What Every

INSTRUCTIONAL LEADER NEEDS TO KNOW

February 2017

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Ensuring a bright future for every child

State Board of Education 2016-2020 Strategic Plan

1. All students proficient and showing growth in all assessed areas
2. Every student graduates 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 using a work-class data system to improve student outcomes
6. Every school and district is rated "C" or higher

Dr. Carey Wright, State Superintendent
Dr. Kim Benton, Chief, Academic Education
Dr. Paula Vanderford, Chief, Research and Development
Jean Massey, Executive Director, Secondary Education
Dr. Nathan Oakley, Executive Director, Elementary Education and Reading

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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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Trainings and Professional Development

Date(s)	Training or Professional Development	Program Office	Contact Information
February 28 March 1 March 2	New School Counselor's Training*	Counseling and Support Services & Accelerated Programs	Jessica Smith jessica.smith@mdek12.org
February 27 February 28 March 6 March 7 March 28 March 29	Multi-Tiered Systems of Support*	Intervention Services	Jayda Brantley jbrantley@mdek12.org
June 6	Transformational Leadership: Partnering for Change*	Literacy	Casey Sullivan csullivan@mdek12.org
February 28	P16 Community Engagement Council Training*	School Improvement	Dr. Sonja Robertson srobertson@mdek12.org
March 1	Accountability and Assessment Overview Webinar*	School Improvement	Dr. Sonja Robertson srobertson@mdek12.org
March 21 March 22 March 23	Evidence-Based Intervention Self-Study Protocol Regional Training*	School Improvement	Dr. Sonja Robertson srobertson@mdek12.org
June 19 - June 20	Impact Learning Innovative Institute*	Secondary Education	Jean Massey jmassey@mdek12.org
February 22 February 23 February 28 March 1 March 2	Developing Meaningful Standards Based IEPs and Transition Plans for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities*	Special Education	Tanya Bradley tbradley@mdek12.org
February 23 - February 24	CASE 2017 WINTER HYBRID Conference*	Special Education	Tanya Bradley tbradley@mdek12.org
March 7 - March 8	ESSA and IDEA Collaborative Fiscal Conference*	Special Education	Tanya Bradley tbradley@mdek12.org
March 1 March 24	Leveling the Playing Field: Assistive Technology for Students with a Wide Range of Learning Disabilities*	Special Education	Tanya Bradley tbradley@mdek12.org
Summer 2017	New Teacher Institute *	Special Education	Tanya Bradley tbradley@mdek12.org

* Denotes two-day training
* Denotes regional, one-day trainings

Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

Get in touch with us...

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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 a provide 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.

Office of 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** – The Office of CTE is 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)** – CS4MS is currently being piloted in 35 districts with plans to expand in the 2017-18 school year. 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 three year period of time that will have every student prepared for the 21st century.
- **National Program Certification in Automotive in Automotive Technology, Construction and Manufacturing Programs** – Programs 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.

Office of Child Nutrition

Get in touch with us...

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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 during the summer months. 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!

Office of Compulsory School Attendance Enforcement

Get in touch with us...

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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 to 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 Mississippi Child Protection Services to 1-800-345-6347. For training, please contact this office.

- **Alternative Education Regional Training (TBA)** – This training will target developing and implementing behavioral interventions that address the needs of the student.

- **Educational Stability for Children in Foster** – This guidance document aids local agencies in making the best educational determination for students placed in foster care (Released January 11, 2017)

- **Attendance Handbook** – This handbook will provide local education agencies with key attendance information to assist in reducing truancy rate (Release date-March 31, 2017 or sooner)

- **Chronic Absenteeism Summit** – This one day summit will feature Hedy Chang, Executive Director, Attendance Works. (Additional information forthcoming)

Office of 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
- Career and Technical Education Counselors

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.

- **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).

- **Non-traditional Grant Allocation** – The Nontraditional 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.

Office of District and School Accountability

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 manner in which students are attributed to districts in the calculation of the four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate will be changed.

- 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 Accountability in 2017.

- **No Changes in 2017!** – 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 and only minor changes due to ESSA requirements in 2018.

Office of Early Childhood Education

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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 will be updated and revised spring 2017. The revised document will be sent to the Mississippi Secretary of State through the APA process to gain comments from the public.
- **Effectiveness Evaluation Plan** – Schools providing services to prekindergarten (Pre-K) aged children 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 students, and assistance with increasing parents' participation in their children's education.

