

What Every

INSTRUCTIONAL LEADER



NEEDS TO KNOW

August 2017



MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

Ensuring a bright future for every child

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION GOALS

1

ALL STUDENTS PROFICIENT AND SHOWING GROWTH IN ALL ASSESSED AREAS

- Implement the Literacy-Based Promotion Act with fidelity
- Continue implementing the MS College and Career Readiness Standards

2

EVERY STUDENT GRADUATES FROM HIGH SCHOOL AND IS READY FOR COLLEGE AND CAREER

- All students enter Mississippi colleges prepared for credit-bearing courses
- All students graduate prepared for careers, meeting academic and employability standards
- Increase the number and percentage of students participating in and successfully completing advanced coursework, including AP, dual enrollment, articulated credit, STEM pathways and national certifications

3

EVERY CHILD HAS ACCESS TO A HIGH-QUALITY EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM

- Define a high-quality early childhood model and share the model with all stakeholders
- Increase access to high-quality early childhood programs

4

EVERY SCHOOL HAS EFFECTIVE TEACHERS AND LEADERS

- Increase the percentage of educators rated Effective or above on the state evaluation systems
- Raise the academic standards in Mississippi teacher-preparation programs

5

EVERY COMMUNITY IS EFFECTIVELY USING A WORLD-CLASS DATA SYSTEM TO IMPROVE STUDENT OUTCOMES

- Modernize current student information system to become a state-of-the-art data system
- Revise the Office of Technology and Strategic Services plan

6

EVERY SCHOOL AND DISTRICT IS RATED “C” OR HIGHER

- Improve academic outcomes in Targeted Support and Improvement Schools and Comprehensive Support and Improvement Schools
- Improve academic outcomes in schools under Districts of Transformation
- Establish an Achievement School District (ASD)

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Publication Overview

Office of the Chief Academic Officer

Dr. Kim S. Benton



In an effort to keep instructional leaders informed, the Mississippi Department of Education, through the Office of Academic Education, would like to provide this broad overview of various program offices within the agency, along with their contact information and key initiatives. It is our hope that you will find this quarterly update useful as you continue to serve students in our great state.

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Professional Development PRIORITIES



Additional PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

ARTS
GRADE SPAN: PK-12
SBE GOALS: 2, 4

COUNSELING
GRADE SPAN: K-12
SBE GOALS: 1, 2, 4, 6

DATA ANALYSIS
GRADE SPAN: PK-12
SBE GOALS: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

DYSLEXIA
GRADE SPAN: K-12
SBE GOALS: 1, 2, 4, 6

ELA
GRADE SPAN: K-12
SBE GOALS: 1, 2, 4, 6

GIFTED EDUCATION
GRADE SPAN: 2-8
SBE GOALS: 1, 2, 3, 4, 6

MATH
GRADE SPAN: K-12
SBE GOALS: 1, 2, 4, 6

MULTI-TIERED SYSTEM OF SUPPORT
GRADE SPAN: K-12
SBE GOALS: 1, 2, 4, 6

ORTON GILLINGHAM
GRADE SPAN: PK-5
SBE GOALS: 1, 2, 4, 6

SOCIAL STUDIES (MARCH 2018)
GRADE SPAN: K-12
SBE GOALS: 1, 2, 4, 6

UNIVERSAL DESIGN FOR LEARNING
GRADE SPAN: PK-12
SBE GOALS: 1, 2, 4, 6

WRITING
GRADE SPAN: K-5 | 6-12
SBE GOALS: 1, 2, 4, 6

Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

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What we do...

- Engage with stakeholders in the development of Mississippi's response to ESSA
- Coordinate efforts across offices within the Mississippi Department of Education

What you need to know...

- **What is ESSA?** In 2015, Congress passed the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), a reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965. The federal education law is primarily focused on historically disadvantaged students. ESSA replaced No Child Left Behind (NCLB).
- **Long-term goals** – Each state is setting ambitious, long-term goals and interim benchmarks of student progress based on assessment proficiency, graduation rate, and progress toward English proficiency for English learners. More ambitious goals will be set for groups that are further behind so that significant progress can be made in closing gaps.
- **Accountability** – Mississippi does not plan to make changes to the current accountability system at this time, other than through the addition of an indicator to measure progress to English proficiency for English Learners.
- **Reporting** – ESSA requires disaggregated data be reported on factors such as achievement, graduation rate, assessment participation, discipline rates, advanced coursework access, and similar indicators.
- **School improvement** – ESSA places the primary responsibility for improving low-performing schools at the school district, with the support of the state.
- **Teacher & Leader Quality** – States and districts must ensure that low-income students and students of color are not taught at disproportionate rates by ineffective, out-of-field, or inexperienced teachers.
- **Evidence-based programs** – ESSA requires that districts and schools, particularly those identified for Comprehensive or Targeted Support and Improvement, use evidence-based practices. Evidence-based practices have to provide a track record of success. ESSA's definition of "evidence-based" includes 4 levels of evidence. The top 3 levels require findings of a statistically significant effect on improving student outcomes or other relevant outcomes based on an experimental study, a quasi-experimental study, or a correlational study. Websites such as the *What Works Clearinghouse* or the *PEW Results First Clearinghouse Database* offer listings of some evidence-based programs.

Accreditation

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What we do...

