language



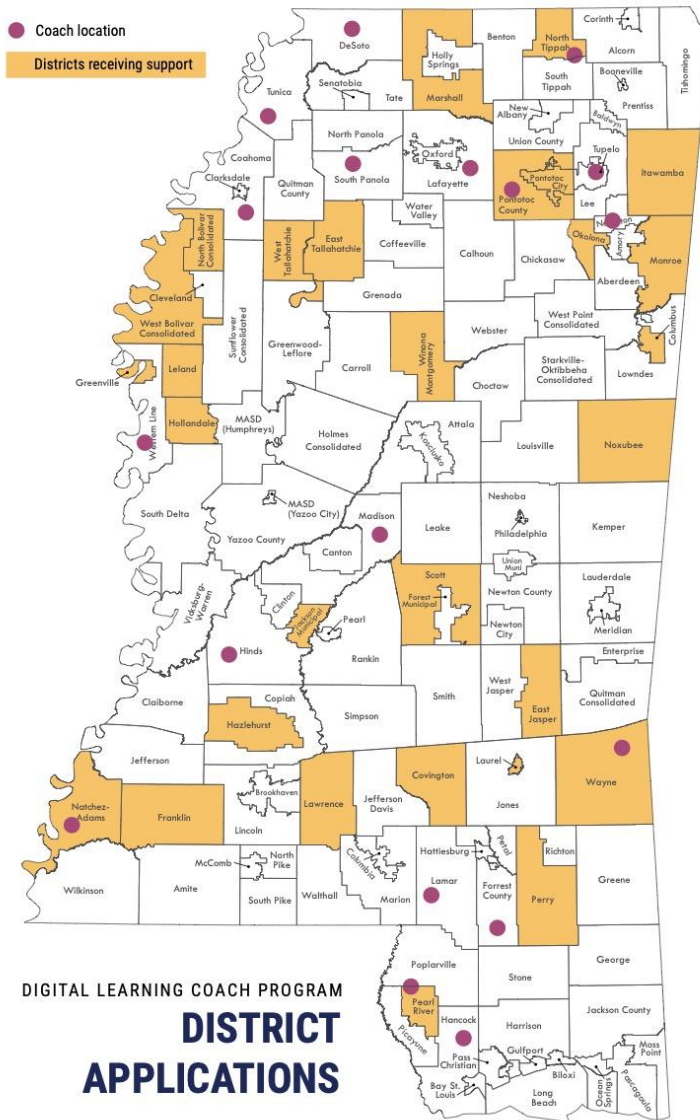
- Aligned to the MS CCRS, grades 3-12
- Integrates with current technology framework
- Single log-on feature for students
- Vacation Academies
- Strict adherence to federal and state-specific data privacy laws such as COPPA, FERPA, IDEA, etc.
- Data dashboard with real-time data

# Digital Learning Coach Program

Hired 22 digital learning coaches to serve 62 schools in 29 districts, supporting 340 teachers beginning in the 2021-22 school year

Columbus Municipal  
 Covington County  
 East Jasper  
 East Tallahatchie  
 Franklin County  
 Greenville Public  
 Hazlehurst City  
 Hollandale  
 Itawamba County  
 Jackson Public  
 Scott County  
 Laurel  
 Lawrence County  
 Leland  
 Marshall County

Natchez-Adams  
 Nettleton  
 North Bolivar Consolidated  
 North Tippah  
 Noxubee County  
 Okolona Municipal  
 Pearl River County  
 Perry County  
 Pontotoc City  
 Pontotoc County  
 Wayne County  
 West Bolivar Consolidated  
 West Tallahatchie  
 Winona-Montgomery Consolidated



## English Language Arts (ELA)



**HOMER Learning for grades K-2**

- Improves reading fluency
- Increases academic vocabulary
- Develops independent reading skills



**Newsela English for grades 3-12**

- Provides content specifically for ELA
- Expands content curation to support academic standards
- Includes instructional supports

## Mathematics



**Imagine Learning for grades K-8**

- Builds problem-solving skills
- Provides personalized learning
- Includes scaffolded instruction for all students

## Science



**Discovery Education for grades K-6**

- Provides multimodal resources
- Aligns with academic standards
- Includes virtual STEM activities



**Cengage | Gale for grades 7-12**

- Includes interactive labs for biology, chemistry, and human anatomy
- Provides Lexile-level articles
- Includes multimedia content

## Social Studies



**News-O-Matic for grades K-8**

- Publishes daily news articles with multimedia features
- Provides a teacher dashboard to help track and monitor students' progress

Awarded over **\$9.8 million in grants** to fully fund tuition, books, testing fees, and mentor stipends for up to 200 aspiring educators per year for two years to obtain their master’s degree in elementary and special education through the Mississippi Teacher Residency at the following universities:

University	Year 1 Grant Award	Year 2 Grant Award	Total	Max. Residents Per Year
Delta State University	\$ 951,463.20	\$951,463.20	\$1,902,926.40	20
Jackson State University	\$1,019,294.82	\$1,019,294.82	\$2,038,589.64	20
Mississippi State University	\$1,017,568	\$1,019,012	\$2,036,580	20
University of Southern Mississippi	\$1,019,917	\$1,019,909	\$2,039,826	20
William Carey University	\$929,003	\$939,543	\$1,868,546	20
Total Per Year	\$4,937,246.02	\$4,949,222.02	\$9,886,468.04	20



- Expanded Licensure Call Center
- High Quality Instructional Materials (ELA and Math)
- School Improvement Coaches
- Professional Development Coordinators for Science and Math
- Career Academy Support
- Counselor Supports and Early Warning System
- New Licensure System (MECCA)
- New Mississippi Student Information System (MSIS 2.0)



- Provided districts with guidance on uses for \$2.2 billion in Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) I, II and III funds to accelerate learning and educate students safely
- Reviewed all district plans for spending ESSER I, II and III allocations and disbursed funding requests:

	Allocated	Amount Requested	Available Balance	Percent Disbursed	Obligation Deadline
<b>ESSER I</b>	\$158,832,904	\$125,355,677	\$33,477,226	79%	9/30/22
<b>ESSER II</b>	\$652,079,556	\$111,402,684	\$540,676,872	17%	9/30/23
<b>ARP ESSER III</b>	\$1,465,529,524	\$9,570,592	\$1,455,958,932	1%	9/30/24

## Required 20% to address learning loss and academic student support

- Accelerated Learning
- Family and Community Engagement
- High Dosage Tutoring
- Mental Health/Social Emotional Learning
- High Quality Instructional Materials
- Interventionists
- High School Innovation
- AP/Dual Credit/ Other Advanced Courses including Gifted
- College & Career Readiness Advising
- Literacy
- Online Courses
- Pre-K
- Special Populations
- Student Assessments and Progress Monitoring
- Summer Programming
- After-school Programming

**C-**

**Quality Counts Overall Grade**

**C** for chance for success

**D+** for school finance

**D+** for K-12 achievement

**35<sup>TH</sup>**

**Quality Counts National Ranking**

**35<sup>th</sup>** in nation for K-12 achievement

**87.7**

**Graduation Rate**

**87.7%**  
Higher than the national average

**NAEP**

**NAEP**

**No. 1** in the nation for gains in 4<sup>th</sup> grade reading and math, **higher than national average** in math and tied for reading

**No. 2**

**Most Improved in Nation**

**No. 2** state in nation with greatest improvements for **three consecutive years**



# Dr. Kim Benton

Interim Deputy State Superintendent/Chief Academic Officer

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



MISSISSIPPI  
DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION



# Mississippi's Postsecondary Education Attainment Goal



## Mississippi's newly adopted attainment goals:

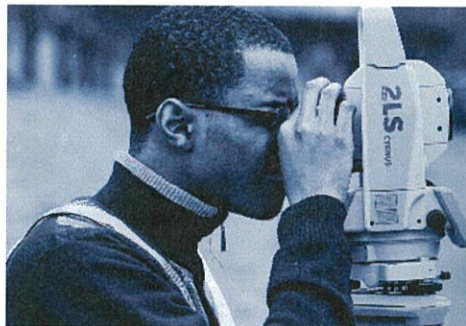
By 2030, **55%** of working-age adults in Mississippi will have a degree or high-quality credential.

By 2035, **60%** of working-age adults in Mississippi will have a degree or high-quality credential.

**60%** is the postsecondary goal established by the Southern Regional Education Board for the number of working-age adults in Southern states.  
*Source: SREB*

## WHAT WE MEAN BY "COLLEGE"

We think of college as any education beyond high school that leads to financial stability. It can be a four-year degree or beyond, but it can also be a two-year community college degree or a certificate in career and technical education.



**17.4%** of working-age Mississippians have earned some college credits, but have not completed a degree or credential.

**44.4%** of Mississippians aged 25-64 have a credential of value, compared to 51.9% nationally.  
*Source: LUMINA 2021*



**87%** of Mississippi employers believe their current workforce will need additional

training, credentials, certifications or degrees in the next 10-20 years, according to current data from the 2020 MEC Tour.

*Source: MEC*

### The Opportunity:

Every increased percentage point to Mississippi's attainment rate has the potential to net the state

**\$20 MILLION** 

through reduced social service spending and increased state and local taxes.

*Source: ITHAKA-SR*

For more information, please contact: Vickie Powell at [vpowell@msmec.com](mailto:vpowell@msmec.com), or Courtney Lange at [clange@woodwardhines.org](mailto:clange@woodwardhines.org).