Office of 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

What you need to know...

- **Professional Growth System** – The Mississippi Educator and Administrator Professional Growth System is designed to improve student achievement by providing teachers and administrators with feedback to inform continuous improvement. During the 2016-2017 school year, classroom/school site observations using the new (administrator) and revised (teacher) rubrics will be implemented. For 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 Certification Workshops, Praxis Core Workshops, and Regional Beginning Teacher Summits.

Office of 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

What you need to know...

- **Expert Citizen Educator License** – An expert citizen educator license may only be requested by the local school district. In order to allow a school district to offer specialized or technical courses, the State Department of Education, in accordance with rules and regulations established by the State Board of Education, may grant a one-year expert citizen-teacher license to local business or other professional personnel to teach in a public school or nonpublic school accredited or approved by the state.
- **Special, Non-renewable License** –The special, non-renewable educator license will allow candidates currently enrolled in or completing a standard or alternate route teacher education program to apply for a license, although the candidate has not yet met all certification requirements under Miss. Code Ann. § 37-3-2(6)(a), (b), or (c), at the time the application is submitted. The special, non-renewable educator license will also provide local school districts with the option(s) of more qualified candidate(s) as a result of the ongoing teacher shortage in Mississippi. The special, non-renewable educator license will allow the candidate three (3) years to meet all certification requirements for a standard, five (5) year license.
- **Walk-in Service** – The Office of Educator Licensure provides "same day" walk-in services to educators.

Walk-in Service Hours
Monday thru Friday
8:30am -4:00pm

Office of 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 LEAs, CBOs, 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.mde.k12.ms.us/default.aspx?ccipSessionKey=636199324841759181

- **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 2016-2017 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 for 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.

Office of 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** - 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** – The Office of Health Schools offers supports to educators in 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.

Office of Intervention Services

Contact us...

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What we do...

- Provide professional development to districts on the Multi-Tiered System of Supports
- Publish documents to support districts, and parents, including The Family Guides for Student Success
- Process Dyslexia Scholarship Applications for the 2017-2018 school year
- Manage Dyslexia Grants to support districts receiving grant funds
- Monitoring of Gifted Education Program, on site supports, and professional development designed specifically for teachers of gifted learners, general education teachers, and district leadership

What you need to know...

- **Multi-Tiered System of Supports** – The Student Intervention Services Office is working with school districts to develop a MTSS process that will include procedures for all students. This initiative provides guidance to districts with implementation of Response to Intervention and the Child Find Process. Professional Development trainings are designed for teachers to support them in implementing a Multi-Tiered System of Supports in MS Classrooms. Visit http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/ESE/links/response-to-intervention-teacher-support-team for this and other resources.
- **Dyslexia Scholarships** – The purpose of this initiative is for students with a dyslexia diagnosis to attend a special purpose non-public school. These students must have been in attendance in a public school setting, have a written dyslexia diagnosis, and be accepted into one of the special purpose non-public schools. 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 currently for 2016-2018. This grant allows schools to purchase materials for dyslexia therapy/interventions and may also be used towards a salary for a dyslexia therapist. School districts will be able to apply for the next grant cycle in 2018.
- **Outcomes for Gifted Education Programs 2017** – This Spring, the outcomes update for Gifted Education Programs will roll out across the state. The outcomes, which were researched, written, and revised by teachers of gifted children from every region, will be implemented in classrooms in August 2017.

Office of JROTC

Get in touch with us...

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What we do...

- Represent MDE's interests in the 85 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...

- **Exposure to STEM Opportunities** – Mississippi JROTC is aligned with statewide educational initiatives which are designed to increase the exposure 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.
- **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 85 JROTC and NDCC units in Mississippi are eligible to participate.
- **National Flight Academy's Scholarship STEM Program** – 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's Role in Secondary Education** – JROTC is an accredited academic curriculum designed to give students the skills they will need to be productive and responsible young adults. JROTC can provide a niche for students of varying interests with regional 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.

Office of Literacy

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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-3rd grade teachers in Literacy Support Schools
- Provide regional literacy professional development to Pre-k-3rd grade teachers, district support staff, and administrators
- Provide regional literacy professional development to secondary content area teachers

What you need to know...