- Administer the state's performance-based accreditation system for public schools and the accreditation system for nonpublic schools electing to seek accreditation from the State Board of Education
- Monitor school districts to verify compliance with applicable accreditation requirements through (1) investigative evaluations (complaints against school districts), (2) annual personnel data reports, and (3) reports from other state or federal programs
- Provide technical assistance and training on matters related to the *Mississippi Public Schools Accountability Standards*

What you need to know...

- **Mississippi Public Schools Accountability Standards** – The Office of Accreditation will be convening an Accreditation Task Force to review and revise the *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards* during the 2017-2018 school year for implementation in 2018-2019.
- To access the current edition of the *Mississippi Public Schools Accountability Standards*, visit the Office of Accreditation website at <http://www.mdek12.org/accred>.

Career and Technical Education

Get in touch with us...

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What we do...

- Create and maintain middle school programs that prepare students for high school work (ICT1, ICT2, STEM)
- Create and maintain high school workforce readiness programs that link to high skill, high wage jobs and post-secondary education
- Oversee 10 student organizations that provide opportunities for students to learn leadership and communication skills
- Oversee all financial and audit responsibilities for Career and Technical Education

What you need to know...

- **Work Based Learning** – We are in the process of developing programs so that all Career and Technical students will have an opportunity to participate in internships, job shadowing, paid work and entrepreneurship programs to gain real world experiences before they move into the world of work or post-secondary education
- **Computer Science for Mississippi (CS4MS)** – As computerization becomes more and more embedded into our everyday and work lives, students need access to computer science training at a much earlier age. CS4MS is being piloted in 35 districts now with more to come in 2017-18. This program begins in the K-5 area with 20-40 hours of training per year. Middle school programs are being developed now with the intention of a K-12 spectrum of courses to be developed over a 3 year period of time that will have every student prepared for the 21st century needs.
- **National Program Certification in Automotive Technology, Construction, and Manufacturing Programs** – In order to compete successfully with other states and be proficient in the global economy, all programs in the areas listed above must meet national certification standards by December 2017. This ensures that every program in the state is prepared to train students at the highest possible level for entry into the workforce and post-secondary education.

Child Nutrition

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What we do...

- Administer USDA special nutrition programs, including the National School Lunch & School Breakfast Programs, Child and Adult Care Food Program, Summer Food Service Program, and USDA Foods distribution
- Operate the MS Statewide Purchasing System, providing over 650 high quality and student approved items at a substantial cost savings to schools and other participating organizations
- Provide training and technical assistance for participating organizations' staff

What you need to know...

- **Mississippi Recipes for Success (MRS)** – This free resource provides hundreds of recipes for use in school food service that have been thoroughly tested for yield, flavor and quality, and comply with all USDA nutrition standards. MRS is available in print or online format, with complete nutrient analysis for each recipe: <http://mrs.mdek12.org/>.
- **Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)** – More than half of the State's school districts participate in the Summer Food Service Program, reaching children who don't have access to healthy meals when school is out. The SFSP offers flexibility in meal types and service locations, with no minimum number of sites. Please contact our office to inquire about joining the SFSP or expanding your district's participation. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KkLGTOfRr8w>
- **Healthier US School Challenge (HUSSC)** – This initiative rewards schools for their demonstrated commitment to a healthier school environment through nutrition and physical fitness. HUSSC is a "win-win-win" for schools: successfully complete the challenge and your school will receive a monetary award, public recognition by the USDA and a happy and healthy student body. With State matching funds, awards range from \$2,000-\$8,000 per school!

Compulsory School Attendance Enforcement

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What we do...

- Ensure that all students between the ages of 6-17 are enrolled and attending a public, private or home school (MS. Code 37-13-91)
- Ensure that educational services are provided to youth in Juvenile Detention Centers (MS. Code 43-21-321)
- Ensure that educational services are provided for students placed in Alternative Education (MS. Code 37-13-92)
- Mandated Reporting (MS. Code 43-21-353)
- Foster Care Enrollment (Fostering Connections, ESSA)

What you need to know...

- **Mandated Reporting** – This requirement is for identifying and reporting suspected cases of abuse and neglect to the Mississippi Department of Child Protection Services to 1-800-222-8000
- **Alternative Education Self Assessments** – The annual program review of Alternative Education Programs and High School Equivalency is currently underway for the 2016-2017 school year.
- **Educational Stability for Children in Foster Care** – This guidance document and associated training materials aid local agencies in making the best educational determination for students placed in foster care (Guidance document released January 11, 2017; training sessions provided spring 2017)
- **Juvenile Detention Center (JDC) Education Programs** – Training and Technical Assistance meetings held on a quarterly basis with JDC education programs sponsoring school districts

Counseling and Support Services & Accelerated Programs

Get in touch with us...

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What we do...

- Innovative Schools, Early College High Schools, Advanced Placement, Dual Credit, and ACT Initiatives
- Dropout Prevention and Restructuring
- MS Virtual Public Schools
- Student Service Coordinators
- Academic Counselors
Provide resources for school counselors to aid students in developing knowledge and skills to handle challenges and to complete a college and career ready program so that they are better prepared for postsecondary success
- Career and Technical Education Counselors
Deliver technical assistance and various professional development regarding the roles and responsibilities for Career and Technical Education Counselors and Student Service Coordinators determined by the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act

What you need to know...

- **Early Warning System** - The Mississippi Department of Education developed the Early Warning System (EWS) as a guide to assist school districts and schools in their efforts to help students succeed academically and emerge from Mississippi high schools well prepared for college and careers. This guide provides information on how to effectively use early warning data to identify, support, and monitor at-risk students in grades K-12. [MDE early-warning-system-district-guidance-document](#)
- **Grants for New AP Teachers** – Districts are eligible for reimbursement for initial AP training for teachers in underserved areas. Preference is given to districts who are building a more robust AP program.
- **Project Lead the Way, CTE, and Robotics Grants** – The Office of Secondary Education periodically lists grants to enhance or implement science and engineering programs in middle and high schools. Check the website seasonally for opportunities to apply at [www.mde.k12.ms.us/PN/requests-for-proposals-\(rfp\)](http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/PN/requests-for-proposals-(rfp))

- **Non-traditional Grant Allocation** – This grant is awarded to Special Populations programs within school districts. The funds must be used to promote nontraditional careers. Many schools use the funding to provide college scholarships for nontraditional students who attend the Career and Technical Education Centers. The mini grant provides up to \$650 per Student Service Coordinator. MDE recently awarded 50 Nontraditional Grants to those programs approved through the application process.
 - **College Countdown MS** – Part of a national effort, the American College Application Campaign, that shares the goal of easing the admissions, financial aid and enrollment process for students, particularly first-generation and low-income students, and ensure that they apply to at least one postsecondary institution. Partners include-but are not limited to-the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning, the Mississippi Community College Board, State Office of Student Financial Aid, and the Get2College Program of Education Services Foundation.
 - **Career Development Plan** – Guidance document to districts on creating a college going culture and preparing students to make postsecondary decisions. Includes designated activities and resources at each grade level.
 - **Counselor Educator Collaborative** – Group effort with counselor educators to better prepare pre-service counselors for the workplace and evaluating the effectiveness of counselors exiting school counseling programs.
-

District and School Performance

Get in touch with us...

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What we do...

- Produce and report district and school accountability ratings that reflect performance through given indicators
- Facilitate the inclusion of all stakeholders through established methods and nationally recognized best practices
- Ensure compliance with federally mandated accountability standards and reporting requirements
- Assist districts and schools with data quality issues to ensure accurate accountability results

What you need to know...

- **ESSA Compliance Changes** – In order to meet requirements under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), the use of apportioning in the four-year graduation rate calculation will be discontinued. Also, a new English Language Learner component will be added to the Accountability Model in 2018. Decisions on these changes will be made through stakeholder engagement and included in the State Comprehensive ESSA Plan.
- **Data Quality Improvement** – Quality data from the district level is very important to many accountability measures. It is therefore important that the MDE work with districts to ensure accurate data is transmitted through MSIS. Increased efforts in communication and training as well as data audits will be conducted through the Office of District and School Performance.
- **No Changes in 2017 - 2018!** – The past few years have seen many changes in accountability measures and assessments. Our office does not anticipate the need for any changes in the accountability system for 2017-2018 and only minor changes due to ESSA requirements in 2018-2019.

Early Childhood

Get in touch with us...

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What we do...

- Provide guidance, standards, and supports for public school pre-k and kindergarten settings
- Provide professional development and technical assistance to pre-k and kindergarten teachers and administrators
- Coordinate and facilitate the Early Learning Collaborative Grant Program

What you need to know...

- **Early Learning Guidelines** – The Early Learning Guidelines are being revised. The revised document will be sent to the Mississippi Secretary of State through the APA process to gain comments from the public.
- **Comprehensive Early Learning Observation Screener (CELOS)** – The Comprehensive Early Learning Observation Screener is a developmental screening tool to be used in Early Learning Collaborative classrooms as well as all other funded Pre-K classrooms to support early detection of delays in the development of children. The new CELOS will be named August 2017.
- **Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS)** - CLASS is an observation instrument to assess classroom quality in preschool classrooms through three dimensions: Emotional Support, Classroom Organization, Instructional Support. All public school and collaborative pre-kindergarten classrooms will be monitored using this system. Public Pre-K classrooms will be monitored during the 2017-2018 school year based on the Accreditation cyclical monitoring schedule.

- **Effectiveness Evaluation Plan** – Schools providing services to Pre-K children will receive an evaluation to ensure the effectiveness of services on improving children’s learning and well-being. Evaluation occurs for the Early Learning Collaboratives (collaborative) and other Pre-K classrooms (e.g. Title I, local-funded, tuition-based) in Mississippi public schools. Evaluation consists of two parts: rate of readiness and monitoring. Please find the complete plan at www.mdek12.org/ec.
 - **Implementation of the Kellogg Pre-K Grant** – This grant will support teachers statewide in a variety of Pre-K and kindergarten settings to implement developmentally appropriate practices in their classrooms. Major grant activities include professional development and coaching support, Pre-K program evaluation to ensure program quality and student progress, the implementation of developmental assessments for Pre-K students, and assistance with increasing parents’ participation in their children’s education.
-

Educator Effectiveness – Mississippi Teacher Center

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What we do...

- Manage the implementation and training for the Mississippi Educator and Administrator Professional Growth System
- Provide support to districts in attracting, supporting, and retaining effective educators
- Assist districts in the identification and implementation of strategies to eliminate barriers to equitable access to effective teachers
- Manage legislative funding for the six World Class Teaching Programs (WCTP); support WCTP activities and NBPTS research projects while promoting National Board Certification statewide

What you need to know...

- **Professional Growth System** – The Mississippi Educator and Administrator Professional Growth System (PGS) is designed to improve student achievement by providing teachers and administrators with feedback to inform continuous improvement. During the 2017-2018 school year, classroom/school site observations using the Teacher Growth Rubric and the Administrator Growth Rubric will be implemented. School districts are required to conduct the minimum observations and submit to the MDE ratings for each teacher and administrator by the end of the 2017-2018 school year. Training opportunities are available throughout the state. To find a training location/date, please contact your local RESA. For online training materials, additional information and resources, please visit <http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/OTC/professional-growth-system>.