- ***Literacy-Based Promotion Act*** – The 3rd grade ELA Mississippi Assessment Program (MAP) will be used to determine promotion/retention beginning in the 2016-2017 school year. The 3rd Grade Summative Assessment (STAR) will be the *alternative* assessment for re-testers. Students must score ***above the lowest achievement level*** to be promoted to the 4th grade. This consists of scoring performance level (PL) 2 or above on MAP and above the 926 cut score on the 3rd Grade Summative Assessment. Following the spring MAP administration, 3rd grade students will receive a Pass/Fail report that reflects their performance on the MAP reading portion ***only***. Writing scores ***will not*** be included to determine promotion/retention. *Note: During the 2018-2019 school year, students must score above the **lowest two (2) levels** (or PL 3 or above) to be promoted to 4th grade.*
- **Literacy Focus of the Month in Action (Elementary & Secondary)** – The purpose of this resource is to provide guidance to administrators and teachers for supporting a monthly, school-wide instructional focus based on best practices and research-based strategies in literacy. *Literacy Focus of the Month in Action* is a brief, introductory webinar on the research along with instructional activities that further explore opportunities for students to apply what they have learned. Each monthly webinar also includes video demonstrations of strategies that may be used with an individual student or in small groups. Visit http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/ESE/literacy for this and other resources for teachers, administrators, and parents.
- **School Leader's Literacy Walkthrough for Grades K-3** – The School Leader's Literacy Walkthrough is designed to assist school leaders in observing specific research-based practices during literacy instruction (or students' independent use or application of those practices). Visit http://rel-se.fcrr.org/resources/ for this and other resources.
- **Rubric for 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.

Office of Professional Development

Get in touch with us...

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What we do...

- Provide free professional development to K-12 teachers across the state.
- Manage legislative funding for the six World Class Teaching Programs (WCTP); support WCTP activities and NBPTS research projects while promoting National Board Certification statewide
- Developed Exemplar Units for English Language Arts and Mathematics through the W.K. Kellogg Grant.

What you need to know...

- **Menu of Services** – Professional Development Coordinators (PDCs) provide on-demand targeted supports to districts and schools in ELA, Mathematics, Literacy, Science, and Special Education. Visual Impairment (VI) and Hearing Impairment (HI) services are offered as well. To request professional development or technical assistance for your school, visit the MDE homepage www.mdek12.org and click on the "Request Professional Development" link in the right-hand pane.

- **W.K. Kellogg Grant** – The grant supports teachers and parents in their efforts to help prepare students for college and the workforce while developing educational materials for teachers and meetings for parents to learn more about the Mississippi College and Career Ready Standards. The grant provides an opportunity for Mississippi teachers to work together to develop lessons and unit plans in mathematics and English language arts that school districts may choose to use in their classrooms.

Office of School Improvement

Get in touch with us...

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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 Training** – School Improvement Grant (SIG) Monitoring was held on Friday, February 10, 2017. Site visits with district and school leadership teams during the month of February will be conducted. SIG School presentations to the Academic Subcommittee at the MS Department of Education will take place in March and April.
- **Schools-At-Risk (SAR)** – SAR sites are identified as schools with an accountability rating of "F" and not identified as a Priority or Focus school. On-going, targeted assistance will be provided to SAR schools beginning February 2017. Supports may include professional development, on-site coaching and/or virtual support.
- **P-16 Community Engagement Council** – A webinar was conducted for those schools newly identified as below successful as required by MS Code 37-18-5(4) and Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards (*Process Standard 12*) on January 31, 2017. Two (2) Half-day trainings on *Part II- Building Effective P16 Community Engagement Councils* will be offered Tuesday, February 28, 2017.
- **Focus Schools** – Ongoing, targeted support for Focus Schools will begin in March 2017. This tiered approach may include: monthly site visits, MS SOARS focus webinars, coaching calls and/or virtual support.

Office of School Libraries

Get in touch with us...

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What we do...

- Design and deliver professional development to Pre-K-12 grade school librarians and administrators
- Provide technical assistance to support Pre-K-12 grade school library programs
- Develop library skills aligned to the Mississippi College- and Career-Readiness Standards

What you need to know...