- **Teacher Leadership Initiative** – The goal of the Teacher Leadership Initiative is to provide effective teachers with opportunities to teach students and collaboratively lead colleagues to improve their practice. The Office of Educator Effectiveness has assembled a task force of educators to develop a teacher leadership model for the state. Once developed, this model will be available for implementation.
 - **Teacher Pipeline** – In an effort to address teacher shortages, the Office of Educator Effectiveness is implementing programs and strategies to attract, support, and retain effective teachers in high-need districts. These strategies include Pathways to Teaching Workshops, Praxis Core Workshops, and Regional Beginning Teacher Summits.
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Educator Licensure

Get in touch with us...

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What we do...

- Oversees the licensing and verification of all educators and administrators working in Mississippi public schools
- Provides resources to assist school districts in maintaining compliance with state law
- Manage legislative funding for the six World Class Teaching Programs (WCTP); support WCTP activities and NBPTS research projects while promoting National Board Certification statewide

What you need to know...

- **New Office Name** – Beginning on July 1, 2017, the offices that serve to provide guidance and ongoing support to prospective and practicing educators were reorganized under a new name. The **Office of Teaching and Leading** will serve to provide leadership through collaboration with appropriate education stakeholder groups in the following areas: Attracting, Recruiting, and Retaining Quality Educators; Educator Preparation; Educator Licensure; Educator Effectiveness; Targeted Professional Learning for Educator Licensure Renewal (Additional information about the **Office of Teaching and Leading** is forthcoming.)
- **Special, Non-renewable License** – The special, non-renewable educator license is a one-year license that can only be requested by an employing local school district or an eligible nonpublic school in the state of Mississippi for a candidate who has not yet met all certification requirements under the Miss. Code Ann. § 37-3-2(6)(a), (b), and (c), at the time the application is submitted to the Office of Educator Licensure.

The Special, Non-renewable License can be requested for a candidate who meets the following criteria:

A.) holds at least a bachelor's degree in the area in which the license is requested from an institution of higher learning that was regionally/nationally accredited at the time the degree was conferred; **or**

B.) holds at least a bachelor's degree in any area and twenty-one (21) hours of undergraduate and/or graduate level coursework with a grade of "C" or higher

in the content area in which the license is requested. Both the degree(s) and the twenty-one (21) hours of undergraduate and/or graduate level coursework must have been earned from an institution of higher learning that was regionally/nationally accredited at the time the degree was conferred. Remedial courses (also referred to as compensatory, developmental, or basic skills) will not be recognized for certification purposes and are usually numbered below 100 on the transcript; **and**

C.) candidate is currently enrolled in an alternate route teacher education preparation program or has completed all requirements of a Traditional teacher education preparation program except achieving a passing score on all Mississippi required licensure tests on or after January 1, 2014.

- **Walk-in Same Day Application Processing Service Discontinued** – Beginning June 12, 2017, same day licensure processing walk-in service was discontinued by the Office of Educator Licensure. This courtesy service was implemented during the summer of 2016 on a trial basis and due to our findings, it was necessary to discontinue this service. Applicants may continue to hand deliver completed application packets; however, we encourage you to submit required documents to the Office via postal mail or as appropriate, please continue to take advantage of our online licensure application submission service that is available through the Educator Licensure Management System (ELMS). We will continue to process each licensure request in the order in which it is received. We ask your assistance with communicating this change by sharing this information with all educational stakeholders.
 - **District Level Educator License Renewal Role Discontinued** – Effective Monday, July 17, 2017, all licensure renewal requests must be submitted directly to the Office of Educator Licensure for processing. The local school district's role and responsibilities for renewing all standard renewable MS educator licenses held by educators and administrators employed in their school system is scheduled to end effective, at midnight on Friday, July 14, 2017. The role will no longer be operable or accessible in ELMS. Please assist us with informing applicants of this change.
 - **Licensure Applications and CEUs** – Beginning on July 17, 2017, and thereafter, applicants should mail their completed licensure application and original certificates of earned required number of continuing education units, and/or required number of coursework credit hours on an official sealed transcript (application and transcript may also be submitted electronically via ELMS) to *Post Office Box 771, Jackson, MS 39205*. Please note, the School Executive Management Institute (SEMI) Officer role and responsibilities will not be discontinued at this time.
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Educator Preparation

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What we do...

- Collaborate with Educator Preparation Providers (EPPs) to ensure high quality educators for Mississippi's schools
- Coordinate and conduct accreditation visits for EPPs
- Manage program approvals and annual program reviews
- Provide technical assistance to Mississippi's colleges and universities to identify deficiencies and meet compliance for state and national standards
- Collaborate with the Mississippi Teacher Center

What you need to know...

- **State Partnership with the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP)** – The MDE will partner with CAEP, national accreditor for educator preparation, to ensure high-quality preparation for teachers in the state of Mississippi
- **Mississippi's Process and Performance Review** – The Division of Educator Preparation is reviewing the state's guidelines for performance review of EPPs to ensure state and national standards for educator preparation are being met.
- **Collaboration with the Teacher Center** – The Division of Educator Preparation works collaboratively with the Teacher Center to develop strategies to aid in the recruitment and retention of teachers in Mississippi.

Elementary Education and Reading

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What we do...

- Develop elementary curriculum and instructional material aligned to the Mississippi College- and Career-Readiness Standards
- Manage Early Childhood, Intervention, Library and Literacy services provided to schools and districts
- Provide technical assistance and professional development on the effective implementation of technology tools in classroom instruction and assessment
- Develop and publish resources to support districts, schools, administrators, teachers and parents
- Design and deliver professional development and technical assistance to Pre-K through 12th grade school librarians and administrators

What you need to know...

- **Cursive Writing** – To support districts in the implementation of Senate Bill 2273, which requires districts to include cursive instruction in elementary schools, the MDE developed a support document to provide teachers, schools, and districts with guidance for cursive writing instruction from Grade 2 to Grade 5. The document is available online at <http://www.mdek12.org/ESE/ELA/instructional-resources>. It is important to note that instructional plans that detail when and how to teach and assess cursive writing should be developed at the local school or school district level.
- **Professional Development** – Professional Development is offered on the effective implementation of technology tools in classroom instruction and assessment. Technology tools provided are free and easy-to-use. Trainings are provided for all content areas and grade levels.
- **SAMR** – SAMR is a model designed to help educators evaluate how they are incorporating technology into instruction and assessment. The goal is to transform learning experiences so they result in higher levels of achievement for students.

- **2017 School Library Guide** – Effective school libraries are dynamic learning environments that bridge the information literacy gap for all Pre-K through 12th grade learners. The *2017 School Library Guide* provides librarians, administrators, and teachers the tools necessary to create and promote an effective school library program.
 - **Early Childhood Library Guide** –The *Early Childhood Library Guide* explains how to create classroom library centers that prepare students to become lifelong library users as well as building a collaborative relationship between classroom teachers, school librarians, and public children’s librarians.
 - **MS CCRS for Science** – The 2018 MS CCRS for Science for Grades K-12 were approved by the State Board of Education during the June 2017 board meeting. These Standards replace the 2010 Mississippi Science Framework. A pre-recorded Introduction of the new Science Standards is available online at <http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/ESE/science>. Pilot implementation and training will continue during the 2017-2018 school year. Full implementation of the new Science Standards and new MAP Science assessment for Grade 5, Grade 8, and Biology I will begin in the 2018-2019 school year.
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Federal Programs

Get in touch with us...

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What we do...

- Provide leadership and guidance in the effective use of federal funds to improve student achievement
- Support state and local reform efforts to improve teaching and learning, student achievement, and family engagement strategies
- Facilitate on-site professional development and technical assistance to local educational agencies (LEAs), community-based organizations (CBOs), faith-based organizations (FBOs), charter schools, private schools, and other state agencies
- Monitor the implementation of program requirements and expenditures of federal funds at the local level to assure program quality

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What you need to know...

- **MCAPS**—Mississippi Comprehensive Automated Performance-Based System (MCAPS) is an online data warehouse for the Office of Federal Programs. It houses the consolidated federal programs application for Titles I, II, III, and VI. The system also contains resource information for districts and schools. Within the MDE Document Library in MCAPS, guidance documents and pertinent information are provided. You can explore MCAPS here: <https://mcaps.mdek12.org/Default.aspx?ccipSessionKey=636349690970399366>.
- **Schoolwide Plans**—For Title I schools operating schoolwide programs, federal law and guidance requires a district-approved schoolwide plan for each school annually. Please ensure your Title I school has an approved schoolwide plan in MCAPS for the 2017-2018 school year.
- **Title Programs On-site Monitoring (Cycle III)**—Monitoring federal programs of the LEA ensures compliance with federal regulations as well as assures quality programming and instructional delivery of at-risk populations. Required documentation is to be maintained, accessible, and readily available for OFP staff during the monitoring visit. Documentation should be organized in folders, labeled, and correspond to the indicators of the consolidated monitoring instrument. District and school administrators should be available for interview by OFP staff during the monitoring visit. If technical assistance is needed, please contact the Office of Federal Programs.

Healthy Schools

Get in touch with us...

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What we do...

- Promote student achievement and increase academic performance by improving student health - *Health is Academic!*
- Provide training, technical assistance, and resources to promote school health and compliance with the Healthy Students Act
- Collect and report critical data to improve school health
- Provide guidance to School Nurses on evidence based practice measures to meet school health needs

What you need to know...

- **Move to Learn** - Better grades. Better health. Studies have shown that physical activity increases children's ability to learn, and as fitness improves, test scores improve. That's why Move to Learn incorporates movement in the classroom through short exercise videos and healthy lesson plans. Visit <http://www.movetolearnms.org/> for free resources or to schedule a MTL Live! event at your school.
- **School Based Administrative Claiming (SBAC)** – The SBAC program offers school districts an excellent opportunity to obtain additional funding as reimbursement for staff time spent assisting students and their families learn about Medicaid, Medicaid benefits, and other health care needs of students.
- **Menu of Services** – Physical Education Curriculum and Instruction, Health Literacy and Heap of Books resources, Framework revisions for Contemporary School Health and Physical Education, HIV/AIDS/STD/Teen Pregnancy Prevention, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, Healthy School Grant Opportunities, Professional Development, Technical Assistance, and School Health Resources.

Intervention Services

Get in touch with us...

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What we do...