- **2017 School Library Guide** – Effective school libraries are dynamic learning environments that bridge the information literacy gap for all PreK-12 learners. The school library provides students and teachers access to an array of well-managed resources that elevated classroom learning. In this way, effective school library programs prepare students for college and career. The library program focuses on accessing and evaluating information, providing digital learning training and experiences, and developing a culture of reading. 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** – To help Pre-K and Kindergarten teachers create an environment that builds a love for reading, the *Early Childhood Library Guide* explains how to create classroom library centers that prepare students to become lifelong library user as well as building a collaborative relationship between classroom teachers, school librarians, and public children's librarians. The guide showcases the importance of story time that connected to a thematic unit. Storytime can help students master skills such as print motivation, vocabulary, print awareness, letter knowledge, narrative skills, and phonological awareness. Reading, singing, and playing with children during story time can help provide children with pre-reading skills necessary to master the Early Learning Standards.
- **K-6 Library Skills Guidance** – The purpose of this resource is to provide guidance to help schools librarians integrate information literacy skills instruction into the MS College-and Career-Readiness Standards. School librarians play a critical role in teaching information literacy skills so that students can acquire, evaluate, interpret, and apply the information that will be introduced throughout life. The goal for the *K-6 Library Skills Guidance document* is to reinforce classroom curriculum content with relevant library resources.

Office of Secondary Curriculum & Instruction

Get in touch with us...

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What we do...

- Develop 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 Science Frameworks** – The MDE sought input on the 2010 MS Science Frameworks which allowed stakeholders to make recommendations on improving and building upon these state Frameworks. Professional development will begin Summer 2017 with pilot implementation August 2017.
- **Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching Award** – The PAEMST is the highest recognition that a teacher may receive for outstanding instruction. Two teachers are awarded each year from each state with a $10,000 award. Grades 7-12 math or science teachers may apply online at www.PAEMST.org until May 1, 2017.
- **Menu of Services** – Content area specialists provide on-demand supports to districts and schools in ELA, Math, Literacy, Science, Social Studies, and Special Education. Topics range from effective lesson planning to technology use. Visit the MDE homepage www.mdek12.org and click on the "Request Professional Development" link in the bottom right-hand pane.

Office of 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...

- **Standards Writing for Alternate Academic Achievement Standards in Science and Social Studies** – Stakeholders assisted in the development of alternate academic achievement standards aligned to the State Standards for College and Career Readiness in the areas of science and social studies. Development of these standards through the AAAS Work Groups will continue through the remainder of the 2016-2017 school year.
- **Revisions to the Extended School Year (ESY) Guidelines** – The OSE has convened a stakeholder work group for reviewing and revising the current ESY Guidelines, implemented in October 2003.
- **Menu of Services** – Professional Development Coordinators (PDCs) employed by the University of Mississippi whose salaries are funded through the OSE, provide professional development through specific course offerings designed to address the needs of school and district personnel in the district's provision of specially-designed instruction to children with disabilities.

Office of Student Assessment

Get in touch with us...

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What we do...

- Develop statewide assessments that align with the State standards and are designed to measure student achievement and growth
- Model best practices when developing assessments to ensure the validity and reliability of data and results
- Provide technical assistance and training to local school districts on matters related to the administration of State assessments
- Collaborate with all MDE offices to provide quality assessments and service that reflect the ever-changing educational landscape
- Build capacity with all stakeholders through being transparent, being open, and being amendable to change

What you need to know…

- **Release of MAP, MST2, & SATP2 Practice Tests** – These practice tests serve as additional resources for classroom instruction while allowing students to become familiar with the content of State assessments. The purpose of the practice tests is to identify areas of possible improvement of student achievement through instructional practices.
- **Release of a new Accommodations Manual** – Ensuring that all students, especially those with disabilities, have the necessary and appropriate accommodations to reflect their level of mastery on state assessments is a key goal of this office. The accommodation manual is a tool that allows district to maximize accommodations during instruction and classroom assessments that mirror what is allowable on state assessments.
- To access resources for statewide assessments, visit the Student Assessment website at http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/OSA.

Office of Textbooks

Get in touch with us...

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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...

- **Textbook Adoption** – The textbook adoption cycle occurs on a running basis, with the average cycle being 5 to 7 years for each subject area. The office works with teacher led review committees and publishing companies to help provide districts with materials that are aligned to the state standards and would be useful in classrooms.
- **Textbook Caravan** – The annual statewide "road trip" for publisher presentations. Each year at selected regional sites, districts have the opportunity to view presentations from publishers of the adopted instructional materials. The office helps with planning and logistics of the caravan.
- **TIMS support and technical assistance** – Our office can help with entering, transferring, and disposal of textbook inventory data into the TIMS system. The office also facilitates the security access process for TIMS for districts. Districts may contact the office to update their local users and access to TIMS.