- Provide technical assistance on the implementation of the Multi-Tiered System of Supports, Dyslexia Initiatives, English Learner Supports, and Gifted Education programming
- Coordinate and manage the process for reviewing and awarding the 2017-2018 Grades K-12 dyslexia scholarships, the 2015-2018 dyslexia grants to districts, and the selection process of a State Board of Education approved list of dyslexia screeners
- Develop and publish resources to support districts, schools, administrators, teachers and parents
- Coordinate statewide SWIFT scale up efforts
- Host 2017 MS MTSS Professional Learning Institute

What you need to know...

- **Multi-Tiered System of Supports** – The Office of Student Intervention Services provides guidance to districts on the effective implementation of the MTSS framework for effective team-based problem solving that is data informed, evidence-based, and flexible enough to meet the academic and the behavioral needs of all students. Professional Development opportunities are offered to support MTSS implementation. Additional resources can be found by visiting <http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/ESE/links/response-to-intervention-teacher-support-team>.
- **Student Dyslexia Scholarships** – Students with a dyslexia diagnosis may choose to attend a non-public school. These students must have been in attendance in a public school the previous year prior to requesting the scholarship, have a dyslexia diagnosis, and be accepted into a non-public school that meets legislative criteria. Professional Development trainings are available for school districts to receive more information on dyslexia. Visit <http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/ESE/dyslexia> for dyslexia resources.
- **Dyslexia Grants** – The Dyslexia Grant is a three-year cycle 2015-2018. This grant allows schools to purchase materials for dyslexia therapy, interventions, and to pay a portion of a

dyslexia therapist salary. The next dyslexia grant application will be released in April of 2018.

- **SBE Approved List of Dyslexia Screeners** - Effective July 1, 2017, Section 37-173-15 of House Bill 1046 mandates that each local school district screen students for dyslexia in the spring of Kindergarten and the fall of Grade 1 using a State Board of Education approved screener. The list of approved screeners will be posted to the MDE website July 14, 2017.
 - **Outcomes for Gifted Education Programs 2017** – Gifted Education Program outcomes were updated in the spring of 2017 and will be implemented in classrooms in August 2017.
 - **Schoolwide Integrated Framework for Transformation (SWIFT)** – is a national K-8 technical assistance center that builds school capacity to provide academic and behavioral support to improve outcomes for all students through equity-based inclusion. Many districts are utilizing the SWIFT resources and technical assistance practices to improve MTSS Tier 2 and Tier 3 academic and behavioral interventions. For more information and free resources that support MTSS implementation please visit www.swiftschools.org. The MS Professional Learning Institute (PLI) is tentatively set for late September and will focus on MS Top 10 Professional Development Priorities for teachers and leaders.
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JROTC

Get in touch with us...

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Bureau Director

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What we do...

- Represent MDE's interests in the 84 JROTC programs in Mississippi
- Coordinate statewide JROTC competition and events
- Serve as an information conduit on JROTC matters
- Assist school districts, JROTC units, and service JROTC headquarters on issues related to the JROTC program

What you need to know...

- **JROTC's Role in Secondary Education** – JROTC is an accredited academic curriculum designed to give students the necessary skills they will need to be productive and responsible young adults. JROTC can provide a niche for students of varying interests with regional, state, and national competition in academics, drill, air rifle, orienteering, and athletics. Depending on the military service, JROTC classroom instruction augments conventional curriculum in world history, physical sciences, civics, finance, political science, aviation physiology, engineering, and international law. All JROTC programs emphasize the development of critical leadership skills.
- **Exposure to STEM Opportunities** – Mississippi JROTC is aligned with statewide educational initiatives which are designed to increase the exposure of our students to the career opportunities that a STEM-related education can afford them. Exposure occurs through classroom instruction, field trips to our state's high technology industries, and participation in STEM summer programs.
- **National Flight Academy's STEM Program Scholarships** – Several organizations have provided scholarship funding to enable selected JROTC cadets to attend the outstanding 6-day STEM program at the National Flight Academy located at Naval Air Station Pensacola Florida. Relationships are currently being developed with more state corporations to increase the scholarship funding.
- **JROTC All-Services Championships** – For the past three years, the MDE JROTC Bureau has hosted all-services JROTC state championships in drill, athletics, and air rifle. All 84 JROTC and NDCC units in Mississippi are eligible to participate.

Literacy

Get in touch with us...

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What we do...

- Facilitate the statewide implementation of the Literacy-Based Promotion Act
- Provide on-site literacy coaching support (i.e., coaching, modeling, training, etc.) to Pre-K to 3rd grade teachers in Literacy Support Schools
- Provide regional literacy professional development to Pre-K to 3rd grade teachers, district support staff, and administrators
- Provide regional literacy PD to secondary content area teachers

What you need to know...

- **Literacy Focus of the Month in Action**– This resource provides guidance to administrators and teachers for supporting a monthly, school- wide instructional focus based on best practices and research-based strategies in literacy. Visit <http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/ESE/literacy> for this and other resources.
- **Evaluating Reading/Language Arts Instructional Materials for Grades K-5** – The tool is available at: <https://ies.ed.gov/ncee/edlabs/projects/project.asp?projectID=4506>.
- **Literacy Based Promotion Act: Third Grade Reading Passing Rates** – Statewide, 92 percent of 3rd graders passed the assessment. Literacy Support Schools had a pass rate of 87.5 percent this year, up from 78 percent in 2016 and 73 percent in 2015. Passing rates can be found at <http://mdereports.mdek12.org/report1/r2016-17.aspx>.
- **Educator Outcomes Associated with Implementation of Mississippi’s K-3 Early Literacy Professional Development Initiative** – This study examined changes in teacher knowledge of early literacy skills and ratings of quality early literacy skills instruction, student engagement during early literacy skills instruction, and teaching competencies between Winter 2014 and Fall 2015. This report can be accessed at <https://ies.ed.gov/ncee/edlabs/projects/project.asp?projectID=466>.
- **Implementing Evidence-Based Literacy Practices Roadmap** - This tool was developed to help SEAs and LEAs implement evidence-based literacy practices in their classrooms by providing a set of resources organized into a framework for implementation. All resources may be accessed at <http://fcrr.fsu.edu/literacyroadmap/>.

Professional Development

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What we do...

- Facilitate Professional Development Priorities for the Academic Office of the Mississippi Department of Education
- Implement the Regional Service Model for Professional Development providing MDE professional development regionally throughout the state
- Facilitate the Professional Development Coordinator model providing on-demand professional development to districts and schools
- Support the Exemplar Unit production, training and implementation
- Provide oversight of State Schools (MSMS, MSB, MSD, and MSA)

What you need to know...

- **Fall 2017 Menu of Services** –The Menu of Services has been updated in all content areas, literacy, and special education. Visit the MDE homepage www.mdek12.org and click on the “Request Professional Development” link in the bottom right-hand pane.
- **2017-2018 MDE Professional Development Calendar** – To access training/workshop opportunities offered throughout the year, visit the MDE homepage www.mdek12.org and click on the “Professional Development Calendar” link in the bottom right-hand pane.
- **Exemplar Units and Lesson Plans Developed by MS Educators** – Unit plans for Grades K-12 aligned to the MS CCRS for ELA and Mathematics are available. Visit the MDE homepage www.mdek12.org and click on the “Mississippi Exemplar Units and Lessons” link in the bottom right-hand pane. For more information about training on these plans, please contact the Office of Professional Development.

School Improvement

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What we do...

- Provide oversight and ensure the implementation of state legislation for low performing schools.
- Support the systemic improvement of the lowest performing schools and districts in the state of Mississippi.
- Provide support and oversight for School Improvement Grant Schools, Priority, Focus and Schools At-Risk Schools.
- Provide support through federal funds for schools to support school interventions

What you need to know...

- **School Improvement Grant (SIG)** – Eight (8) schools, representative of five school districts, have been awarded approximately \$12 million in School Improvement Grant (SIG) funds. Another round of the SIG competition will be released in July to award approximately \$4 million. Any school identified as a Focus School or Priority School (based on the March 2017 reset school listing) is eligible to apply. The Office of School Improvement will provide training and technical assistance to districts and schools regarding the SIG application process.
- **Title I, 1003(a) Application** – Schools and districts have submitted their Title I, 1003(a) Application. The approval process has begun and additional guidance will be provided by OSI staff to assist with finalizing application approvals.

- **Professional Development Opportunities** – Professional development opportunities will be provided for schools and districts throughout the 2017-2018 school year. Topics will include: instructional leadership, data analysis procedures, School Turnaround Principles, MS SOARS, and other relevant topics. Quarterly support will also be provided to assist school improvement efforts throughout the state. These quarterly trainings will be REQUIRED for schools identified as Priority, Focus, and SIG.
 - **School Supports** – Ongoing, targeted support for Priority, Focus and SIG schools will begin in August. The tiered approach of support may include: on-site support visits, access to professional development/training, access to the MS SOARS platform, and/or virtual support.
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Secondary Curriculum and Instruction

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What we do...

- Develop and implement curriculum and instructional material aligned to the Mississippi College- and Career-Readiness Standards
- Provide on-site professional development and technical assistance to Grades K-12 teachers in core content areas
- Design and assist in the national promotion, mentorship, and selection of state-level finalists for the PAEMST Award
- Evaluate existing programs to improve classroom instruction and student achievement
- Manage \$2 million MSP grant to support rigorous year-round training for math and science teachers through the six Institutions of Higher Learning

What you need to know...

- **MS CCR Arts Learning Standards** – The 2017 MS CCR Arts Learning Standards were approved by the State Board of Education during the June 2017 board meeting. These Standards replace the 2003 Mississippi Visual and Performing Arts Frameworks; and, are available for Dance, Media Arts, Music, Theatre, and Visual Arts online at <http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/ESE/VPA>. Full implementation of the 2017 Arts Learning Standards begin in the 2017-2018 school year. Training will continue during the 2017-2018 school year.
- **MS CCRS for Science** – The 2018 MS CCRS for Science were approved by the State Board of Education during the June 2017 board meeting. These Standards replace the 2010 Mississippi Science Framework. A pre-recorded Introduction of the new Science Standards is available online at <http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/ESE/science>. Pilot implementation and training will continue during the 2017-2018 school year. Full

implementation of the new Science Standards and new MAP Science assessment for Grade 5, Grade 8, and Biology I will begin in the 2018-2019 school year.

- **SREB Ready for High School Pilot Courses** – The MDE through the Office of Secondary Education will pilot the new SREB Ready for High School Literacy and Ready for High School Math courses in approximately 30 schools and attendance centers in the state during the 2017-2018 school year. The Ready for High School courses will be offered to students in grades 8 or 9 that need additional interventions and supports prior to entering English I and Algebra I.
 - **Algebra Nation®** – The Mississippi Legislature has allocated funds for a second year of the Algebra Nation learning system for students and teachers. The Algebra Nation program includes 100% alignment to the MS CCR Algebra I state standards, consumable student workbooks, educator lesson plans, on-demand support and tutorial services, and “flipped classroom” resources. Information regarding district registration, meetings, school obligations, and professional development requirements will be distributed in August 2017.
 - **Exemplar Mathematics Lesson and Unit Plans Developed by MDE Content Staff** – MDE content staff have updated lesson plans for Grades K-12 aligned to the MS CCRS for Mathematics. Each plan includes focus standards, estimated duration, real world purpose, “I Can” statements, prerequisite skills, materials and resources, manipulatives, key vocabulary, lesson introduction, teacher preparation, student exploration activity, lesson activities by day, effective questioning strategies, essential questions, lesson closure, enrichment and intervention strategies, and performance-based assessment task. All plans are available in PDF or Word format at www.mde.k12.ms.us/ease/math/ccr-math-resources-for-teachers.
 - **Content Area Listservs** – Administrators are encouraged to have all content area teachers sign up for their respective listservs at the beginning of the school year. Teachers may register online at www.mde.k12.ms.us/ESE in the right-hand pane.
 - **Menu of Services** – Content area specialists provide on-demand supports to districts and schools in ELA, Math, Literacy, Science, Social Studies, and Special Education. New topics related to content area learning walks, lesson planning, “Escape Classrooms”, domain and strand focus, and learning centers in the secondary classroom have been added to the Fall 2017 menu. Visit the MDE homepage www.mdek12.org and click on the “Request Professional Development” link in the bottom right-hand pane.
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Special Education

Get in touch with us...

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What we do...

- Support local schools and districts in their provision of effective and compliant educational programs to students with disabilities, ages 3-20, who need special education and related services.
- Provide professional development and technical assistance to support schools and districts as they implement State policies and Federal regulations to ensure positive outcomes for children with disabilities and their families.
- Provide guidance to parents of children with disabilities and local school and district personnel in the resolution of disputes through formal dispute resolution processes (formal state complaints, mediation, and due process hearings).
- Support local schools and districts' effective fiscal management practices.

What you need to know...

- **New Special Education Teacher Monthly Webinars** – The Office of Special Education will provide monthly webinars for New Special Education Teachers with 0-3 years' experience. These webinars are designed to provide guidance and support to new special education teachers by reviewing important special education timelines, hot topics, and frequently asked questions on a monthly basis. The introductory webinar will be August 15, 2017 at 3:00 p.m. All other New Special Education Teacher webinars will be the first Thursday of each month. Links to register for these webinars will be sent to teachers via the Special Education Teachers listserv and posted to the MDE Professional Development Calendar. Contact Sharon Coon at scoon@mdek12.org for additional information.

- **Discontinuation of the Mississippi Occupational Diploma** – The Office of Special Education will continue to provide guidance to districts regarding the discontinuation of the Mississippi Occupational Diploma (MOD). Visit www.mdek12.org/OSE/training/webinars to find a guidance document and recorded webinars providing guidance on the discontinuation of the Mississippi Occupational Diploma. Any questions or clarifications regarding the MOD can be emailed to specialeducation2@mdek12.org.
 - **Determination Reports** – The Office of Special Education is issuing *Special Education Performance Determination Reports* to inform all stakeholders on how well districts are supporting students in special education. The data for this report is based on results and compliance data compiled annually in the Annual Performance Report of the State Performance Plan under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (*IDEA*). These reports will be available the beginning of August.
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Student Assessment

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What we do...

- Utilize Mississippi educators to develop items aligned to the Mississippi College- and Career-Readiness Standards (MSCCRS)
- Evaluate student performance using the Mississippi Assessment Program (MAP) in grades 3-8 and End of Course (EOC) assessments in mathematics and English language arts (ELA)
- Provide districts with valid and reliable results to guide instruction through data driven decisions.

What you need to know...

- **NAEP** –The 2017 NAEP results will be available to the public Winter 2018.
- **Item Writing Training Workshops** – Teachers receive training on the process of writing assessment items aligned to the Mississippi College- and Career-Readiness Standard for Mathematics. The training provides teachers with opportunities to review, edit, and create new assessment items. Free CEUs will be awarded for completing the workshop.
- **Algebra II Assessment** – Mississippi will provide students who take Algebra I in 8th grade with an Algebra II assessment in high school to eliminate current double testing of these students.
- **Change of Testing Platform for the 2017-2018 Academic School Year** – Mississippi will move to the *Insight* platform for the English Language Proficiency (ELP) Test.

Textbooks

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What we do...

- Textbook adoption processes, policies, and procedures
- Textbook Inventory Management System (TIMS) support
- Textbook procurement support

What you need to know...

- **2017-2018 Textbook Adoption** – The 2017-2018 Textbook Adoption will begin in the first week of August. The subject areas up for adoption this year are MS CCRS for Science (K-12) and the MS CCR Arts Learning Standards (K-12). Selection of review committees is underway. Dates and deadlines will be published in the “Call for Bids” released in August 2017 and on the MDE Textbooks webpage located at <http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/ESE/TAP>.
- **TIMS Training/ Webinar** – There are two training files up on the Textbook website for TIMS. One is a general introduction to the responsibilities of local districts concerning textbook adoption and procurement entitled “New Textbook Adoption, Procurement and Inventory Webinar Training 03/30/2017,” and the other is a PowerPoint from a more specific training on TIMS entitled “TIMS Policies, Best Practices and Procedures-METIS 2017.”

What Every

INSTRUCTIONAL LEADER



NEEDS TO KNOW

August 2017

For questions about this publication, please contact
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